

**REGIONAL QUALIFIER FOR THE CANADIAN
CULINARY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Providing young Canadians the opportunity to be extraordinary through sport, music and food.



***New Name – Same Great Competition!
Chef Christopher Hill Takes Home the Gold
at the rebranded Celebration of Canadian Excellence
“Canada’s Great Kitchen Party” - Saskatoon!***

Culinary Winners:

Gold: Christopher Hill, Taste Restaurant Group

Silver: Jonathan Harris, Shift / Oliver & Bonacini

Bronze: Jenni Schrenk, Chef Jenni Cuisine

Saskatoon, SK (October 28, 2018) – Chef Christopher Hill from Taste Restaurant Group proved his culinary prowess last night taking home the gold medal at Canada’s Great Kitchen Party - Saskatoon. Chef Hill went head-to-head with 7 of Saskatoon’s finest culinary masters at the prestigious culinary competition and will go on to compete at the Canadian Culinary Championships, the national finale, in Kelowna on February 1st and 2nd, 2019.

Chef Hill wowed the judges with a dish called “After the Fire” ft. confit duck leg, wild boar sausage, aerated foie gras, parsnip, beetroot, morel, cabbage, sour cherry, birch syrup salsify bark, juniper Jus, new growth flowers and smoke. He paired it with a Meyers Family Vineyard, 2017 Pinot Noir from the Okanagan Valley. And his words after the win: “This was an incredible experience! I am so honoured to have won.”

Chef Jonathan Harris from Shift / Oliver & Bonacini rose to the occasion as well, taking the silver medal. Chef Harris chose Zampone with chillies and blood sausage. Pork Zampone, blood sausage, chili mustard and miso. He paired it with a Domaine Queylus, 2011 Cabernet Franc from the Niagara Peninsula.

Taking the bronze medal was Chef Jenni Schrenk from Chef Jenni Cuisine. Her dish was a Li Salay “The Sun” ft. plants from the sunflower family including tarragon, chamomile and Riesling braised endive, sunchoke and pot marigold velouté, mushroom and endive duxelles, and dandelion root honey dust. It was paired with an Nk’Mip Cellars 2017 Qwam Qwmt Riesling from Osoyoos, BC.

The other chefs competing in Saskatoon were:

Heather Bekar-Schulte
Todd Clark
Darren Craddock
Shaun McConnell
Greg Doucette

Chef De Partie Catering
Boffins Public House
The Village Bistro
Riverside Golf and Country Club
Capitol Music Club

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Judging the 2018 competition was: James Chatto (National Culinary Advisor), Noelle Chorney (Senior Judge), Michael Beaulé, Dee Hobsbawn-Smith, Amy Jo Ehman, Peter Phillips and Chef James McFarland (2017 Gold Medalist). Each dish was judged out of 100 points, based on visual presentation (20%), texture (10%), technical achievement (10%), taste (40%), wine compatibility (10%), and wow factor (10%).

Eight elite Canadian athletes were in attendance, including:

- **Marnie McBean**, Rowing
- **Dom Gauthier**, Freestyle and COO of B2ten
- **Cam Berg**, Rowing
- **Derek Drouin**, Athletics – High Jump
- **Kirk Muyres**, Curling
- **Collette Bourgonie**, Para-Nordic skiing
- **Milos Kostic**, Marathon
- **Michelle Cameron Coulter**, Synchronized Swimming

“It’s such a wonderful feeling to be in the same room as these inspiring athletes, chefs, musicians and the Canadian wineries and breweries,” says Marnie McBean. “Together they have created this amazing evening that celebrates Canadian excellence.”

Trent Norman, co-chair of the event was thrilled with the evening, especially the show put on by the Canadian musicians who were in attendance. “We are very lucky in Canada to have amazing musical talent in our country and tonight to have Jim Cuddy, Barney Bentall, Anne Lindsay, Devin Cuddy and Sam Polley well with that line up and with George Stroumboulopoulos as emcee – what an amazing show we all got to enjoy!”

