



PARENTS' CHOICE AWARDS

And the winners are . . .



The response to our Third Annual Calgary's Child Magazine's Parents' Choice Awards was phenomenal. We asked you to choose the Best in Calgary — those businesses that offered the best places to eat, shop and have fun as a family.

Below are our reader's choices . . . congratulations to all the winners. Keep up the good work, Calgary families thank you.

★ BEST PLACE TO BUY BIRTHDAY CAKES

First Place: Dairy Queen

Dairy Queen is proud to accept the awards for Best Place to Buy Birthday Cakes and Best Ice Cream Store. The Dairy Queen operators of Calgary would like to thank all those who enjoy our products. It has been a pleasure to serve you and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

Second Place: Costco

Honorable Mentions: Safeway and IGA

★ BEST ICE CREAM/YOGURT STORE

First Place: Dairy Queen

Honorable Mentions: Licks and My Favorite Ice Cream

★ BEST GROCERY STORE

First Place: Calgary Co-op

When you're a busy family, we know the little extras can mean a lot. Like having your groceries carried to your car, without needing to ask. Or free child care in our Kiddies Korrels. Then there's our Fruit of the Week and Cookie Clubs - perks kids look forward to. Guided tours for Kindergarten students introduce them to the colors, tastes and smells of a grocery store, and our free Stampede breakfasts are fun for the whole family. And our many food drives and other community activities care for Calgary families who need a little extra help.

Second Place: Safeway

★ BEST NATURAL FOODS STORE

First Place: Community Natural Foods

The staff at Community thank our valued customers for 20 years of support and feedback. We look forward to continuing to provide you with the highest quality natural products that promote a healthy lifestyle and a sustainable future for your children. Every dollar you spend on organic products is a vote cast for a healthier planet!

★ BEST FAST FOOD PLACE

First Place: McDonald's Restaurants

On July 12, 1968, Calgary's first McDonald's Restaurant opened at 507 - 23 Avenue NW. Every day since then we have done our best to impress every guest. Just like kids, we never tire of hearing people say they like us. So we're thrilled to have won the third annual Calgary's Child Magazine's Parents' Choice Award for Best Fast Food. McDonald's is serious about giving back to the communities in which we do business. Through Ronald McDonald House and Ronald McDonald Children's Charities, thousands of special Calgary children have had their quality of life improved. Thank you Calgary.

Second Place: Wendy's

Honorable Mentions: Taco Bell and Subway

★ BEST PIZZA

First Place: Pizza Hut

Honorable Mention: Boston Pizza

★ BEST RESTAURANT FOR FAMILIES

First Place: Moxie's

Thank you Calgary for voting Moxie's your favorite choice for family dining! Moxie's boasts a casual and fun dining environment with an upbeat decor, delicious food and great drinks. Our large menu offering includes tempting appetizers, mouth-watering entrees and sinful desserts. Visit us today and come show us your moxie!

★ BEST CHILDREN'S MENU

First Place: Moxie's

Honorable Mention: Boston Pizza

★ BEST RESTAURANT FOR PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

First Place: The Outback

Honorable Mentions: Sultan's Tent, Cheesecake Cafe, Mescalero's, Joey Tomato's, Taj Mahal, Smuggler's, River Cafe, Red Lobster, Santa Fe Grill, Fiore's, Chianti's, The Keg, and Earls.

★ BEST AIRLINE FOR FAMILIES

First Place: Canadian Airlines

Canadian Airlines understands that air travel can be child's play! Canadian offers in-flight entertainment programs for children, special kids' meals and discounted fares. Canadian's "Unaccompanied Minors" program ensures that children travelling without an adult are safe, comfortable and enjoy their flight.

Second Place: Air Canada

★ BEST HOTEL/MOTEL CHAIN

First Place: Best Western

Best Western International is once again recognized as the "Best Hotel for Families with Children" because of the continued strength of a Fun Plan that highlights a summer promotion filled with great items and exciting discounts.

Children 12 and under also stay free in the same room when travelling with an adult. For more information, contact the Best Western at 1-800-528-1234.

Second Place: CP Hotels

★ BEST PHARMACY

First Place: Shoppers Drug Mart - Healthwatch

Our goal, at Shoppers Drug Mart, is to make your pharmacy experience even easier. That's why our Healthwatch pharmacists are continuing to provide more in-store information and professional services to Calgarians. Shoppers Drug Mart's exclusive Healthwatch Services are designed to help you take better care of yourself - something we can all feel good about.

