

Writing the year in review for 2020 is challenging, it's a year like no other. We've experienced adversity and a change in life. We've had to rethink and revamp the way we serve the community. Many events and fund raisers were cancelled, and our volunteer board of directors had to master teleconferencing, and adjust to the new digital environment. We realize you all experienced the same hardships, frustrations and learning curves. We've been distanced, and have not seen our Canadian family and friends for almost a year, and for the first time in history the International Festival was cancelled. Our local economy has taken a big hit with the Canadian border closing, and businesses had to temporarily or permanently close their doors.



Photo of the Irene Chadbourne Ecumenical Food Pantry essential volunteers taken by Remington Photography



Joy gleaming from the damn at Grand Lake Stream. Downeast Lakes Land Trust's photo



The view of St. Stephen New Brunswick, Canada from the Wabanaki Cultural Building on Union Street in Calais.

We are still here, still located in the Wabanaki Cultural Building, still connecting people and resources, still responding to inquiries from people moving here or visiting, still aligning information such as business initiatives / financial resources, and sharing it with the chamber's database of members.

We revamped the website, and are constantly adding to the chamber directory. We aspire to add more and to be a one stop shop for everything concerning commerce in the St. Croix Valley area. People search our area via the web first, and they start with a Google search. We have utilized this time in quarantine to take classes on web design, and strengthen our online presence. View the new website at www.visitstcroixvalley.com, and provide feedback, let us know what you'd like to see, all constructive criticisms welcome!

Historically organizations and people from outside the community seek the Chamber of Commerce first to get answers, and distribute information. We get calls on everything, house cleaning, floral shops, internet services, government subsidies, printing needs, non-profit state agencies, outdoor recreation, accommodations, information about Canada, bills moving through legislation and outreach opportunities of all natures. We answer all of these calls, and also send out our own publication, a magazine illustrating our culture, history, calendar of events, business directory and much more.

The St. Croix Valley Chamber is active in making sure Washington County doesn't get left out and/or forgotten. We collaborate with other sectors of the county and sister cities along the St. Croix River to tell our story. We stay current and involved in state agencies such as Downeast Acadia Regional Tourism to ensure our remote part of the county is not forgotten. We are present at economic development seminars to learn and observe the changes and developments in the state of Maine, and how it affects us.

We are currently seeking National Heritage Designation. The Sunrise County Economic Council is conducting a feasibility study on Washington and Hancock County. This designation would provide monies for Downtown Revitalization, education, historical societies, libraries and social programs. If we have not had an interview with you for feedback, please contact us for more information.

We are proud of the businesses for adapting and stepping up when the community needed it most! We will be extending a campaign to honor and recognize all essential businesses and workers. Keep your eye out for the 2020 Annual Award winners. We had to cancel the Annual Gala, but we've improvised, and will be recognizing the Rocky Johnson award, Arlo T. Bates and the New Business of the Year awards. A press release



Drone photo headed towards Bangor on Rte 9.

will be published in the local papers, and the award winners will receive the customized etched crystal award.

It is our social responsibility to maintain leadership, and representation of the St Croix Valley. We will be holding our election of officers via email and social media. Do you know someone who would like to be involved? We are selecting people to serve on the board of directors, in addition to subcommittees. If you have ideas on enhancing our community or goals not being met, contact us with solutions in mind and join us! We can use as much involvement and feedback as possible.



We are grateful for organizations like the Calais Downtown Revitalization Committee and collaborate in as many ways as possible. Sidewalk chalk art pictured above, as the community enjoys the outside music series "Music on the Green"

We have an annual magazine that requires collecting photos and articles on many subjects. We have a planning committee for seminars, and aligning speakers, resources and topic material. We are looking for a marketing and social media subcommittee to share posts with Facebook and Insta. We answer many travel inquiries, and could use a mailing subcommittee. We would like to continue our monthly digital newsletter. We have an international Festival Street Fair and Concert in the Park sub-committee. Are you good at planning a party? Join our Annual Event/Gala subcommittee. We are looking to resurrect our welcome committee and red-ribbon cutting ceremonies. We are also considering an anniversary celebration ceremony with an included press release for publication. If you think you'd enjoy any of this, or know of anyone who would serve as an asset in establishing our goals, contact us anytime.



The Chamber's annual magazine can be found throughout the state of Maine, and on the chamber desk at the Wabanaki Cultural Building



The 2020 adopt a garden program was successful in getting the community invested in sprucing up the flowers gardens.

Thank you for your involvement and your support! We would be unable to sustain our obligations to the community without each of you!

St. Croix Valley Chamber of Commerce - Annual Dues 2021

39 Union Street, Calais, Maine 04619

(207) 454-2308 ✉ visitstcroixvalley@gmail.com

<http://www.visitstcroixvalley.com>

DATE: _____ BUSINESS NAME: _____

OWNER: _____ PHONE # : _____

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____ WEBSITE: _____

NOTE: If this is your first time joining the Chamber, please email a copy of your logo (300 dpi) and also list which social media outlets you utilize. The Chamber has rack displays located at Tourism Office in the Wabanaki Cultural Center, brochures and business cards are welcome and encouraged to be displayed there. The first year of a new membership is considered a free trial membership.

No EMPLOYEES: _____ DUES AMOUNT: _____

Use the schedule below to calculate the dues owed:

0 to 1 employee	\$75	2 to 4 employees	\$125
5 to 10 employees	\$200	11 to 20 employees	\$350
21 to 40 employees	\$450	41 to 100 employees	\$550
101 + employees	\$650	Friends of chamber	\$25

Number of employee is based on the full time equivalent: one employee equals one full-time employee. Friends of the Chamber is for individuals only. They are listed as such on the chamber website and receive chamber mailings, but have no voting rights. Nonprofits receive 50% off regular membership rates. Charitable organizations with no employees (i.e. volunteers) fall under the 0 to 1 employee category.