

News Release



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Chamber honors tourism industry ‘Stars’ *Several receive recognition for contributions*

LAKE GEORGE, NY (Nov. 29, 2017) — The Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce & CVB honored two businesses and its office manager with STAR Awards this year.

Each year the chamber honors organizations or individuals that help grow the tourism economy, which is vital for supporting jobs and offsetting the tax burden of local residents. STAR stands for “Supporting Tourism Around the Region.”

The Sagamore Resort was given an award for its Glacier Ice Bar Lounge, which pioneered the ice bar trend in the region that has grown our winter economy. The Lake George Steamboat Company was awarded a STAR Award as it celebrates its bicentennial.

Chamber Office Manager Christine Molella was surprised with a STAR Award at the 65th Anniversary Sapphire Gala in November at the Sagamore. This year marks 40 years since Molella first started working at the chamber — a summer job that grew into a fruitful career.

The Sagamore Ice Bar & Lounge transforms 18,000 pounds of ice into an outdoor lounge that brings thousands to the area in January. The Ice Bar will return for the last two weekends of January in 2018. The Sagamore was the first to open an ice bar, and many other resorts and restaurants followed suit, spurring a new winter tourism trend. Sagamore General Manager Tom Guay accepted the award.

We’re proud to live and work in the same region as the Lake George Steamboat Company, which celebrated 200 years this year! Their celebration started on New Year’s Eve with an ice bar and continued all year with creative and fun events that drew people to the area. They even threw a free concert with their ships docked at the pier acting as grandstands. Owner Bill Dow accepted the award.

Lake George Mayor Robert Blais introduced Christine Molella at the gala to accept her award. “She’s part of our fabric that makes Lake George great,” Blais said. “She’s there every day doing the work we wish we could do for Lake George.”

The chamber also honored local veteran Denny Galloway with the special Sapphire Award to thank him for his hard work and dedication on behalf of the Lake George Rotary Club to improve the landscaping and the entrance of the Lake George Region just off Northway Exit 21. This improvement is not only a benefit to the businesses but also to the residents of Lake George. Galloway is also one of the three charter members of the Lake George Veterans Memorial Group that had the memorial placed at the entrance to the region. He’s also been instrumental in the state recently offering free admission to drive up Prospect Mountain around Veteran’s Day.

All awards were given at the 65th Anniversary Sapphire Gala, which was attended by about 150 people. Last year Lake Luzerne Supervisor and owner of Lamplight Inn Bed & Breakfast Gene Merlino was given the STAR Award.

The chamber was also honored to have State Sen. Elizabeth Little, R-Queensbury, as the keynote speaker at the gala. Senator Little has worked tirelessly to improve the tourism economy in our region. Michael Consuelo, who retired from the executive director position in September, was also honored at the gala. Little presented him with Senate Proclamation that commemorated his work on tourism in the region during his career.

About the Chamber & CVB:

The mission of Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce & CVB, Inc. is to drive tourism to the Lake George region year-round while fostering a vibrant business community. The chamber seeks to promote growth and development of its member businesses by representing the area at trade and travel shows, offering networking events, educational programs, ribbon cuttings, and other opportunities.

Founded in 1952, the LGRCC is a member-driven, not-for-profit 501 C (6) corporation. The chamber, celebrating its 65th year, comprises more than 425 members in various sectors of the business community. With a regional mindset, membership spans six counties in New York. The chamber staffs the Visitor Center on the corner of Beach Road and Canada Street in the village of Lake George and the Information Center on the Northway between Exits 17 and 18. In 2016, more than 105,000 visitors stopped in those two centers seeking information about the area.

Our membership calendar year runs from October 1 to September 30, however businesses and non-profit organizations can join at any time. For updates, connect with us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/VisitLakeGeorge/> Twitter @VisitLakeGeorge and Instagram @lakegeorgechamber

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