

Celebrate Downtown 2018 Awards Winners

BACK IN THE DAY AWARD: Jean Johnstone

Jean is passionate about the City she chose to live in in 1955. She has been the Chair of a sub-committee of the Lethbridge Historical Society since 2004 placing bronze plaques on city buildings totaling almost 70 to date with most of them in the downtown area.

The Historical Society has very little to do with these plaques, it is totally through the efforts of Jean herself. The Society is just a working source. Jean is also very keen on saving downtown buildings with historic value. She has served on many city of Lethbridge committees relative to the downtown in particular.

CHAMPAGNE AWARD: Kate Connolly

Kate is an absolutely invaluable citizen of this community. She works tirelessly to bring us The One Act Festival in April, the London Road Family Fair in June and of course her Piece de Resistance, Shakespeare in the Park, spanning May and June (rehearsals) and July and August (performance) For all of these things Kate spends much time encouraging and finding performers, volunteers and one more essential ingredient, to make all of this work possible, sponsors.

She also serves on various city committees and always has her hand up when there is work to be done. After spending so many hours organizing all these events and more, Kate truly deserves this award. I know many, many people who feel this way and I hope they will stream out of the woodwork and vote!

HIP DOWNTOWN TRANSFORMATION AWARD: Stoketown Cafe-Cure (Glenn Fenimore)

Stoketown is local downtown stop shop for all your cafe needs! Stoketown tries to order locally for their food menu items, such as Cobbs bread, and there are many others. They recently added two free consignment shelves for local artisans, crafters, and makers.

Small biz owners and organizations can use their boardroom for \$15/day which includes secure Wi-Fi, printer / scanner, audio visual suite and free batch brew coffee. With student ID, all of this is free. They even allow their storefront for pop-up shops for local businesses, such as the Hawk + Harvest Market. They also partner with local biz such as Crazy Cakes, O2 Training, Red Engine Coffee to name a few!

RUNNING WITH THE BULLS: Andrea Sandul

Andrea and Tim have taken on a risk with a new idea by creating their co-working space, and in so doing have created an incredibly micro-community of entrepreneurs and exciting ideas.

They've created an atmosphere of supporting, collaborative entrepreneurship that will be echoed in many businesses that will be a big part of Lethbridge for years to come.

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS AWARD: Judi Dormaar

Judi is a great neighbour on 7th Street, supporting our arts activities, including Soar and Arts Days, and is tireless in her efforts to beautify our street by planting and maintaining flowers on our block all summer, as well as helping keep the streets swept and shoveled year round. Judi is always looking for ways to support other businesses and events in the downtown.

Aside from Judi's efforts to keep 7th Street looking it's best, Judi has been integral in communicating with all of the businesses and organizations on our street to work together - a vocal and active advocate for keeping the downtown a vibrant and positive community.

FROM THE HEART AWARD: Streets Alive Mission

Streets Alive Mission has been providing outreach and support for those in need in the Downtown for over 26 years. For 6 days/week, year around Streets Alive provides for the basic physical needs of needy adults and children, through their Drop-in Centre, Food Crew, P.I.N.(Persons in Need) clothing and personal items Bank and special meals throughout the year. Streets Alive Mission also provides counseling and mentoring support to help empower those without hope to achieve productive hope-filled lives.

Streets Alive Mission provides a welcoming place in the Downtown for those of our community who are homeless or down-and-out. S.A.M. encourages inclusion for all members of our community, consistent with the Heart Of Our City vision of a welcoming and inclusive Downtown, for all of our citizens and visitors.

NOMINEES: DOWNTOWN EVENT OF THE YEAR AWARD: The word on the Street Festival

On Saturday, September 23, 2017, the Lethbridge Public Library hosted The Word On The Street (WOTS) for the seventh year. WOTS is an award-winning festival held in four cities across the country and one of the top literary events in Canada.

The Word On The Street is dedicated to celebrating the written word and advocating for literacy. The Lethbridge festival includes seven venues for readings and workshops with approximately thirty presenting authors and artists, a stage for live music, a vendor and exhibitor marketplace, and street performers, scavenger hunts for adults and children, face painting and mascots, crafts and activities with community partner organizations and a food court area.

Lethbridge's festival has consistently attracted excellent established and emerging authors in a wide range of genres and interests, features local talent alongside notable authors from across the country, and provides a venue for authors and artists to interact, for local emerging authors to learn more about the craft and industry, and showcases and celebrates the written and spoken word in the arts.

Festival attendance was estimated at 5,200, a marked increase over 201 numbers attendance of 4,800, considering that the weather was the coldest to date, a drizzly fall day with only a high of 12 C. Our biggest draw was Japanese-Canadian author Joy Kogawa, though longtime prairie writer Sharon Butala was also very popular. The children's tent was over capacity for picture book author Barbara Reid (who kindly stayed a full extra hour at the signing table to get to the end of her line-up), and children's fantasy author Kevin Sand's audience and signing line proved he has obtained rock star status for our middle grade students.