

Taste of Burlington crowns "Best Taste" & "People's Choice" at 2018 Launch

Burlington restaurateurs are proud to announce <u>"A Taste of Burlington"</u> will be running this winter from February 19-March 11, 2018 at 36 of Burlington's best restaurants. To kick things off and provide diners an opportunity to experience a taste of what to expect, the Taste of Burlington held a launch event at the <u>Burlington Performing Arts Centre</u> on Tuesday January 23, 2018.

350 guests and media had an opportunity to meet many of our participating restaurateurs at their interactive food stations and try amazing cuisine. Our friends from <u>Nickel Brook Brewing</u> sampled their locally brewed craft beers.

Being the 10th anniversary we had some special 'surprises' throughout the evening; greetings from the mayor, celebration treats from <u>Kelly's Bake Shoppe</u> and all guests were given a 10th anniversary recipe book featuring recipes from over 20 of the Taste eateries.

In what has become a tradition and a source of pride for our restaurants, we continued our friendly competition with Chefs vying hard for the title of "Best Taste" and "People's Choice". All guests were given the opportunity to vote for their favourite restaurant based on the cuisine they were serving at the launch. The popular vote would be crowned 'People's Choice' and 'Best Taste' would be determined by our panel of celebrity judges. Our judges, Colleen, Darrin and Samantha (95.3 Fresh FM), Alex Bielak (Food Reviewer and Blogger) and Nicole Holland (E-A-T) sampled the fare of the 24 launch restaurants and scored them based on taste, creativity and presentation. In this category the combined judge's scores were used to determine the winner.

It was a tight race but we have our winners.

We are excited to announce that the Best Taste winner was <u>Turtle Jack's Appleby/Mapleview</u> with their delicious dessert. A Canadian classic: Flaky, melt in your mouth pastry, rich filling of pure butter and brown sugar – a butter tart that we heard people talking about all evening. It was a tie for the runner up position; we had <u>Spencer's at the Waterfront</u> with their Soya cured salmon roll, bitter greens, apple and daikon salad and horseradish dressing. And tied with

Spencer's was newcomer to Burlington <u>Barque Smokehouse</u> with their Pulled pork tacos with smoked pineapple, hickory sticks and sweet heat bbg sauce.

The People's Choice category awarded first place to Chef David Neinstein of <u>Barque Smokehouse</u>. In the runner up category was the <u>Queen's Head Pub</u> who featured a potato, bacon and cheddar tart with smoked brisket, slow braised carrots and crispy parsnips.

A special thanks to <u>Live and Local Music Series</u> for providing us with spectacular entertainment from Adam Cooke. Another thank you also goes to <u>Burlington Green</u> for helping us to reduce our environmental footprint.

If you want to experience all of the great tastes of Burlington, be sure to visit www.tasteofburlington.ca for all restaurants, prix fixe menus and pricing. Be sure to find out for yourself why we are proud to be Celebrating 10 Years of Great Taste in Burlington!

For media inquiries and photos, please contact:

Kelly Harris- Taste of Burlington c/o Tourism Burlington (905)634-5594 kelly.harris@burlington.ca Taste of Burlington is coordinated by Tourism Burlington