Blair Chapman, another co-chair, emphasized how pleased he was to see the national impact through B2ten for Canadian athletes and the local impact through MusiCounts and Community Food Centres Canada. “It is great to be able to see that some of the support tonight helps our athletes on the international stage and that students at Mayfair Community School will now have access to new musical instruments and youth at the Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre will be able to participate in the Kitchen Mentor program. The youth in our region deserve to have music in their lives and have secure healthy food access”

Canada’s Great Kitchen Party: is a social enterprise that is dedicated to building community regionally and nationally to celebrate Canadian Excellence in food, sport and music. Annually, 10-12 events are staged each fall and Canadian talent in each of these pillars of Canadian culture are celebrated. For the food pillar: each event incorporates a prestigious culinary competition for 6-10 of the city’s best chefs in what is the regional qualifier for the Canadian

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Culinary Championships (CCC). The Canadian Culinary Championships is a two-day annual intense competition held in February in Kelowna every year, with three demanding culinary elements: Mystery Wine, Black Box and the Finale. To win gold regionally is a feather in the cap for any chef. To become the Canadian Culinary Champion is a career-changer. The celebration of Canadian wine, beer and spirits is also an integral part of the success of Canada's Great Kitchen Party. The wine, beer and spirits that are presented to the more than 5000 guests is very comprehensive. Canada's Great Kitchen Party is now the largest program in Canada to feature and highlight excellent Canadian wines. For the sport pillar, over 200 athletes are invited to the fall events. The athletes have represented Canada on the international stage either in amateur, para or pro sports. At the events, their athletic accomplishments are celebrated and their stories are heard. Guests have the opportunity to mix and mingle with the athletes and show their appreciation for what they do for Canadian pride! And for the final pillar: music, each event incorporates an incredible line up of Canadian musicians who share the stage with the athletes and the chefs and put on an incredible show. Musicians in 2018 include Jim Cuddy, Ed Robertson, Barney Bentall, Alan Doyle, Tom Cochrane, Anne Lindsay, Johnny Reid, Danny Michel, Bill Henderson, Neil Osborne, Devin Cuddy and Sam Polley. Canadian talent in food, music and sport – all under one umbrella – and why it is called Canada's Great Kitchen Party....all with a purpose of providing young Canadian the opportunity to be extraordinary through sport music and food. The three chosen beneficiaries are sport: B2ten, music: MusiCounts and food: Community Food Centres Canada.

B2ten: B2ten exists to have significant impact on sport in Canada B2ten contributes to amateur sport and the greater good of society by providing optimal training and preparation services to elite amateur athletes; investing in the development of Canada's coaches and professional service providers; and developing a legacy of enhanced sport, play and well-being. B2ten.com.

"I am thrilled that Canada's Great Kitchen Party and B2ten are joining forces. Their shared passion, relentless pursuit of excellence, and commitment to making a difference make it an inspiring collaboration! Scott and I have had tremendous experiences at the culinary competitions and on international trips. We look forward to being involved with Canada's Great Kitchen Party knowing that they are helping B2ten offer the same critical support we received to more athletes." Tessa Virtue

MusiCounts: Canada's Great Kitchen Party will provide musical instruments for children in 20 schools every year. musiccounts.ca.

MusiCounts is keeping music alive in schools and communities across Canada by putting musical instruments into the hands of children that need them most. MusiCounts is Canada's music education charity, affiliated with the JUNO Awards and supported by many of Canada's top musicians. The instruments they supply last over 15 years and well over 800,000 children have known the joy of music as a result of their programs.

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“It has been an absolute privilege to raise funds for Canada’s athletes over the last 12 years. I am thrilled to continue to support athletes through the new initiative and also thrilled that our efforts will now result in financial support going to MusiCounts - an organization near and dear to my heart.” Jim Cuddy

Community Food Centres Canada; Canada’s Great Kitchen Party supports Canadian children to gain the skills and confidence they need to become the next generation of food leaders through unforgettable mentorship sessions with our talented chefs.

Community Food Centres Canada works with partners across the country to offer high-impact programs that bring people together to grow, cook, share, and advocate for good food for all. Cfccanada.com.

“As a two-time Canadian Culinary Champion, I am impressed with the organization’s transition to Canada’s Great Kitchen Party. I am so pleased that there will be a contribution to the food pillar, in addition to sport and music. Canadian youth will be transformed through the support provided by CFCC’s food programs. As a Chef, this resonates very closely with me and I believe, with our entire Canadian Chefs’ community. Well done!” Chef Marc Lepine, Atelier

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