Second Place (tie): London Drugs and Calgary Co-op

★ BEST BIRTHDAY PARTY ENTERTAINMENT

First Place: Mad Science

The Staff of Mad Science of Southern Alberta would like to thank the families who voted for us. We work hard to make our entertainments the best they can be and it sure feels good to have our excellence acknowledged. If you haven't booked a Mad Science Birthday Party or Special Event, take the advice of other parents and call 263-4140 today to book your party.

Second Place: Fairy Princess Parties

★ BEST LOCAL CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINER

First Place: Buckshot

Honorable Mentions: Loose Moose Theatre Troupe, W.P.Puppeteers, Singer Rick Hertert, Loli the Clown, Rainbow the Clown, Buttons the Clown and the Buskers at Eau Claire Market.

★ BEST LIVE THEATRE COMPANY

First Place: Storybook Theatre

For the third year in a row, Storybook Theatre would like to thank all the readers for choosing us as Best Live Theatre Company for 1999.

Second Place: Loose Moose Theatre Company

★ BEST MOVIE THEATRE

First Place: Westhills Famous Players

Second Place: Crowfoot Crossing Cineplex Honorable Mention: Northland Village Shoppes

★ BEST MUSEUM

First Place: Glenbow Museum

A visit to Glenbow is a lively journey into the heritage of the Canadian West! Step inside a real Blackfoot tipi; squeeze into a settler's tiny cabin. Discover awesome art, see knights in armour, and explore the colorful world of minerals and gemstones - all at the Glenbow Museum!

Second Place: Tyrrell Museum - Drumheller

★ BEST PLAYGROUP

First Place: Parents and Children Together

Parents and Children Together (P.A.C.T.) provides parents and preschool children with a weekly opportunity to play, socialize and discuss parenting information. Children (2 to 5 years) play at child-directed play centres, toddlers (1 to 2 years) have smaller version of same, babies (0 to 1 year) have baby care room. Parents can spend time in play with children and in parenting discussion with Parent Educators. For more information, please call 252-2211.

Second Place: Wee Kids

★ BEST COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP

First Place: The Infant Resource Centre

At the Infant Resource Centre we strive to create an atmosphere of support for Calgary's community of parents of young children. Receiving this recognition from the parents who voted for our agency carries very special meaning for us. We promise to continue to provide parents with education, news on the latest research, the best strategies to handle sleep problems, disciplining issues, toilet training, and more through our in-home counselling service, our telephone counselling service and our day/evening programs.

Second Place: Calgary Regional Health Authority

★ BEST PRESCHOOL

First Place: Learning Experience

Learning Experience was delighted to be voted the best pre-school in Calgary. Thank you to all the parents who voted for Learning Experience. I would also like to take this opportunity to applaud our wonderful, caring staff, who bring their enthusiasm to our classroom each and every day.

★ BEST SCHOOL SUPPLIES

First Place: Staples The Office Superstore

Staples is honored to have been chosen as the "Best Place to Buy School Supplies" as voted by the Calgary's Child Magazine, Parents' Choice Awards. As Canada's largest office products and superstore chain, all our associates take pride in being able to offer our customers the benefits of everyday low prices and services in an atmosphere of enthusiastic customer care. We thank the parents of Calgary for your recognition!

Second Place: Walmart

★ BEST FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHER

First Place: Sears

We're happy to serve our Canadian community with over 100 stores, three conveniently

located in Calgary. It is our pleasure to accept this honor as "Best Family Photographer", according to the voters in the Calgary's Child Magazine Parents' Choice Awards. We are committed to capturing your family's best smiles with the highest quality photographer ever.

Second Place: Walmart

Honorable Mentions: Sooters and The Bay

★ BEST PET SHOP

First Place: Petland

Petland would like to thank the readers of Calgary's Child Magazine for voting us Calgary's Best Pet Store for the third year in a row. Your support and recognition is a reflection of the high level of integrity with which we operate our business and our commitment to animal welfare and responsible pet ownership in this great city we all share.

Honorable Mention: PetSmart

★ BEST SHOE STORE

First Place: Payless ShoeSource

Thank you for making Payless ShoeSource the number one children's retailer in Calgary. Payless ShoeSource opened its first stores in Canada about one year ago. The company has been delighted with the tremendous response from consumers, many of whom have become local Payless shoppers.

