



PRESS RELEASE

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Flurry of Fun

Joint Charlevoix Chamber, DDA Flurry Fest a rousing success

Downtown Charlevoix's first annual Flurry Fest was deemed an absolute success as over 200 local residents braved the chilly conditions and flocked to the warmth of local hot chocolate and the cool sounds of the Petoskey Steel Drum Band this past Saturday evening.

The new event marks the first festival collaboration between the Charlevoix Area Chamber of Commerce and the Charlevoix Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Created to supplement the already popular Charlevoix Merchants Holiday Open House, Flurry Fest beckoned residents Downtown with the promise of wintry fun and community spirit. Six local eateries vied for the title of "Charlevoix's Best Hot Chocolate" with the Grey Gables Inn Restaurant claiming the 2007 honor. The Alcove Café, Stafford's Weathervane Restaurant, Whitney's Oyster Bar, the Woolly Bugger and Zacarro's Market also competed.

"Our goal was to offer a community event that reminded residents that good things don't just happen Downtown during the summer months," said Patricia Blanchard, chair of the Chamber's Retail

Committee and owner of Shop of the Gulls. “We were very pleased with the level of participation from Downtown eateries and the support demonstrated by the community. I’d like to recognize the work of Flurry Fest Subcommittee members Sue Antoine, Jodi Bingham, Keith Carey, Nicole Harbison and Jacquie Merta, and the technical assistance of Paul Andrzejewski of Whitney’s Oyster Bar, Raechel Wright of the Alcove Café and Nicole Garrigan, who designed our wonderful event logo.”

Festival attendees were entertained by Tuba Christmas, a collection of northern Michigan’s finest tuba and baritone players, and the Petoskey Steel Drum Band, who endured wind and snow to deliver yet another incredible performance.

“Our entertainment was first-rate,” said Keith Carey Executive Director of the Charlevoix DDA. “We cannot thank Gary Stutzman and Barry Bennett enough for offering their respective groups’ performances for no compensation at all. It’s very exciting when we’re able to feature such talented and popular performers, especially at our very first event.”

The Charlevoix Volunteer Firefighters Association roasted chestnuts for festival-goers and the evening also featured the lighting of Downtown Charlevoix’s new LED tree lights, a joint project of the Charlevoix DDA and the City of Charlevoix’s Electric Fund.

Local business assisting in the underwriting and sponsorship of the 2007 Flurry Fest include Charlevoix Tent Company, Oleson’s Food Store, Charlevoix State Bank, Charlevoix Screen Masters and Ace Hardware. Also providing critical event support were Charlevoix’s Police, Fire, Electric and Street Departments.

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