

## GRADUATION 2007

### Sunday, June 3

Graduation ceremonies were held at the Stratford Festival's Fleck Marquee for 31 graduates and their families. Reception catering was provided by Chef Neil Baxter, Master of Cuisine, Chef Instructor Kim Cosgrove (2003) and Michael Booth (2006).



The Convocation address was presented by [John McLaughlin](#) (left), a member of the School's Board of Directors and President of Treasury Technologies International Inc., where he advises business leaders as they conceive, consider and crystallize strategic decisions. McLaughlin's message to the 2007 graduates was compelling: "Stratford's values are not surprisingly the School's –meticulous thorough preparation, a strong work ethic, an eye for drama and design and a flair for connecting with your audiences. The school's mission, vision and values position it to make Stratford noted for great chefs, by those who really know. ... It's customary in these speeches to offer a bit of advice. My advice will be empirically based. I have seen a lot of people succeed and a few people crash and burn.

As you take your talent and skills to the marketplace and find a path through this industry, I'd hope you would do three things. First, take care of your body. Second take care of your mind. Third take care of your spirit." As to the spirit, McLaughlin had this to say: " Work only with people that share your passion. They are easy to find. Their enthusiasm and their optimism shine like lights, like yours. Never, ever settle for mediocrity. Properly cared for, your spirit will give you the strength to withstand tough times, the power to inspire others and the ability to lift yourself above the mediocre and mundane in this industry. So take care of your spirit."

\$10,000 in awards and scholarships were granted to graduates and to students returning to the second year of the Stratford Chefs School program. The Scholarship Fund is annually enhanced through the generous support of corporations and individuals who recognize the importance of education in helping young people achieve a fulfilling career.

Graduate [Aaron Russell](#) (right) served as [Valedictorian](#) for the Class of 2007 and gave a moving and thoughtful presentation.

**Thank you to our Scholarship Donors!**

Photo credit: Irene Miller 2007, Neil Baxter

