



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GSF 2022 KICKS-OFF LIVE! SPEAKERS, INNOVATIONS, TOP TEN IN GROCERY AWARDS AND MORE! DAY ONE WRAP-UP.

April 25, 2022, VANCOUVER, B.C. — Today marked the first time Grocery Specialty Food West 2022 (GSF 2022) opened its doors live since COVID-19. Retailers and Exhibitors alike were hungry for the “real thing” and it showed!

Day 1 began with the MORNING CONFERENCE at the Vancouver Convention Centre, East Building. Tom Shurrie delivered welcome remarks that set the stage for a keynote by Ted Graham, Head of Open Innovation at General Motors. Ted examined all aspects of mobility and how it impacts people, culture, industry and the workforce. Stewart Samuel from IGD then delivered a speech about “Emerging from COVID”.

At 9:00AM, the concurrent workshops began. Some of the topics included: “Store of the Future 2030” by **Stewart Samuel of IGD**, “An imaginary journey filled with out-of-the-box ideas that are budget-free and actionable”, by **Eric Termuende** and a valuable “Look into the latest consumer shopping expectations and the key customer experience components when shopping online”, by **Vincent van Der Heijden of Instacart**.

The LIVE trade show floor officially opened its doors at 11:00AM with an Education Session entitled “Growing Social ROI in Grocery!” by **Darian Kovacs**.

Today was a day of competition as well. The Best Booth Awards adjudicated by trade publishers were granted to:

Best Single Booth - **Baking Barn #1522**

Best Double Booth - **Refresh Packaging #1501**

Best Multi Booth - **Kev's Juice #1015**

Best Marketed Booth - **PONDEROSA MUSHROOMS & SPECIALTY FOODS #1020**

Then came the highly anticipated “TOP TEN IN GROCERY AWARDS”! In the afternoon Editors from leading trade publications along with a retail committee voted on their top picks for the "Top 10 in Grocery Awards" chosen amongst the New Product Showcase entries.

The winners of the Top TEN in Grocery are (in no particular order):

1./ Product Name: **Earth Stone Grill Cleaning Block**

Distributor: Advantage Solutions

Category: BEST CLEANING PRODUCT

2./ Product Name: **EGG Bites**

Manufacturer: Burnbrae Farms

Category: BEST INSTANT FOOD

3./ Product Name: **AHA Sparkling Beverage Water**

Manufacturer: Coca Cola

Category: BEST NEW BEVERAGE

4./ Product Name: **DF Energy 100% Ginseng sachets**

Manufacturer: PAN-X Corp.

Category: BEST NEUTRACEUTICAL

5./ Product Name: **Médicis Chocolate**

Distributor: LPB Distribution

Category BEST NEW CANDY

6./ Product Name: **Organic Enhanced Collagen**

Manufacturer: Organika Health

Category: BEST NATURAL BEAUTY SUPPLEMENT

7./ Product Name: **FAN TASTY KETO Cake Mix**

Distributor: Tree of Life Canada

Category: BEST BAKING PRODUCT

8./ Product: **BUBUWARES**

Manufacturer: Bubuwares

Category: BEST GREEN PRODUCT

9./ Product Name: **FUME-eh smoked olives**

Manufacturer: FUME-eh Gourmet Foods

Category: BEST CONDIMENT

10./ Product Name: **Delissio Croissant**
Manufacturer: NESTLÉ Canada
Category: BEST FROZEN FOOD

For images of the Top 10 In Grocery Awards winners, please access this link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9bdn21gv97n16zc/AAACLdpX9TuhzZnOSKofTA58a?dl=0>

The day concluded with a “mix and mingle” followed by a Gala Dinner in the West Building of the Vancouver Convention Centre in the epic SUMMIT ROOM on the 3rd floor. At this Gala, the **INDEPENDENT GROCER OF THE YEAR AWARDS (IGYA)** were announced. The winners will be posted to the newswire on **Tuesday, April 26, 2020 at 8:00AM EDT. (5:00AM PDT)**

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