



Mission Chamber of Commerce BusinessTRACK

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MISSION'S CANDLELIGHT PARADE KICKS OFF THE HOLIDAY SEASON!

Weather clears just in time for the start of the parade

THE 2017 CANDLELIGHT PARADE WINNERS ARE:

Marching Battalion

- 1ST PLACE** 4th Avenue Scout Group
- 2ND PLACE** MEI Screaming Eagles
- 3RD PLACE** 1st West Heights Scouts

Non-Profit

- 1ST PLACE** Northview Community Church
- 2ND PLACE** Rotary Club of Mission
- 3RD PLACE** Right Nuts ATV Club

School/Sports

- 1ST PLACE** Deroche Elementary
- 2ND PLACE** Mission Minor Hockey Association
- 3RD PLACE** Mission Niner's Football

Commercial

- 1ST PLACE** Archgard Industries
- 2ND PLACE** Wreckless Roofing
- 3RD PLACE** Bayview Towing

Dance Performance

- 1ST PLACE** True Art Dance Academy
- 2ND PLACE** Arch-Way Dance
- 3RD PLACE** Triumph Acrobatics

Private

- 1ST PLACE** Henry the Christmas Pickup
- 2ND PLACE** Jahn Clark
- 3RD PLACE** Hazelnut Grove Clydesdales

The Mission Chamber would like to thank: staff of Mission Public Works & Parks & Recreation, Mission RCMP, Mission Auxiliary RCMP, Mission Crime Prevention Office and volunteers, Mission Fire Department, Fraser Valley Amateur Radio Association, Traffic King, Mission Optimist Club, Mission Towing, Save-On Foods, Doug Pearson, all the judges, and of course Santa and his elves for coming to Mission.

MISSION, BC The rain finally subsided right on time... 7:28pm to be exact, perfect timing for the 7:30pm start of the 34th Annual Candlelight Parade held in downtown Mission on December 1st. While the crowds this year were not as large as normal due to the high rains earlier in the evening, those that braved the wet weather were treated to the perfect break from the rain in time to enjoy the 90 minute spectacle. This year was extra special for one local family as the parade staff and even Santa himself helped to coordinate the first ever "wedding proposal" to take place during the annual parade. Congratulations to local resident Michael Battel and his lovely fiancé Lindsay Sveinungsen on their beautiful engagement.

In true holiday spirit, local business owner, Carlo Billinger, owner of Rex Cox Menswear, heard about the engagement taking place outside his store and approached the happy couple afterwards to offer Michael a new suit, shirt and tie! "This is a true example of holiday giving at its best! Thank you Carlo for giving back to your community in such a positive way!" said Chamber President David Sawatzky.

President David Sawatzky was thrilled with the evening stating, "Each year keeps



getting better and better and this year even the weather finally cooperated. Thank you to all the participants and volunteers for a job well done."

Approximately 80 float entries, bringing together over 130 vehicles and over 1000 participants marched in this year's parade with varying arrays of lights, music and holiday spirit. Dance troupes, bands, bikes and even ponies performed along the way. This year's winners were classified into six separate categories for judging and all were rated based on their holiday cheer and entertainment value.



Background:

- Candlelight parade originally started as a day parade more than 40 years ago and has operated as a nighttime parade for 34 years.
- Candlelight Parade is the longest running night time parade in Western Canada
- It has only been cancelled once due to snow.
- Mission Chamber of Commerce has organized the parade for the last 29 years with the support of sponsors, District of Mission, Mission RCMP, Mission Fire Service, businesses and more than 60 volunteers

from community organizations including the Mission Optimist Club and Fraser Valley Radio Operators Club.

- Parade planning begins in August annually and is managed by a volunteer task force of those involved.
- Over 14,000 spectators attend annually from as far away as White Rock, Bellingham & Hope
- Average of 80 floats each year, from bands to schools to businesses. Entrants come from all over the Lower Mainland.



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DECEMBER 2017 President's Report

My friends, it is December and we are nearly days away from the official start of winter. In celebration of the impending season, we most recently hosted the 34th annual Mission Candlelight Parade, which by all accounts was a great success once again. Thank you to the many volunteers participants and spectators for this year's event! I'm always happy to see so many of our Mission residents as well as friends from nearby communities use our parade as their kickoff to the Christmas season. While we begin our celebratory preparations and our thoughts turn to Christmas and the wonderful moments we will be having with family, friends and co-workers; for most we are also reminded that there are many among us who will not be celebrating. Some of our neighbours who are in various stages of poverty, even some in real desperation. As a society we remind ourselves that this joyous season is also a time to ramp up our charitable giving. True, our care for the challenged and less fortunate is, and should be a year long concern, but for most, Christmas is the time that we choose to do a little extra and give a little more.

