



The Winners of . . . The 2003 Calgary's Child Magazine's Parents' Choice Awards

Who has the best ice cream? Which theatre company is the most fun? Where can you find the best kids' clothes? Calgary's Child Magazine asked . . . and our readers answered . . . these and more than 50 other family friendly questions.

Developed to recognize quality family retailers and service providers in our community, this year's Parents' Choice Awards, the 7th annual — were bigger and better than ever. Ballots were distributed in the November/December-2002 issue of Calgary's Child Magazine and more than 150,000 readers were invited to vote for their family favorites in over 50 categories. The response was phenomenal this year.

Congratulations to all the winners!

ACTIVITIES

Best tourist/family attraction

- 1st Calgary Zoo
- 2nd Heritage Park
- 3rd Calaway Park

Best Calgary sports team

- 1st Calgary Flames
- 2nd Calgary Stampeders
- 3rd Calgary Hitmen

Best festival

- 1st Calgary International Children's Festival
- 2nd Calgary Stampede & Exhibition
- 3rd Calgary Folk Festival

Best halloween event

- 1st Boo at the Zoo
- 2nd Heritage Park Fall Festival
- 3rd Pumpkin Hunts at Butterfield Acres

Best christmas event

- 1st Zoolights at the Calgary Zoo
- 2nd Heritage Park's 12 Days of Christmas
- 3rd Santa Claus Parade

Best place for extracurricular programs for preschoolers (ie. gym, dance, art, etc.)

- 1st Southland Leisure Centre
- 2nd Village Square Leisure Centre
- 3rd Gymboree Play & Music

Best place for extracurricular programs for school-age children

- 1st Southland Leisure Centre
- 2nd YMCA Calgary
- 3rd Village Square Leisure Centre

Best children's day camp

- 1st YMCA Calgary
- 2nd City of Calgary Recreation
- 3rd U of C Children's Day camp

Best children's residential camp

- 1st Camp Chief Hector
- 2nd Camp Evergreen
- 3rd Camp Chestermere

Best playground (indoor)

- 1st Bosco's Indoor Playground
- 2nd Let's Play
- 3rd Devonian Gardens

Best ski area in Alberta

- 1st Lake Louise
- 2nd Sunshine Village
- 3rd Canada Olympic Park

Best swimming pool

- 1st Southland Leisure Centre
- 2nd Village Square Leisure Centre
- 3rd Westside Recreation Centre

Best family fitness facility

- 1st YMCA Calgary
- 2nd Southland Leisure Centre
- 3rd Westside Recreation Centre

Best live theatre company

- 1st Loose Moose Theatre Company
- 2nd StoryBook Theatre
- 3rd Stage West for Kids

Best movie theatre

- 1st Famous Players - Chinook
- 2nd Famous Players - Silver City
- 3rd Famous Players Coliseum

Best museum

- 1st Glenbow Museum
- 2nd Royal Tyrrell Museum
- 3rd Calgary Science Centre

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Best place to have a children's party

- 1st Bosco's Indoor Playground
- 2nd McDonald's Restaurants
- 3rd Chuck E Cheese

Best Birthday Party entertainment

- 1st Deano the Magic Man
- 2nd Gail Gregory, Tales, Tunes and Puppetry
- 3rd Mad Science

Best local children's entertainer

- 1st Mad Science
- 2nd Deano the Magic Man
- 3rd Petland Superstores

FOOD & GROCERY

Best birthday cakes

- 1st Dairy Queen
- 2nd Calgary Co-op
- 3rd Cakeworks

Best grocery store

- 1st Calgary Co-op
- 2nd Canada Safeway
- 3rd The Real Canadian Superstore

Best coffee shop

- 1st Tim Hortons
- 2nd Starbucks
- 3rd Second Cup

Best ice cream store

- 1st Dairy Queen
- 2nd Baskin-Robbins
- 3rd MacKay's Cochrane Ice Cream Ltd.

Best natural foods store

- 1st Community Natural Foods
- 2nd Amaranth Whole Foods
- 3rd Calgary Co-op

Best fast food place

- 1st McDonald's Restaurants
- 2nd Wendy's
- 3rd Peters' Drive-In

Best drive-thru

- 1st Peters' Drive-In
- 2nd McDonald's Restaurants
- 3rd Wendy's

Best pizza

- 1st Pizza Hut
- 2nd Panago Pizza
- 3rd Boston Pizza

Best children's menu

- 1st Boston Pizza
- 2nd Moxie's Restaurants
- 3rd Ricky's All Day Grill

Best restaurant for parent's night out

- 1st Chianti's
- 2nd The Keg
- 3rd Joey Tomato's

TRAVEL

Best travel agency

- 1st Calgary Co-op
- 2nd AMA
- 3rd Sears

Best weekend getaway

- 1st Banff
- 2nd Kananaskis Village
- 3rd West Edmonton Mall

Best hotel/motel

- 1st Sheraton Suites - Calgary Eau Claire
- 2nd Banff Springs Hotel
- 3rd Palliser Hotel

HEALTH SERVICES

Best pharmacy

- 1st Shoppers Drug Mart
- 2nd Canada Safeway
- 3rd Calgary Co-op

SUPPORT & EDUCATION

Best grade school

- 1st Foundations for the Future
- 2nd (tie) Master's Academy
- 2nd (tie) Ascension of our Lord

Best preschool

- 1st Campus Preschool
- 2nd Southland Leisure Centre
- 3rd Creative Learning Center

