

**2016 BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR  
PATRICK GAGNON, GRANITE STEAK & GRILL**

The Business Leader of the Year award is the Chamber's most prestigious business award celebrating excellence in business leadership and community involvement. This award recognizes a Chamber member who has demonstrated leadership and provides support for the betterment of the business community and the greater Rochester area.

Based on several nominations received, the Chamber is pleased to present the 2016 Business Leader of the Year award to **Patrick Gagnon of Granite Steak & Grill!**

Patrick was born and raised in Rochester. His career in the restaurant industry began when he started working at Weathervane Seafood Restaurant while still in high school. Upon graduating from Spaulding High School, he went on to study accounting at McIntosh College and received his degree from New England College.

Patrick tried working behind a desk at an accounting firm but soon realized this was not the job for him. After a few weeks of pushing papers, Patrick left and returned to Weathervane Seafood Restaurant working in various positions and departments including accounting, computer systems, manager, and became district manager. It was while working at Weathervane Seafood Restaurant in Sanford under the management of his uncle and matchmaker, Howie Seckendorf, he would meet the love of his life, Michelle, who was a server there at the time.

Patrick was brought in as a manager when Howie opened Windjammers Seafood Restaurant. Fast forward a few years and a few children, Howie and Patrick together opened Granite Steak & Grill in November of 2005. Since its opening day 11 years ago, Granite Steak & Grill continues to flourish, offering patrons a family style dining experience upstairs and a tavern atmosphere downstairs known as Smokey's Tavern, named after his uncle Smokey who helped build both Granite Steak & Grill and Windjammers.

With 350 seats in the restaurant and employing over 80 individuals, Patrick's staff praise him on creating a great work environment and admire his constant willingness to help anyone in need.

Patrick opens his function room doors for organizations to use at no charge such as the Rochester Police Department when they are in need of a space for training seminars, various Rochester school booster organizations, and the Chamber of Commerce for meetings and to provide breakfast to volunteers the morning of the Holiday Parade. Patrick has helped organizations such as the Chamber raise funds for their events through promotion to patrons. Over the years, he has given donations to a variety of different organizations and clubs including Frisbie Memorial Hospital, New Hampshire Amateur Hockey Association, Powdermill Snowmobile Club, Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce, Rochester Fire Department Boot Program, Rochester Girls Softball League, Rochester Youth Soccer Association, Roger Allen Baseball, Seacoast Christian School,

Spaulding High School activities, Tri-City Christian Academy and many, many others.

Patrick has also been generous with his time to serve the community which he is a part of. He has served on the Rochester Youth Hockey Board, is a founding member of Howie's Field of Dreams, has served on the Board of Directors for the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce, and is also active on the Buddy Ball Board of Directors.

Patrick has coached his children in Roger Allen Baseball and Rochester Youth Flag Football. Even with all three children currently playing hockey, you can still find him in the stands cheering them on, ensuring that he can attend at least one game, per child, per week.

When he is not running a successful business, coaching, or donating towards a worthy cause, you can find Patrick riding his motorcycle and being a devoted family man and dedicated husband. He resides in Rochester with his wife of 16 years, Michelle, and their three beautiful children; Nicholas, Nathan and Madelyn. Patrick's wife describes him as a genuine, honest, outstanding person and one that is willing to do anything for his community, friends and family.