



Les Dames d'Escoffier
British Columbia Chapter

Les Dames d'Escoffier Announces Inaugural Debra van Ginkel Award Recipient

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 25, 2008 (Vancouver BC) - Les Dames d'Escoffier BC Chapter (LDEI BC) is pleased to announce the recipient of the inaugural Debra van Ginkel award to Barbara Finley. The award was presented at the annual Scholarship and Induction dinner held last night at the Hart House Restaurant in Burnaby.

Barbara Finley has been an educator for 25 years. Her main mission has been to reconnect children with the food they eat, educate them about healthy food choices, and help them discover the process and pleasure of cooking and sharing food together. In 2007, Barbara developed a school program, PROJECT CHEF: Cook Healthy Edible Food! This program is designed to teach children in grades 4 & 5 about the wholesome, healthy food choices, focussing on where food comes from, what food taste like, how to prepare it for themselves and how to share it around the table. Costs for the implementation of the program have come solely from fundraising. Project CHEF has completed its initial term having reached 600 hundred children and their families in Vancouver.

The Debra van Ginkel award is accompanied by \$5000.00, of which \$2500.00 is presented by LDEI BC and \$2500.00 is donated by Debra's husband, Murray Robinson.

This award is dedicated to the memory of Debra van Ginkel, a Les Dames d'Escoffier member who passed away in January 2008 after a struggle with cancer which she handled with grace, dignity and good humour. Debra was a very successful family lawyer, obtaining her Queen's Council designation in 2006. She devoted hundreds of hours to volunteer service dedicated to making her community a better place. She was a valued member of LDEI BC for many years as chapter treasurer, which was a great marrying of Debra's legal and culinary skills. She was an inspiration to those who worked with her and those of us in the LDEI BC membership who were privileged to know her. This award is designed to capture the optimism, spirit and compassion with which Debra led her life and which will live on in her memory.

Photo attached left to right:
Murray Robinson, Barbara Finley, Cindy Evetts (LDEI BC President)

Les Dames d'Escoffier is a society of professional women. Our purpose is to promote the understanding, appreciation and knowledge of food, wine and the arts of the table. We also supply advice and scholarship assistance to women as they pursue careers in food, wine, hospitality, nutrition, food technology or other related areas.

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