



December 9, 2005

For Immediate Release

Announcing the 2005 Winner of the Don Blakslee Hotelier of the Year Award

Ottawa – On December 9, 2005 Claude J. Sauvé, President of the Ottawa Gatineau Hotel Association (OGHA) announced that **John Cosentino**, General Manager of the Albert at Bay Suite Hotel and the Best Western Victoria Park Suite hotel has been named as the 2005 recipient of the Don Blakslee Hotelier of the Year Award.

In 2004, in recognition of Don Blakslee's 50 years of service at the Lord Elgin Hotel, the Ottawa Gatineau Hotel Association established the Don Blakslee Hotelier of the Year Award. The Award recognizes the hotelier who has demonstrated outstanding leadership to his or her hotel as well as being active in the broader tourism industry and in community service.

This year's winner, John Cosentino, has overseen major renovations at the two suite hotels that he operates. John also served as President of OGHA from 2000 through 2004. During that time he guided the Association's growth and development as it became the voice of Ottawa's accommodation sector. The very successful voluntary Destination Marketing Fee, to promote Ottawa as a destination to prospective visitors, was introduced under John's leadership. Additionally, while John was President, OGHA helped bring the JUNOs to Ottawa in 2003.

OGHA represents 53 hotels in Ottawa and Gatineau with some 10,000 guest rooms. The Association is dedicated to enhancing the industry profile, service excellence and tourism growth.

-30-

For Additional Information:

Claude J. Sauvé
President, OGHA
(613) 562-7053
claudesauve@fairmont.com

Dick Brown
Executive Director, OGHA
(613) 231-6932
dickbrown@ogha.ca