

## **Downtown Board of Management Elections Information**

The Membership of the Downtown Board of Management (the “BIA”) is invited to express their confidence in recommending 2019-2022 Board of Management

### **THE MEMBERSHIP MAY VOTE AT THE**

Niagara Falls Downtown BIA 4321 Queen Street  
Niagara Falls, ONT L2E 7J7

**Monday February 11, 11:45a-4:00p**

Attached is the BIA Membership List, please verify that your business and/or corporation are correct and you are on the voters' list.

All corrections and disputes should be submitted to Bill Matson no later than 10:30AM on Monday, February 11, 2019

**In order to vote, you must come to the BIA office no later than 4:00 p.m. on February 11, 2019 and show proof of membership status.**

**Members may vote for up to nine (9) names on the ballot, ballots marked to vote for more than nine (9) names shall be declared to be spoiled.**

**NOTE: We encourage you to review the bios of all nominees before making your selection**

### **Candidates**

**Matthew Aiello** [Matthew@QubeEmporium.com](mailto:Matthew@QubeEmporium.com)

**Qube Emporium** 4455 Queen Street Niagara Falls, ON L2E 2L2

Matthew is committed as a business owner on Queen Street, and feels passionate about the opportunity to increase the profile of the street and the businesses that make up the fabric of the Queen Street District. Matthew is well versed in social media trends and he would like to be a part of the growth and success of everyone on the street and leveraging his experience in business and marketing.

Matthew is a member of the NFDBM August 2017-February 2019 and has held the position of Treasurer since August 2018, Marketing Committee 2017-2019, 2018

Springlicious Co-chair, Celebrate Our Downtown (COD) Board Member, and has served on the Board for the Niagara Falls MS Society for 4 years and served in several positions for the Board of the Imperial Court of Niagara.

**Tony Barranca** [mbarranca76@gmail.com](mailto:mbarranca76@gmail.com)

**Hair Lovers** 4407 Queen Street Niagara Falls, ON L2E 2L2

Tony has been a member of the NFDBM for 43 years. Over these four plus decades Tony has held many positions include Treasurer (retired 2018), Tony is self-employed and has owned Hair Lovers since 1975. Tony and his wife reside on Queen Street and had made home in our downtown.

Tony is committed to the good and welfare of downtown and is interested in promotion and beautification

**Natalie Caruso** [natalie-caruso@hotmail.com](mailto:natalie-caruso@hotmail.com)

**Little House of Beauty** 4525 Queen St, Niagara Falls, ON L2E 2L4

Natalie brings experience as a small business owner, with a background in social media, networking and special events. Natalie has built an outlet for artisans to meet, exchange ideas, showcase their and build business.

Natalie is interested in being a contributing member of the progress on Queen and increase a sense of community and belonging.

**Ron Charbonneau** [roncharbonneau58@gmail.com](mailto:roncharbonneau58@gmail.com)

**The Ice Cream Shack** 4606 Queen Street Niagara Falls, ON L2E 2L6

Ron is a member of the NFDBM for 2 terms and has held various the positions. Ron is currently the Chair, and has been a tireless volunteer at Springlicious, Celebrate Our Downtown (COD) past chair and Board Member, and has built Cruising On The Q into a premier car show a signature event for Queen Street with the Queen Street Cruisers. Ron is dedicated to our downtown and is committed to bringing our district into 2020 as a vibrant business community.

**Kellie Crossley** [kelliecrossleycolor@gmail.com](mailto:kelliecrossleycolor@gmail.com)

**Color by Kellie** 4661 Queen Street Niagara Falls, ON L2E 2L9

Kellie is an entrepreneur with 11 year experience operating a successful hair salon which thrives at the Queen Street location. Within her business Kellie has the opportunity hear and listen to feedback and concerns from residents, business owners and property owners. Kellie is an opinion leader and feels her talents would be put to good use as a BIA Board Member. Kellie has been a positive advocate in the last four years supporting community growth.

Kellie has experience with Boards and Advisory Committees over her career. Currently Kellie is on the KO for Kids Boxing Committee, Program Advisor Niagara College facilitating the development of the hairdressing/barbering program among other connections provincially within the industry.

**Torena Gardner-Durdle** [faenature@gmail.com](mailto:faenature@gmail.com)

**Fae Nature** 4660 Queen Street, Niagara Falls, ON L2E 2L8

Torena believes her ability to come up with unique ideas and seeing the bigger picture has always been her strong suit and her promotions and marketing background would be an asset in program development.

Torena open her business on Queen in 2016 and sees many opportunities that could be capitalized on and improved upon with minimal investments. Torena would like be involved in making that change happen. As an artist and graphic designer she can be utilized in ways to creatively make a mark for Queen Street.