For a well rounded and kind society, giving of ones time, talents or treasures is absolutely necessary -not only for the one who receives the gift but for the one who gives. True acts of compassion and charity gladden the heart of the giver and prompt further acts of charity as well as a better personal understanding of value and appreciation. Experience has show also when assistance is provided for someone in need by an individual or small organization, the gift is also more appreciatively received and re-extended when possible. In simple terms, think about the time when your coffee was paid for by the person in the drive-thru just ahead of you. It is likely that you then wanted to pay for the person coming after you. Not a feeling of entitlement but instead real appreciation of the gift that prompted a desire for you to pay forward.

This time of year there are many reasons to celebrate and even more opportunities to give. I encourage everyone to reach out in the spirit of the season to help someone who is in need. Just like the drive-thru analogy, you may never know how far the spirit of your gift will extend.



David Sawatzky
PRESIDENT

From my family to yours, I wish for you to have a very happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Mayor to speak at Christmas Luncheon

The annual Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce (MRCC) Christmas Luncheon is the largest gathering of Chamber members held each year. This event is a great way to come together as a business community to celebrate the holidays and brings opportunities to network, build relationships and meet some of the newest members of the Chamber for 2017. Join your fellow MRCC members to here Mission's Mayor, Randy Hawes address the annual event with a "State of the Community". Chamber President David Sawatzky will be presenting this year's 25 Year

Member Awards and Santa and his elves will be stopping in to visit, give away prizes and take last minute requests for Christmas!

All attendees will have opportunities to win great door prizes, visit and take pictures with Santa and network with Chamber members and non-members from your business community.

The Mission Chamber of Commerce is currently collecting door prizes for the Christmas Luncheon. If you would like to donate, please contact the chamber today!

For more information and to register, contact the Chamber office at 604.826.6914 or member_services@missionchamber.bc.ca

Merry Christmas from All of us at the Mission Chamber!

PLACE	Rockwells Ballroom
DATE	December 14th, 2017
TIME	11:30 - 2 pm
COST	\$30 members \$40 non-members



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Happy Christmas!
Look forward to seeing you all in 2018

BusinessTRACK



Kelsey Racine is new general manager for Chances Mission Casino, located on 7178 Horne Street. Check out its website at www.missionchances.com.

Spotlight on Excellence: Chances Mission: Fun, food, generosity and your local spot for good times with great friends

by RICK RAKE,
Click Media Works

Kelsey Racine, new general manager of Chances Mission on Horne Street in Mission, thinks the community is "friendly and generous. It's nice to have this role and be able to go and support community events and help others."

What she is referring to are the donations the Gateway Casinos facility gives to hard-working local non-profits, including Mission Hospice, Humane Society, Cops for Cancer and others.

Just last month Mission Community Services Society Christmas Bureau was the \$5,000 recipient during Gateway's 25 Days of Giving campaign. As part of their 25th anniversary festivities they launched the 25 Days of Giving through GatewayGIVES and asked their employees to select the charity of their choice in

the 26 communities where they live and work across Canada.

Chances Mission has operated for 12 years, and offers the entertainment of 125 classic and new slot machines, ranging from one cent to \$1, with names like Jungle Wild, Cash'm If You Can and Palace of Riches. It has a big screen card dealer as part of its electronic Black Jack, and Chances bingo is electronic and on paper, with matinee and evening sessions Wednesday through Saturday. You can buy your lottery tickets here, too.

The Lounge at Chances Mission has a little something for everybody, from chicken and nachos share plates to soup of the day and house salads. Larger fare includes beef dip, burgers, clubhouse sandwiches and wraps.

Interested in dessert? There's New York cheesecake, chocolate sensation cake and ice cream.

Racine loves coming to work every day because "it is a fun place with lots of energy from both the staff and customers. Our staff knows just about everybody... in a small community like ours you really get to know your customers, they are your friends and neighbours. All of our staff are long term. Three have been here since opening day," said Racine.

Chances has a players club and the more points you earn, the more benefits you receive... including promotions, food and beverage discounts, and special events. Chances Mission says in its promotion: "We are where the winners play!"

