



*King's Wharf Theatre Wins Ambassador Award  
at  
Southern Georgian Bay Chamber of Commerce  
Business Excellence Awards*

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – The King's Wharf Theatre, operated by **Drayton Entertainment**, was honoured at the Southern Georgian Bay Chamber of Commerce Business Achievement Awards in the category of *Ambassador* at a gala ceremony held at the Quality Inn & Conference Centre in Midland last night.

The Business Achievement Awards Gala recognizes those businesses which have made exceptional contributions through community involvement and leadership. Businesses and entrepreneurs are nominated and recognized in five award categories: Small Business (1-50 employees), Large Business (50+ employees), Ambassador, Community Support, and New Business.

The Ambassador Award is presented to an individual or a business for economic development and promotion, growth and diversification within or outside the area. The individual or business will have helped attract positive interest and attention to Southern Georgian Bay.

"Our goal is to enhance the cultural life of the community while simultaneously benefiting the local economy," said **Alex Mustakas**, Artistic Director of Drayton Entertainment. "This award is a testament to everyone involved with our organization – staff, artists, sponsors, donors, and most importantly, our loyal audience."

The King's Wharf Theatre was recognized for its efforts in connecting culture to economic development. The organization has an annual economic impact to the community, is a key attraction for locals and tourists alike, and engages volunteerism from both adults and youth.

In 2018, as part of its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season at the King's Wharf Theatre, Drayton Entertainment expanded its programming into the autumn shoulder season. Overall attendance for the 2018 Season surpassed 30,000 patrons. Since Drayton Entertainment took over operations of the venue in 1999, the King's Wharf Theatre has been a beacon for the community, creating employment opportunities in the arts, spurring economic activity, and cultivating community engagement.

Marlene Thornbury of CIBC presented the award. She noted that “as a result of carefully cultivated relationships, residents of Southern Georgian Bay have been able to participate in enhanced opportunities and theatrical involvement that are second-to-none.” Associate Artistic Director David Connolly accepted the award on behalf of the theatre.

Drayton Entertainment is a registered, not-for-profit charitable organization, and one of Canada's most successful professional theatre companies. The company operates seven unique venues across Ontario: the Drayton Festival Theatre in Drayton, the Hamilton Family Theatre Cambridge in Cambridge, Huron Country Playhouse and Playhouse II in Grand Bend, King's Wharf Theatre in Penetanguishene, and St. Jacobs Country Playhouse and the Schoolhouse Theatre in St. Jacobs.

The 2019 Season at the King's Wharf Theatre runs from June 5 through August 31. The playbill includes the family panto *Jack and the Beanstalk: The Panto* (June 5 to June 22), the new Canadian play *Glory* (June 26 to July 6), Disney's Broadway classic *Beauty and the Beast* (July 11 to Aug 10) and the hit comedy *Shear Madness* (Aug 14 to Aug 31).

Tickets may be purchased in person at the King's Wharf Theatre, by calling the Box Office at (705) 549-5555 or toll free at 1-855-drayton (372-9866), or online 24/7 at [www.kingswharftheatre.com](http://www.kingswharftheatre.com).

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For more information, please contact:  
Amanda Kind, Director of Marketing  
Phone: (519) 621-5511 ext. 235  
[amanda@draytonentertainment.com](mailto:amanda@draytonentertainment.com)

To set up an interview, please contact:  
Arlene Dowell, Marketing & Development Associate  
Phone: (519) 621-5511 ext. 244  
[arlene@draytonentertainment.com](mailto:arlene@draytonentertainment.com)