Torena is a member of Celebrate Our Downtown (COD), served on the BIA's Marketing Committee, Chaired Fairy Day as part of Queen Street Summer Series and Superheroes of Autism Niagara. Created Carmel Fine arts and Musical Festival and ran it for 5 years turning it over to Niagara Artists Showcase in 2016.

**Medhat Ibrahim** [info@queenstreetpharmacy.com](mailto:info@queenstreetpharmacy.com)

**Queen Street Pharmacy** 4421 Queen Street Niagara Falls, ON L2E 2L2

Medhat has been a manager and business owner for over 12 years and has acquired strong leading skills through his experiences. He has a significant interest in Queen Street and would like to offer his expertise and have a voice in the decisions being made on the street. His expertise/contribution includes fine networking skills, and experience in management through his years of business management and ownership.

**Wendy Leard** [Songndance@cogeco.ca](mailto:Songndance@cogeco.ca)

**Wendy Leard School of Dance** 4680 Queen Street Niagara Falls, ON L2E 2L8

Wendy is interested in running for the board for a second term not only because of her long history with Queen Street, but also because as a business owner she would like to increase the profile and reputation of the street. She believes that if the street's reputation is more positive, then more people would see the street as a great area to shop, work and play.

Wendy is a member of the NFDBM August 2017-February 2019 and has held the position of Summer Series Chair as Celebrate Our Downtown (COD) Board Member. Wendy recently launched a talk show on 4680Q.

**Eric Martin** [emartin@tapsbeer.ca](mailto:emartin@tapsbeer.ca)

**TAPS on Queen** 4860 Queen Street Niagara Falls, ON

Eric has operated 3 restaurants for over 9 years, and put on hundreds of events on Queen Street. He is interested in running for the Board again in 2019-2022 to strengthen our BIA's vision and the decisions that the BIA makes that have an effect on the hospitality and entertainment business, as well as all of the other businesses on the street.

Eric is a member of the NFDBM August 2017-February 2019 and has participated in community events, Taps events, Livestock, 4680Q infrastructure, Summer Series, Springlicious, Dignity, and is an active member of Celebrate Our Downtown (COD) Board

**Joe Mrkalj** [joe@grandcentralniagara.com](mailto:joe@grandcentralniagara.com)

**Grand Central** 4573 Queen Street Niagara Falls, ON L2E 2L7

Joe has been a member of the NFDBM for a number of years. Over these years Joe has held many positions on the Board and participated in committee work. Joe has stepped in to support development and provided sponsorship.

Joe is self-employed and built Grand Central into a Queen Street icon. Joe not only operates a successful business but has invested in Queen Street properties. Joe is committed to the success of downtown and is interested in promotion that will increase everyone's businesses.

**Phil Ritchie** [pworthie@keeferdevelopment.com](mailto:pworthie@keeferdevelopment.com)

**Keefer Development** 4605 Chrysler Avenue Niagara Falls, ON L2E 3V6

Phil has been a member of the NFDBM for a number of years. Phil has held many positions on the Board and participated in committee work. Phil has worked with many partners to increase development and prepare for sustainable growth. Phil and his family provide sponsorship and support to numerous Queen Street initiatives.

Phil not only oversees and operates a successful business but has invested in Queen Street properties and supports tenants. Phil has a vision for success and has skills in finance, capital improvements and marketing.

**David Sabina** [dsabina@meuk.net](mailto:dsabina@meuk.net)

**Meuk Corporation** 4634 Queen Street Niagara Falls, ON L2E 2L6

David has an MBA, CPA and believes in value for service. David feels he has the experience to provide direction in marketing.

David is a member of the Niagara Falls Rotary Club

**Charissa Sanche** [csanche@thirdspaceonqueen.ca](mailto:csanche@thirdspaceonqueen.ca)

4345 Queen Street Niagara Falls, ON L2E 2K9

As the Executive Director of a new social enterprise on Queen Street that was established in March, 2018, Charisa brings a passion for community. In less than a year of working on Queen Street, she has been inspired by conversations looking towards change and continued improvement that will benefit the business owners, patrons, and residents of the community. Third Space Café intends to be a destination for tourists and a home away from home for our community, and she believes that by becoming involved with the BIA, she can offer these same values and goals with tangible initiatives to benefit Queen Street as a whole.

**Diane Sharkey** [diane@durdanlaw.com](mailto:diane@durdanlaw.com)

**Durdan Law** 4759 Queen Street Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6T3

Diane has been appointed by her employer to represent their business on the NFDBM. Diane has experience in process and governance as part of her role at Durdan Law. Diane is committed to community development and would like to provide her expertise in the development of the Queen Street District.

Diane not only works in our BIA she has made her home here and supports many community initiatives.

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Candidates submitted paperwork through nomination process

Karen Stearne  
NFDBM Nomination Committee