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**Vermont Chamber of Commerce Names Bill Stritzler of Smugglers' Notch Resort Citizen of the Year**

Berlin, VT (September 30, 2016) — The Vermont Chamber of Commerce announced Friday the selection of Bill Stritzler as its 2016 Citizen of the Year. Stritzler's contributions to Vermont will be celebrated at an awards dinner on Wednesday, November 16 at Smugglers' Notch Resort.

Stritzler was selected by the Vermont Chamber of Commerce for the Citizen of the Year Award for his extensive community involvement and continual devotion to the betterment of Vermont.

A Cambridge resident, Stritzler is the owner and managing director of Smugglers' Notch Resort. Stritzler currently serves on the advisory board of Butternut Mountain Farm and the Vermont Business Roundtable (where he is past chair). He is past chair of the Nature Conservancy of Vermont, Vermont Public Television, Vermont Economic Progress Council, the Lamoille Economic Development Corporation, and Copley Health Systems. He is also a past board member of the School for Northern Studies.

Stritzler first came to Vermont as a student at Middlebury College. After graduating, he returned to Vermont in subsequent years on vacation with his family and became acquainted with Smugglers' Notch Resort. He joined Smugglers' as managing director in 1987, and purchased the resort in 1996.

In nearly three decades of leadership at Smugglers' Notch Resort, Stritzler has demonstrated profound commitment to the layers of community in Vermont – town, county and state – and supported economic growth, corporate social responsibility and environmental stewardship at each level.

"Bill is a gifted leader, an inspiration for community engagement, and an exemplary representation of the finest ideals of Vermont citizenship," said Betsy Bishop, president of the Vermont Chamber of Commerce. "He represents the commitment to employees and long term business growth that is so vital to the Vermont economy. We are honored to present this award to Bill."

Recent recipients of the Citizen of the Year award include Janette Bombardier, Stephen C. Terry, U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy, Antonio Pomerleau, and Governor James Douglas.

To register to attend the awards dinner honoring Bill Stritzler on Wednesday, November 16, visit [www.VTChamber.com](http://www.VTChamber.com) or contact Ellen Dube, Director of Events, [edube@vtchamber.com](mailto:edube@vtchamber.com).

***About the Vermont Chamber***

The largest statewide, private, not-for-profit business organization, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce represents nearly every industry sector with a mission to create an economic climate conducive to business growth and the preservation of the Vermont quality of life.

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