

Happy December from the Mayne Island Community Chamber of Commerce! November was a busy month for us and we are looking forward to relaxing at the upcoming Christmas Eve Bonfire on, you guessed it, December 24th. For those new to the island, the bonfire is at Miner's Bay Park where the beautifully lit up Christmas tree awaits (thank you to everyone involved in getting the lights up!). You can gather around with cookies and hot drinks (please bring your own mug) and enjoy the merriment. 6:30pm is a suggested time for coming down, but the event goes on for quite a while.

November held both our annual Spaghetti Dinner, as well as our membership renewal period. Thank you to everyone to promptly renewed their memberships! We do accept new members throughout the year, but to be in the 2019 brochure, one had to have paid their membership dues by November 17th in order to ensure that brochure design can get started. Once a brochure draft has been produced, members will have a week to review it and provide us with any necessary changes. Also, welcome to our new members! We have a number of new members, who we will introduce in the January Mayneliner.

The Spaghetti Dinner was well attended and there was great discussion on possible infrastructure projects that the Chamber could support either through lobbying or funds. Brainstormed ideas will be reviewed at the board's upcoming "recap" meeting, and from there action should start taking shape on some projects. We will keep you updated on any plans that take shape. Thank you to everyone who came to the dinner, as well as to Sue Duncan from Dinners by Design, who did the cooking for the evening.

On the website front, the Chamber has a new events calendar up and running, which you can view here: <https://www.mayneislandchamber.ca/mayne-events-calendar.html>. This calendar enables anyone to send in an event to the calendar, which will in turn be seen on the Chamber's website. Some upcoming tweaking to the calendar will also have these events automatically posted on the Southern Gulf Islands events page (<http://southerngulfislands.com/events>), which means more exposure for your event. So please submit away! If you have an image to go with the event you can send it to executiveofficer@mayneislandchamber.ca and we can add it on, which looks great visually and helps attract people to your event.

We would be remiss if we did not mention that our business members would love for you to shop local during this season. If you can't find something at one store, be sure to ask the shop owner because they may be able to direct you to another place that has what you are looking for. If you can, take some time to really look around a Mayne Island business or two. You might be surprised at what you can get on-island!

We hope that you have a cozy, wonderful holiday season filled with joy.

Submitted by Lauren Underhill on behalf of the Chamber board