

The logo is a red shield-like shape with a black border. It features the text "SUNSHINE COAST" at the top, "PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS" in the center, and "2026" at the bottom. There are five yellow stars between the main text and the year.

SUNSHINE COAST

**PEOPLE'S
CHOICE
AWARDS**



2026

A scenic landscape featuring a calm body of water in the foreground, a large forested island in the middle ground, and mountains in the background under a sunset sky. Evergreen trees are visible in the foreground on the right and bottom.

2026 SUNSHINE COAST PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

HOW IT WORKS

SUNSHINE COAST PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

The fifth annual Sunshine Coast People's Choice Awards (SCPCA) are proudly presented by the Sunshine Coast Chamber of Commerce and the Coast Reporter.

The 2026 People's Choice Awards are all about celebrating the amazing local businesses that make the coast so special. It's a chance to share positive stories, highlight the people behind the scenes, and bring our community together through a fun, inclusive online event.

ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN

The Sunshine Coast People's Choice Awards have quickly become a community favourite, capturing the attention of both residents and business owners. In 2025, more than 8,700 participants cast their votes for over 780 local businesses across 134 unique categories. The first place favourites were celebrated at a sold-out gala event at the Gibsons Public Market.

The enthusiastic response to this campaign has exceeded all expectations. We're proud to have created a new way to celebrate the vibrant, resilient, and one-of-a-kind local business community that helps make the Sunshine Coast such a special place to live and work.

In 2026, the community-driven nomination period ran from May 7 to May 21, giving locals the chance to nominate their own business - or their favourites - in 135 predetermined categories.

Voting will then take place in four dedicated two-week rounds over the summer, each spotlighting one of the main award categories: Food & Drink, Health, Wellness & Lifestyle, Retail, and Services. Each round will be promoted through the exciting 'Coast Your Vote' marketing campaign, encouraging community engagement all summer long. Final first place favourites will be honoured with locally made awards at a celebratory gala event in October.

HOW NOMINATIONS WORK

The 2026 People's Choice Awards kick off with nominations, running from Thursday, May 7 to Thursday, May 21.

This isn't voting just yet – it's your chance to nominate your favourite local businesses (or your own!) to be included on the official summer voting ballot. Think of it as the shortlisting round!

There are 135 subcategories within four main categories:
Retail · Health, Wellness & Lifestyle · Services · Food & Drink

How to Nominate:

Head to the People's Choice Awards page on the Sunshine Coast Chamber of Commerce website and click on the "It's Time to Nominate" buttons to get started.

- ✓ You can nominate in one, some, or all subcategories.
- ✓ One nomination per subcategory.
- ✓ Businesses must offer a category-appropriate product or service.
- ✓ Don't see a business listed? There's a space to write it in!
- ✓ See a business that is no longer operating, a spelling mistake, or have a question? Email info@sunshinecoastchamber.ca

To Qualify for the Voting Round:

- Each subcategory must receive a minimum of 3 nominees.
- A maximum of 10 businesses will move forward – if more than 10 are nominated, the top 10 most-nominated will advance.
- Nominated businesses will be notified by email one week before voting begins.

Want to be the first to know when nominations open? Sign up for our newsletter to stay in the loop!

Social Media Marketing Kit for the Nomination Period

Hey Local Business Owners! Want to get nominated? Use these ready-to-go social media tiles to help spread the word.

➡ HOW VOTING WORKS ⬅

Once nominations are in, it's time to **Coast Your Vote** and help choose this year's People's Choice!

Voting is split into four separate **two-week rounds**, each focused on one of the main categories:

Retail · **Health, Wellness & Lifestyle** · **Services** · **Food & Drink**

To keep things fair, **only one category is open at a time**, so each nominee has the same window of opportunity to receive votes.

- **All voting takes place online** through the **Coast Reporter's website**, with links to each ballot and nominee also available on the **Chamber's People's Choice Awards page**.
- The **top 3 businesses in each subcategory** will be recognized as the **1st, 2nd, and 3rd place favourites** of the 2026 Sunshine Coast People's Choice Awards.

Nominated businesses will be notified by email **one week before** their voting round begins – so they have time to spread the word and encourage community support!



Summer Voting Schedule:

Ballot 1 RETAIL

- Opens: Friday, July 3 at 10:00 AM
- Closes: Thursday, July 16 at 11:59 PM

Ballot 2 HEALTH, WELLNESS & LIFESTYLE

- Opens: Friday, July 17 at 10:00 AM
- Closes: Thursday, July 30 at 11:59 PM

Ballot 3 SERVICES

- Opens: Friday, July 31 at 10:00 AM
- Closes: Thursday, August 13 at 11:59 PM

Ballot 4 'FOOD & DRINK'

- Opens: Friday, August 14 at 10:00 AM
- Closes: Thursday, August 27 at 11:59 PM

Finalists will be **notified via email by mid-September**, and official results will be announced on **October 16, 2026**, both in a **special Coast Reporter feature** and right here on the **Chamber's People's Choice Awards webpage**.

Want to know when voting opens, or find out if you're one of the People's Choice favourites? **Sign up for our newsletter to stay in the loop!**



THE SUNSHINE COAST *PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS*



SUNSHINECOASTCHAMBER.CA/EVENTS/PEOPLES-CHOICE-AWARDS



PRESENTED BY:

