



Pairing Cuisine and Compassion

Foodies come together in support of a common goal – to fight hunger in Toronto

TORONTO, ON, June 13, 2011 – Yesterday evening, food and beverage enthusiasts and professionals from across the city came together to support Second Harvest at their largest annual fundraiser – Toronto Taste! Held both indoors and outdoors at the Royal Ontario Museum, 1,500 guests were welcomed to indulge their senses through sampling an array of gourmet food and beverage prepared by 60 of the city's top chefs and 30 beverage purveyors. The event was hosted by Bob Blumer, creator and host of Food Network Canada's *Glutton for Punishment* and *Surreal Gourmet* and was presented by The Daniels Corporation for the 16th consecutive year.

Toronto Taste attracted culinary personalities from across the country, including, Food Network Canada personalities Celebrity Chef Roger Mooking (*Everyday Exotic*), Michael Smith (*Chef at Home*, *Chef at Large*, *Chef Abroad*) and Mark McEwan (*Top Chef Canada*, *The Heat*). Dishes were also prepared by acclaimed chefs such as J.P. Challet (*Ici Bistro*), Scott Conant (*24 Hour Restaurant Battle*, *Scarpetta*), Donna Doohar (*Mildred's Temple Kitchen*), Dufflet Rosenberg (*Dufflet*), Chris McDonald (*Cava*), Rob Gentile (*Buca*), David Lee (*Nota Bene*) and many more talented chefs and beverage purveyors.

In addition to ticket sales, funds were raised through a variety of auctions [silent, fine wine and live] and a raffle draw that yielded the opportunity to win a Fiat 500 Sport, donated by Chrysler Canada. In total, approximately \$300,000 was raised, which will enable Second Harvest to provide 600,000 healthy meals for Torontonians in need.

The Toronto Taste online auction runs until June 22nd. Browse and bid on exciting items by visiting torontotaste.ca.

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About Second Harvest

Second Harvest is a charitable organization that takes a common-sense approach to hunger. For the past 26 years, we have been picking up donated, perishable food, which would have otherwise gone to waste, and delivering it to more than 200 social service agencies in Toronto. Independent research group, Charity Intelligence Canada, has endorsed Second Harvest for its efficiency, conscientious administration, and high return to the community for every dollar donated. In addition, MoneySense magazine recently awarded an "A" grade to Second Harvest, naming it one of the most responsible charitable groups in Canada.

About Bob Blumer

Bob Blumer is the creator and host of Food Network Canada's *Glutton for Punishment* and *Surreal Gourmet* - both of which air in more than 30 territories around the globe. Combined, he has spent nine seasons as a creative and competitive force on Food Network. When he is not criss-crossing North America in his Toastermobile, the transplanted Canadian lives under the D of the Hollywood sign. Bob's love of cooking and sense of adventure have combined to create a career path that is truly his own. Bob serves as Ambassador to Second Harvest spreading the word about food rescue and hunger relief.

For additional information, please contact:

Tonia Krauser
Director of Communications, Second Harvest
416.625.6774
toniak@secondharvest.ca