
JOSEF EBNER RECEIVES W.H BAXTER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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TORONTO – Josef Ebner, Regional Vice President – Canada & Managing Director, Chelsea Hotel, Toronto, has been awarded the W.H. Baxter Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2019 second annual Agents' Choice Awards Gala last evening. He is only the fifth recipient of this award, since its inception in 2005.

The W.H. Baxter Lifetime Achievement Award was named after Baxter Publications' founder, William Baxter (1919–2004) and honours a travel industry leader who has:

- Made a significant contribution domestically and/or internationally to the travel and tourism industry;
- Improved professional standards in the industry;
- Demonstrated successful innovation and entrepreneurial initiative; and
- Enhanced the industry's standing with the general public.

Ebner's global work experience began with an apprenticeship from 1963 to 1966 in Austria. He went on to work in Zurich, Paris, London (two times), Toronto (three times), Madeira, Montreal, Geneva, Washington (two times) and then returned to Toronto in 1992.

For the past 30 years, he has made countless trips to Asia, Europe, UK, Middle East and the US on sales missions such as ITB in Berlin, CTC 'Showcase' events in Japan, Korea, China and India as well as WTM in London. "These missions provide me with an opportunity to make a positive impact and ultimately contribute to the promotion and support of the tourism industry in Canada," said Ebner. "The personal connections make all the difference."

A tireless promoter of the Chelsea Hotel, Ebner has also been very involved in various voluntary organizations including board membership and/or executive committee membership with Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership, Greater Toronto Hotel Association, Tourism Toronto and SKAL Toronto, just to name a few.

The ability to give back to the community has always been an important philosophy of his and it is something he practices every day. Under his direction, the hotel has conducted fundraising efforts to benefit a number of local charities such as Canadian Special Olympics, Habitat for Humanity Toronto and Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Today, the hotel supports SickKids Foundation and has committed to raise \$1 million over a period of ten years in support of the SickKids VS Limits campaign.

His sense of community has also included the contribution to several tourism-related student/youth programs. His encouragement of internships within many of the hotel's departments has created strong partnerships with the local colleges. He also works closely with many European Tourism schools providing internships such as the International Management Centre (IMC) in Krems, Austria.

Whether tending to the varied needs of his guests, employees and owners of Canada's largest hotel, he is a true *globe-trotting* hotelier. He is very well known and respected by his peers throughout the world. With genuine passion, he has inspired, shared and developed a vision for the future of the tourism industry.

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About Chelsea Hotel, Toronto

As Canada's largest hotel with 1,590 guest rooms, Chelsea Hotel, Toronto, is centrally located and just steps from the city's best shopping districts, world-class theatres, vibrant nightlife and exciting attractions. A full-service urban resort, the Chelsea Hotel has room types to suit everyone and the hotel offers three restaurants, separate adult and family recreation areas and pools – including the "Corkscrew" - downtown Toronto's only indoor waterslide. As a premier family destination, the hotel offers a full range of services including the Family Fun Zone, Kid Centre and Club 33 Teen Lounge. The Chelsea Hotel, Toronto is an independent property as part of the [Langham Hospitality Group's](#) international portfolio of hotels and resorts. For more information about the Chelsea Hotel, Toronto, please log on to www.chelseatoronto.com

