

## **DTBIA ECDEV/TDCC REPORT - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **September 2024**

- 1) New businesses open or opening soon: New barber shop – 18 Oxford St., new RMT on Baldwin Street, Anne’s Clothesline – 89 Broadway; Techwillow – Baldwin Street.
- 2) A strategic plan brainstorming session was held September 4<sup>th</sup>, with follow-up meetings to occur in addition to consultations with the membership and all stakeholders.
- 3) TurtleFest – first evidential report in hand: 2024 attendance for the Block Party was 30.4k which is phenomenal!
- 4) Operational update: Courtland Gardens will be donating equipment and labour for the tree canopy project to be completed by September 30<sup>th</sup>. The Harvey Street project will now be phased in two stages – west side in 2024 and east side in 2025.
- 5) Canada Summer Job Service placements are all completed. Awaiting final reporting and reimbursements.
- 6) Governance: one resignation of a board member was received. A public posting of the vacant position was undertaken with a closing date of August 31<sup>st</sup>. Three applications were received and will be adjudicated by the HR committee. A recommendation for an appointment by Town Council will follow in due course as will be published in the next, upcoming meeting agenda.
- 7) Marketing and events: Planning continues for the upcoming events - “Chills and Thrills – Wicked Weekend”; Christmas mini-series; and TurtleFest 2025. Our events continue to be well planned, well executed and well attended.
- 8) Defective LED holiday lights were returned for repair/replacement to Classic Displays on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. There will be no cost impact as the light fixtures are under warranty.
- 9) Special thank you to the Oxford OPP for their continued foot patrols. Thank you to the Tillsonburg Town Centre team for the provision of water for irrigation, waste disposal and other supports! Much appreciated.
- 10) There has been a significant increase in new faces in the downtown area. The team is aware from an operational sense and is dealing with the impacts as they arise.
- 11) Finance: Expenses continue to be well controlled to date. There will be adjustments made to the balance-of-year spending plans to ensure attainment of planned budgetary expenditures and revenues. Some items paid for in 2024 have been reallocated to 2023 FY as per the auditor. Learnings from the 2023 audit have been included in balance of year 2024 actionable items in addition to improvements/additions to the proposed 2025 budget and business plans.
- 12) The team will be presenting a 2023 “year in review” to Town Council on September 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 13) The next board meeting has been shifted to September 25<sup>th</sup> and will primarily focus on completed of the strategic plan for the organization. This Strat-plan must be completed prior to consideration and adoption of the 2025 budget and business plans.
- 14) 2025 budget planning: The team will be presenting a zero-increase budget to the board including no FIP contribution from the town to the BIA; a zero increase in the town provided capital allocation and adherence to our “no new debt” commitment.