



*A Local Experience*

Ron Charbonneau Board Chair  
Amanda McKenzie Vice-Chair

## **RE: Niagara Falls Downtown Board of Management (NFDBM) 2017**

I would like to thank the BIA membership, City Staff and the Downtown Board of Management for the support provide to me when I assumed the role of Chair in 2017. Since taking the position I have spoken to as many businesses and concerned citizens as possible and I have shared the concerns with BIA Board of Management and community members.

I would like to recognize the work Tony Barranca provided as Treasurer; Tony stepped down at our February Meeting and nominated Matthew Aiello as his successor. The motion was seconded and carried

Here is an overview of our accomplishments as part of the Chair's AGM Report.

*Respectfully, Ron Charbonneau*

### **Community Events**

- Springlicious May 26-28 2017
  - MYAC Schoolpalooza
  - 68 vendors
  - 25 plus entertainers and bands
- Cruising on the Q Tuesdays May-September 2017
  - Hosted two artisan markets with Artisans Niagara
- Cruising on the Q: Welcomed Canadian Coasters for their scheduled stop in Niagara Falls Sunday July 30, lining Queen Street with more than 200 classic cars will as part of the Canadian Coasters national road rally.
  - On June 28<sup>th</sup> the tour starts in Victoria British Columbia, and on Sept 1<sup>st</sup> finished in St. John's, Newfoundland
- Picnic on the Q
- Queen Street Beautification
  - Improved planters and increased access to resources
  - Purchased and place Canada 150 Banners
  - Updated the arches with lighting after a upgrade in electric and cleaning
- Gus Macker 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament September 22-24, 2017
  - 200 plus teams
  - 20 courts of 3 on 3 basketball
  - 5,000 visitors
- Artisan Market on Queen
- Canada Day Celebration
  - Hosted Main Stage July 1 and July 2 with leadership from Rick Rose, Wendy Leard and Rafik Guirguis
- Canada 150 Celebration events
  - Commemorative Canada 150 banners
  - Partnership with Niagara Falls Library for 150 History Series on Queen
- Gus Macker 3 on 3 basketball
- Santa Claus Parade
  - Member sat on the planning committee and participated on the day of parade
  - Wreaths were added to the streetscape

## Keeping you informed

### *Responding to community concerns on governance*

- Consultation with corporate lawyer and BIA specialists on constitution. This has been researched and the NFDBM have been advised. The outcome demonstrated our lack of knowledge in the Municipal Act and as a group we continue to educate ourselves with support from City staff, governance specialists and the Ontario Business Improvement Area Association
- In August of 2017 Joyce Morocco and Karen Stearne pledged to assist in increasing governance education.
- The NFDBM have been researching and discussing solution to increase economic development, responsiveness and growth for the membership.
- In December of 2017 I was in consultation with the Ombudsman Office regarding questions about governance, transparency, reporting, complaint process, RFQ process and meeting notification. I am pleased to report that the Ombudsman found no wrong doing. As a Board we outlined the solutions to each of the complaints and the Office was satisfied and chose not to open an inquiry
- Based on our commitment better governance we will be receiving training through OBIAA in March of 2018.
- Increasing the work of Celebrate Old Downtown (COD) and the role the group places in bring events to our District. The Executive is calling for 6 members at large
- Increased monthly project reporting, meeting minutes, and filing of Audit, Review Engagement, T2 Report

### *Marketing Queen Street to support Business*

A marketing committee has been struck and have built a communication strategy that will benefit Queen Street District and our community. Thank you to Matthew Aiello, Amanda McKenzie and Torena Gardner-Durdle for their commitment to grow our businesses on Queen and District

### *Parking on Queen*

Completed discussion with BIA membership regarding *Free 90 minute Parking on Queen*. Moving forward the BIA as allocate \$13,000 towards the program and has requested \$13,000 from the CIP Fund for 2018. The \$26,000 is a standard budget item annually to maintain Free 90 minute parking on Queen.

### *Personnel*

I would like to welcome Agnes Hoelzner as the Office Assistant. Agnes is in office 11-4 daily to support your needs and expedite communication with the Board. In 2018 the NFDBM will continue to review a staffing model that supports measurable outcomes and community inclusion.

### *Queen Street Sound System*

The BIA will be upgrading the sound system to increase the ability to engage more people on the street and improve communication when events are on the street. We will be announcing our Public Broadcast Platform 4680Q located inside the NIOMA Building paired to Queen Street Sound System and also globally via the Internet. The platform is designed to provide opportunities to further develop our brand and to support BIA marketing plans while mentoring those interested in arts, entertainment, culture and communication.

### *Special Election*

A motion was made at the July 19, 2017 AGM Part 1 to expand the Board by four members through the end of the term to support the work necessary to prepare for the incoming Board in 2019. After the election a recommendation was sent to Council to add Karen Stearne, Matthew Aiello, Wendy Leard, Eric Martin the Clerk brought it forward and it was passed. The 2019 Board of management will return to compliment

### 2017-2018 NFDBM

**Chair** Ron Charbonneau, **Vice Chair** Amanda McKenzie, **Treasurer** Matthew Aiello, Tony Barranca, Sal DiPietro, Steve Ichelson, Wendy Leard, Eric Martin, Joe Mrkalji, Phil Ritchie, Karen Stearne, **Past Chair** Julio Batres - Gavidia **City Appointments** Joyce Morocco, Mayor Jim Diodati  
**Board Secretary** Agnes Hoelzner **Bookkeeper** Kim Ferri