



November 18, 2011

Edmonton's nightspots recognized for top service standards

Edmonton... Forty-two pubs, clubs, bars and lounges received accreditation for their commitment to responsible service and safe operations.

In addition to accreditation from the *Best Bar None* program, the venues that went beyond meeting the essential program criteria will receive awards at a formal ceremony on November 23 in Edmonton.

"*Best Bar None* builds on the government's commitment to make our communities safer," said Ron Liepert, Minister of Finance, also responsible for the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission. "Investing in sound business practices is key to better entertainment environments and greater public safety in and around licensed premises."

Best Bar None aims to reduce alcohol-related harms by raising the operating standards of licensed premises as well as building positive relationships among the licensees, law enforcement, industry partners and community groups. The program uses a system of accreditation, assessment and awards to engage nightspots in responsible management and safe operations.

"We continue to see Edmonton's licensed venues taking advantage of the opportunity *Best Bar None* affords them to demonstrate good business and service practices," said Mayor Stephen Mandel. "The improved safety and service of our hospitality industry is a win-win for patrons and this city's bars, pubs and clubs."

Best Bar None was piloted in Edmonton in 2010. During the pilot's evaluation, the licensees and patrons indicated the *Best Bar None* could play an important role in improving nightlife safety in the city. In addition, both showed strong support for program's continuation.

"*Best Bar None* is a great example of how a community partnership should work," noted Police Chief Rod Knecht. "We participate in Responsible Hospitality Edmonton because it keeps us connected to bar owners and managers. We all want to reduce violence in these facilities, and the surrounding areas."

Best Bar None partners include the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission, the City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Police Service. The program is also supported by community agencies such as the Public Safety Compliance Team, the Alberta Safer Bars Council and Responsible Hospitality Edmonton.

For more information, visit bestbarnone.ab.ca.

Backgrounder: Information on *Best Bar None* criteria and list of accredited venues.

Editor's Note: Media are invited to attend the Accreditation and Awards Event on November 23 at the TransAlta Arts Barns, from 5 to 9 p.m.

Media inquiries may be directed to:

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42 pubs, clubs, bars and lounges recognized for improving safety, customer service

The criteria for *Best Bar None* accreditation and awards fall into three categories: Essential, Desired and Bonus. Meeting the Essential criteria is required for accreditation, while meeting the Desired and/or Bonus criteria merits eligibility for awards (Winner, 1st and 2nd Runners-Up in the five categories – pub, large pub, bar/lounge, hotel/restaurant lounge, club).

For more information on accreditation criteria, visit bestbarnone.ab.ca.

Best Bar None Accredited Venues:

<p>Boston Pizza Lounge (Millwoods) Boston Pizza Lounge (North Central) Boston Pizza Lounge (South Edmonton Common) Cook County Saloon Empire Ballroom Gallery Bar – Mayfield Inn and Suites Hudsons Canadian Tap House (Campus) Hudsons Canadian Tap House (Downtown) Hudsons Canadian Tap House (South Common) Hudsons Canadian Tap House (West Edmonton Mall) Hudsons Canadian Tap House (Whyte Avenue) Julian’s Piano Bar – Chateau Louis Hotel and Conference Centre Lucky 13 Dance Pub Mama Pizza (Millwoods) MacTaggart’s Twisted Kilt Pub Mirage Lounge – Executive Royal Inn West Edmonton Nova Lounge – Chateau Nova Hotel and Suites Oil City Roadhouse On the Rocks Restaurant, Bar and Live Music Original Joe’s Restaurant and Bar (102 Avenue) Original Joe’s Restaurant and Bar (Ellerslie)</p>	<p>Original Joe’s Restaurant and Bar (Oxford Park) Original Joe’s Restaurant and Bar (Terwillegar) Original Joe’s Restaurant and Bar (The Grange) Original Joe’s Restaurant and Bar (Varsity Row) Prospectors Lounge – Rosslyn Inn and Suites Sands Hotel Game Room – Sands Hotel and Conference Centre Sawmill Gateway Schanks Sports Grill Sicilian Pasta Kitchen (South) Sou Kawaii (Zen Lounge) Teddy’s Palace The Billiard Club The Black Sheep Pub The Druid Irish Pub The Old Strathcona Rack The Pint Public House (Jasper Avenue) The Pint Public House (Whyte Avenue) Tom Goodchild’s Moose Factory Lounge Twist Ultra Lounge Union Hall Night Club Vinyl Retro Dance Lounge</p>
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