Best tutor

- 1st Sylvan Learning Centre
- 2nd Kumon Math and Reading Centres
- 3rd Oxford Learning Centres

Best playgroup

- 1st Parents and Children Together (PACT)
- 2nd Gymboree Play & Music
- 3rd Wee Kids Playgroup

Best community support group

- 1st The Family Program
- 2nd Calgary Health Region
- 3rd Raymond Early Parenting Centre

Best childcare facility

- 1st U of C Childcare
- 2nd YMCA Calgary
- 3rd Panda Child Development Centres

SHOPPING

Best children's clothing store

- 1st Gap Kids
- 2nd Wal-mart
- 3rd Old Navy

Best place for baby supplies

- 1st Wal-mart
- 2nd The Real Canadian Superstore
- 3rd bo bébé

Best second hand clothing store

- 1st Once Upon a Child
- 2nd Lollipop Children's Fashions
- 3rd Value Village

Best children's furniture store

- 1st Ikea Canada
- 2nd Sears Canada Inc.
- 3rd e-children Ltd.

Best children's book store

- 1st Chapters
- 2nd Monkeyshines Children's Books
- 3rd Indigo

Best place for children's haircuts

- 1st Beaners Fun Cuts for Kids
- 2nd Great Clips
- 3rd Kids Play Fun Hair Designs

Best shopping mall for families

- 1st Chinook Centre
- 2nd Market Mall
- 3rd Southcentre

Best place to buy school supplies

- 1st Wal-mart
- 2nd Staples Business Depot
- 3rd The Real Canadian Superstore

Best family photographer

- 1st Sears Photography
- 2nd Wal-mart
- 3rd Ken Stewart

Best pet shop

- 1st Petland Superstores
- 2nd Petcetera
- 3rd Petsmart

Best shoe store

- 1st Payless Shoe Source
- 2nd The Shoe Company
- 3rd Wal-mart

Best sporting goods store

- 1st Sport Chek
- 2nd Sport Swap Ltd.
- 3rd Sport Mart

Best toy store

- 1st Toys R Us
- 2nd Wal-mart
- 3rd Castle Toys

Best video store

- 1st Blockbuster Video
- 2nd Rogers Video
- 3rd VHQ Entertainment

DAILY MEDIA

Best Overall Radio Station

- 1st The Peak 107.3
- 2nd Lite 96
- 3rd Country 105

Best Overall Television Station

- 1st Global Television
- 2nd CFCN TV
- 3rd A Channel

Best Daily Newspaper

- 1st Calgary Herald
- 2nd Calgary Sun
- 3rd Globe & Mail

Favorite Morning News

- 1st Global Morning News
- 2nd A Channel's Big Breakfast
- 3rd CBC Radio

Favorite Evening News

- 1st Global Evening News
- 2nd CFCN TV
- 3rd CBC

AND FINALLY . . .

Best place to take your kids on a crummy day

- 1st Calgary Science Centre
- 2nd Calgary Public Library
- 3rd Devonian Gardens

You said it!

Thank you for all your wonderful comments and feedback on our Parents' Choice Awards ballot.

✦ "This magazine is very informative, and gives me great ideas for what to do with the kids when they are bored." Debbra O, NE Calgary.

✦ "I love your magazine, very informative, I get great ideas." Lora S, SW Calgary

✦ "This is a great magazine. I love reading it from cover to cover, so much needed info in every issue! I am always looking for the next issue. Thank you for what you do every day to make my life better and brighter." Maria T, SE Calgary.

✦ "Great place to find out what's going on in Calgary." Melanie S, SE Calgary.

✦ "Excellent magazine. Thoroughly enjoy every issue, I read it cover to cover every time - thank you!" Shona A, NW Calgary

✦ "There's nothing else quite like Calgary's Child - keep up the great work!" Mary P, SW Calgary.

✦ "Excellent magazine. It's so local, it's familiar." Kari G, SW Calgary.

✦ "I always wondered before having a baby, how people knew what fun things to do with kids. Thanks to your magazine... now I know too! Thanks." Raquel M, SW Calgary.

✦ "Keep up the great work! Best gift for a new parent is a copy of your magazine. I give it often." RB, SE Calgary.

✦ "Love the magazine! Has everything I need to know about upcoming events, and lots of ideas for child activities." Greta O, NE Calgary.

✦ "Love the publication! It is so 'Calgary' focused." Susan S, SE Calgary

✦ "Calgary's Child is THE mag for Calgary Parents. Good job!" Andrea T, SE Calgary.

✦ "Your magazine provides the best information about children's activities, products in Calgary!" Lori W, SE Calgary.

✦ "Love it! Keep up the fantastic work." Kim P, NW Calgary.

✦ "Keep doing what you do best! Excellent reference source, great material. Thank you." Rosa P, SW.

✦ "Keep up the good work! You people must love your jobs, because it shows in the great work you do. Anyone would be lucky to work for such a great publication." Katie B, SW Calgary.

✦ "I look forward to each and every new issue. It's very hard to believe that your quality publication is free of charge. Keep up the great work!" Gina B, SW Calgary.

✦ "I love your magazine, and I get great ideas from it for family outings.

✦ My friends always inquire how I hear about all of the things we do, and I tell them, 'From Calgary's Child.' Keep up the good work!" Barb M., High River

✦ "Your magazine is a great resource for families in Calgary." Kelly C, NW Calgary.

✦ "I love Calgary's Child, the articles are always interesting! And the advertisements are helpful!" Jennifer K, NE Calgary

✦ "I LOVE your publication!" Rhonda H. Calgary

