



Downtown Port Colborne BIA

Board of Management

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Downtown Port Colborne BIA

STAFF REPORT

Monday, April 19, 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.
- Melissa Roberts, will provide an update on the Nuit Blanc Proposal, known as the Lift Festival. A request for use of City and St. Lawrence Seaway properties.
- No Governance Committee Meetings to report on. The committee will meet in May. Marketing & Events has met once and the summary is attached.
- Office Hours are: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9:00 AM to 12 Noon & 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM back to working at the office. Fridays working from home and once the farmers' market starts will be at Market Square.
- Several grant applications have been submitted to support BIA Projects: Farm Credit Canada, Meridian Credit Union, Niagara Investment in Culture and Healthy Communities Initiatives Grant.
- Unfortunately, the BIA has lost the Salvation Army Thrift Store, The Bean Bar and Jamal Mills-Alexander has moved her fashion boutique to Ridgeway. There are at least two new businesses opening in downtown this spring. A trend is to smaller storefront and more on-line presence. Building owners are adjusting to change by renovating and creating smaller rental spaces. There also is a trend toward work spaces rentals on a short-term basis or per use. An example is a coworking space in Fort Erie <https://www.forteriebusinesscentre.com/>
- Port Colborne Farmers Market now has. There are already 15 farmers, 15 food vendors and 3 handmade/artisan vendors, one each of a distillery and a winery. Three volunteers have been recruited to assist with the day-to-day operation of the market. The City is sharing resources with the BIA to keep operating costs down.
<https://www.facebook.com/portcolbornefarmersmarket>

Submitted by:

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

An update on the OBIAA's spring professional development schedule is attached and the link to register if you are interested.

SESSION 1
APRIL 21, 2021
REIMAGINING MAIN STREET

SESSION 2
APRIL 28, 2021
ACTIVATING PUBLIC SPACE INTO PEOPLE-FRIENDLY PLACES

Spring into Our BIAs' Futures!

VIRTUAL BIA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

OBIAA™

SESSION 3
MAY 5, 2021
MARKETING YOUR BIA IN A DIGITAL WORLD

SESSION 4
May 12, 2021
MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS FOR BUSINESS OWNERS AND BIAS

OBIAA @obiaa_ @obiaa_ @ontariobiaassociation

Link to register:

<https://obiaa.com/professional-development-sessions/registration-virtual-platform-info/>