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Quails' Gate Named Family Enterprise of the Year

KELOWNA, British Columbia (March 26, 2008) – The Stewart family, proprietors of Quails' Gate Estate Winery continue to garner acclaim for their commitment to the Okanagan community.

The Canadian Association of Family Enterprise (CAFÉ) Okanagan Chapter presented its inaugural Okanagan award at their February ceremony with Quails' Gate and the Stewart family being the honoured recipients. CAFÉ Okanagan had 29 members competing for this prestigious award. Other Okanagan businesses competing for the award included Prestige Hotels and Lake Country Ace Building Centre. In the end, it was Quails' Gate's unique balance of both family and business dynamics that led to the winery being the selected recipient.

The Stewart family has deep roots in the Okanagan with Great-Grandfather Richard John Stewart immigrating to Canada in 1908 from County Kildare, Ireland. It was his son, Richard (Dick) who purchased the Quails' Gate site in 1956 and opened the winery in 1989 with son Ben and daughter-in-law Ruth. Over the years, the entire Stewart family has become involved in the business offering their individual expertise to create an internationally recognized and award winning winery.

Quails' Gate has seen many changes throughout the years, but the one constant has been family. "My dad had the great foresight in family business to make sure that family was always first, business second," says co-owner Cynthia Stewart. "I don't look at Andrea, Ben and Tony as co-workers, but as my sister and brothers. Always have, always will."

Quails' Gate Estate Winery is nestled in the beautiful Okanagan Valley in the southern interior of British Columbia. The 125-acre estate vineyard, located on the shores of Lake Okanagan, is owned and operated by the Stewart family, pioneering horticulturists since the turn of the 20th century. Inspiration in your own backyard; we invite you to visit us daily, year round in the Wineshop and Old Vines Restaurant for a unique taste of the Okanagan.

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