After participating in events like the Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards luncheon and Night Golf, Racine said she has met so many people in Mission. "You don't realize how many businesses are operating here until you get involved."

CHAMBER EVENTS

December 14th

CHAMBER CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Help us celebrate the holidays, connect with fellow members, and don't forget to bring a donation for the food bank! Santa may even make an appearance.
Place: Rockwell's Ballroom
Time: 11:30am-2pm
Price: \$30 members
\$40 non members

December 18th

SUPERHOST CUSTOMER SERVICE TRAINING

A one-day workshop that teaches front-line employees the skills and techniques required to provide exceptional customer service. Designed and delivered by certified trainers. BOOK NOW SPACE IS LIMITED
Place: 201-33123 1st Avenue
Time: 8:45 am (registration at 8:45) to 4:00pm
Price: \$105 + GST

December 22-January 2nd

CHAMBER OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED!! HAPPY HOLIDAYS

January 11th

NEW YEAR, NEW CONNECTIONS EVENT

Join us as 450 Members representing 12 chambers unite for an evening of unprecedented networking and fellowship. This will undoubtedly be an amazing multi-chamber event! 450 Members, 12 Chambers, 1 Amazing Evening. LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE. Mission Chamber has only 10 tickets left available to our members. Book today
Place: Anvil Centre, New Westminster
Time: 5:30pm-8:30pm
Price: \$20 members
\$30 non members

January 16th

ROUNDTABLE WITH MLA BOB D'EITH

Join us in a roundtable discussion with Mission/Maple Ridge NDP MLA Bob D'eith. Have the opportunity to question your elected representatives on provincial policy & initiatives that affect your organization while learning from others what impacts their business. Only 20 seats available!
Place: Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce
Time: 8:00am-9:30am
Price: FREE for members, light breakfast provided

January 19th

BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS GALA 60% SOLD TO DATE

Join us for on the red carpet as we celebrate the best of the businesses in Mission. Our cocktail evening is a black & white formal with canapes, champagne and live entertainment. Glam up and join us in celebrating all the finalists!
Place: The Clarke Theatre
Time: 6:30pm Doors open
Price: \$75 available online at missionchamber.bc.ca or by calling 604-826-6914.

January 24th

CHAMBER GOES TO IRELAND INFO SESSION

Take traveling to Ireland off your bucket list this year. Join us for our 2nd info session and learn about this incredible 9 & 13 day all inclusive, full guided holiday to Ireland leaving May 2018. Space is limited for the trip; deadline to book is Feb 28th. This amazing tour is open to EVERYONE!
Place: Mission Chamber of Commerce Boardroom
Time: 5pm-6pm

To REGISTER for these events visit our website at missionchamber.bc.ca or call 604-826-6914 or e: events@missionchamber.bc.ca



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The Business Excellence Awards

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!!

60% SOLD TO DATE



We are rolling out the red carpet for the 2017 Business Excellence Awards coming up on January 19th, 2018 at the Clarke Theatre. Tickets are selling fast and already 60% sold.

Celebrate with us!

Starting with our Cocktail Reception. Join us for an hour of entertainment, amazing food and drinks and networking amongst the best of the business community.

Our Oscars style awards presentation with Emcee Cliff Prang will be sure to entertain all in attendance and create lasting memories!

End the evening in our Champagne Celebration. Join us to congratulate the winners and toast their success over amazing sweets and champagne! (Champagne included in the price of a ticket!)

Finalists will be announced in mid-December of 2017!



Tickets on sale now

call 604-826-6914 to book or visit missionchamber.bc.ca

Date January 19th 2018
Time 6pm-10pm
Location Clarke Theatre

2017 CHAMBER TEAM

"Membership has its benefits!"



execdir@missionchamber.bc.ca

Kristin Parsons
Executive Director



info@missionchamber.bc.ca

Jo-Anne Chadwick
Office Administrator and
Tourism Services Manager



events@missionchamber.bc.ca

Donna Gibson
Event Coordinator



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Canada’s only national airport parking company, Park’N Fly offers Mission Chamber Members exclusive, lower than web rates which can be used for both leisure and business travel.

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- Opt in to receive the text message when you land

Chamber Members also have the opportunity to become a corporate rewards member with the Chamber corporate code. This allows for; automatic discounts at check out, the ability to earn free parking, 50% more Aeroplan Points and express check in/out.

For more information or to sign up for an account and start saving on your next purchase, contact the Chamber Membership staff at membership_services@missionchamber.bc.ca

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