



## **Downtown Port Colborne BIA**

Board of Management

MAIL: PO Box 272 | Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 4W1

OFFICE: (289) 836-9006  
[www.exploreportcolborne.ca](http://www.exploreportcolborne.ca)

### **Downtown Port Colborne BIA STAFF REPORT Wednesday, February 10, 2021**

- When you receive the E-Blast, do make sure someone from your staff team reviews it as there is time sensitive information and many grant opportunities.
- Those businesses who have not sent their reimbursement requests in for the PC Forge employees gift certificates, please do this week.
- Welcome to Port Colborne to Greg Higginbotham, Tourism Coordinator with the City of Port Colborne. Greg has the task of rearranging, rebranding and establishing the tourism.
- Jesse Boles and I were interviewed by as a part of the Cruise Tourism Study that is being completed for the City. The interview was conducted by Bruce O'Hare, Lakeshore Excursions and I believe we were able to present some compelling reasons why cruise tourism would work well.
- Andrea Boiter, PC Works will be our guest speaker at the March Meeting. Andrea will be presenting opportunities for businesses to hire seasonal staff at no or low cost to the owner.
- OBBIA is working on our behalf to retain new funds for Main Street Digital 3.0, working with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to change some of the Ontario Municipal Act to be more representative of today's downtowns, this year's conference is a virtual one in April with a smaller in person conference in Niagara Falls in September.
- Staff has been taking part in the OBIAA Best Practices Calls, where BIA's share their ideas, resources and strategies to deal with Covid-19, parking issues, festivals, events, grants, governance matters, patio licensing standards at the provincial level, business licensing and training opportunities for small businesses to name a few items.
- Working on the governance documents which need to be addressed: policies, terms of reference, looking for a strategic plan consultant.
- Office Hours are: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday., working from home during the lockdown.

#### **Submitted by:**

Mary-Lou Ambrose-Little, Executive Director  
Downtown Port Colborne BIA