

May Chamber Chatter

Over the last few months the Chamber's email has been abuzz with initiatives, support requests, and publication fact-checking. It seems everyone has come out of their winter hibernation and are settling into springtime productivity.

One recent support request was from the Tour des Iles Festival, asking for funds to support the growth of this three day event. The Chamber has agreed to support this initiative with a \$1200 sponsorship because it aligns with Chamber objectives, bringing attention and commerce to Mayne Island, as well as building visibility and revenue for local businesses.

April saw the arrival of the Chamber's 2019 brochures, with José Holman's (Carver House Studio) beautiful design featured on the cover. Brochures are distributed on-island, on BC Ferries, and various BC locations. If you need brochures for your business they can be picked up from Alea Design and Print during their business hours of 10am-5pm, Monday-Friday. Thank you Colleen Fraser for allowing this to be a pick up point!

The board wrote two letters of support in April. One was for the installation of rumble strips at the school's playground zone, because even the best intentioned of us may have found ourselves going faster than the daily, dawn to dusk 30 km/hr speed limit. A letter of support for the CRD trail project from Village Bay to Miners Bay was also mailed.

We've been frequently responding to media requests during the last few months. In March the Chamber sponsored a writer from Roadtrippers.com to come learn about Mayne Island's apple culture and associated businesses. Additionally, articles mentioning Mayne Island will be coming up in the BC Ferries OnBoard Magazine, as well as in Western Journey Travel Magazine. Next up, a team from Edible Magazine will be coming to check out Mayne Island's delicious food offerings.

Lastly, our AGM is coming up on May 14th at Studio 652 (the house at 652 Fernhill Rd.). Our bylaws state that we need 12 members present for quorum, so we ask that you please attend. It will be a short meeting with treats by Sue Duncan. Last year's meeting was only 30 minutes!

We'd love to see new board members join the Chamber ranks. The work load is light; the Executive Officer does many of the tasks once done by the board (ex. Membership, brochure, website) and marketing is done primarily through the marketing consortium on Salt Spring. The primary role of board members is to govern our organization by making decisions on how best invest resources for the benefit of our membership and community. We only meet every two months for about 1-2 hours on Tuesday evenings.

The Mayne Island Chamber isn't just a tourism organization. We're here to serve as a voice for the business community. We want to cultivate an organization that creates opportunities for our members; serve as an advocate for Mayne Island businesses; and supports tourism directly and indirectly through Chamber activities.

We hope to see you at the AGM!

Submitted by Lauren Underhill