★ BEST CAR DEALERSHIP

First Place: Tower Chrysler Plymouth Ltd.

Tower Chrysler Plymouth Ltd. has been serving their clients and the community in Calgary and Alberta for over 27 years. In 1996 Ed Rewucki, President of Tower Chrysler, received the Maclean's Dealer of Excellence Award. He says, "Our objective and our goal is total customer satisfaction each and every day." You'll find warm and friendly people willing to assist you for your automotive needs, from new and used vehicle sales or leasing, to service, body repairs, parts and car rentals.

Second Place: Strathcona/Tweedsmuir

★ BEST SPORTING GOODS STORE FOR FAMILIES

First Place: Sport Chek

Second Place: Sports Swap Honorable Mention: SportsMart

★ BEST TOY STORE

First Place: Toys "R" Us

Toys "R" Us, the World's Greatest Toy store, has been serving Calgary since 1988. There are 62 stores in Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific with an amazing assortment of toys, games, electronics, baby furniture and accessories. There are three stores in Calgary - at Market Mall Shopping Centre, NW, at 2929 - 32 Avenue NE, and at 10450 MacLeod Trail SE. Honorable Mention: Zellers Toyland

★ BEST VIDEO STORE

First Place: Rogers Video

Rogers Video is the largest Canadian-owned and operated family video store in Canada with more than 20 locations in the Calgary area. Every store is stocked with an entertaining selection of premiere children's videos for rent and sale. Most Kids rentals are priced at 99 cents and are available for seven days. A portion of every Kids rental goes towards supporting the award-winning Rogers Video Jolly Trolley Program located in Children's Hospitals across the country. Jolly Trolleys are moveable units equipped with a TV, VCR and an extensive library of children's movies.

Second Place: BlockBuster

Honorable Mention: Video Update

★ BEST ATTRACTION

First Place: Calgary Zoo

The Calgary Zoo is thrilled that you, the readers have chosen us as Calgary's Best Attraction and our special event, Boo At The Zoo, as Calgary's Best Halloween Event. We know that we couldn't have done it without all your generous support! Thanks!

Honorable Mention: Calaway Park

★ BEST HALLOWEEN EVENT

First Place: Calgary Zoo

The Calgary Zoo is thrilled that you, the readers have chosen us as Calgary's Best Attraction and our special event, Boo At The Zoo, as Calgary's Best Halloween Event. We know that we couldn't have done it without all your generous support! Thanks!

Second Place: Butterfield Acre's Pumpkin Hunts

★ BEST CHRISTMAS EVENT

First Place: Heritage Park's 12 Days of Christmas

We were delighted to learn that the parents chose our 12 Days of Christmas program in 1998 again as the best Christmas activity in Calgary. Visit Heritage Park during 1999, beginning May 15. Explore 66 acres of lush parkland, 150 exhibits and experience daily interpretive activities. Ride a steam train, take a sternwheeler cruise or enjoy the thrills of the antique midway.

Second Place: TransAlta's Wildlights at the Calgary Zoo

★ BEST CALGARY SPORTS TEAM

First Place: Calgary Flames

The Calgary Flames are honored to be selected once again by Calgary's Child Magazine as the 1999 Parents' Choice Award for best sports team. It is the mandate of the Calgary Flames Foundation, comprised of members of the Flames family including, players, management, alumni, owners, staff and wives, to be an integral part of the Calgary community. Since the Flames first arrived in Calgary in 1980, the organization has made it a primary objective to make a tremendous contribution to the quality of life in the community in which they work and play. Through numerous fundraising initiatives and committing many hours to community service, the Flames will continue to make Calgarians proud to have the National Hockey League in our city.

Second Place: Calgary Cannons

★ BEST FESTIVAL

First Place: Calgary International Children's Festival

The Calgary International Children's Festival brings performers from around the world to Calgary for one magic week of enlightening and engaging entertainment. Join us this year from May 24 to 29 for our 13th Festival. We are proud to be a winner of the Calgary's Child Parent's Choice Awards.

Honorable Mention: Calgary Winter Festival

★ BEST CHILDREN'S CAMP

First Place: YMCA

Thank you to all the parents and families who recommended YMCA Calgary for two Calgary's Child Parent's