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JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2009 ISSUE

OPEN BUDGET MEETING

Wednesday January 21st, 2009
8:00 am, Room 204, City Hall, 545 Talbot St.

This meeting will allow DDB members to have a chance to see the 2009 draft budget before the Annual General Meeting, and offer any feedback. The Board of Directors will be present to answer any questions regarding the budget for 2009.

The feed back will be reviewed by the Board before the budget is approved at the February 4, 2009 Board Meeting. After it is approved by the Board, it will be presented at the Annual General Meeting, and then forward to City Council for final approval in March.

PLEASE DO YOUR PART IN KEEPING DOWNTOWN BEAUTIFUL

Please keep your entranceways shovelled and free of ice. If you happen to see some garbage on the streets, please pick it up and dispose of it in one of the garbage cans that are located throughout the downtown area. If we all pitch in, our downtown will stay fresh, and clean and most of all **beautiful!!**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday February 25, 2009
7:00 pm, Room 204, City Hall, 545 Talbot St.

Mark your calendars for the 2009 Downtown Development Board Annual General Meeting. This meeting is open to all DDB members (Business or property owners within the BIA boundaries) to attend.

At this meeting, we will be reviewing the work of the Board in 2008 and discussing plans for 2009, including the budget.

Copies of the Audited Financial Statements, Annual Report, 2009 budget and 2008 AGM minutes will be available at this meeting, and from the DDB office anytime afterwards.

KEEP US INFORMED

We're here to communicate the news about our downtown, so we would love to hear what is new at your business: special events, a new staff person, a change in ownership, a new service...Give us a call at 519-633-5248 or email us at info@downtownstthomas.com so that we can share the news.

St. Thomas downtown

DEVELOPMENT BOARD

DDB MEETINGS

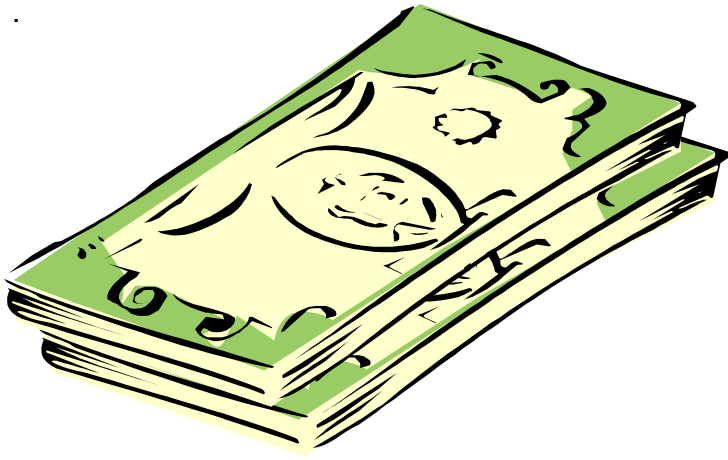
Board Meetings

Board Meetings take place on the first Wednesday of the month at 8 am in room 204, City Hall.

- February 4, 2009
- March 4, 2009
- April 1, 2009
- May 6, 2009

DDB OFFICE

Karen Gordon Administrator
Open Monday to Friday
8:30 am - 4:30 pm
(Unless otherwise posted)
City Hall, Main Level
545 Talbot St. P.O. Box 520
St. Thomas, On N5P 3V7
Tel 519-633-5248



Downtown Dollars.. *What's in it for you!*

The Downtown Development Board (DDB) offers prizes and incentives to various organizations and events in the form of DDB Dollars. This program promotes Downtown St. Thomas to shoppers throughout the community and area. By placing spendable cash in their hands, we get them inside your door. After that, it's up to you! These \$5.00 coupons entitle the bearer to this amount towards the purchase of merchandise at any retail or service outlet in the Downtown BIA area. When you receive these coupons ensure that the back of the coupons are filled out completely. We are trying to do a marketing survey on the value of the Downtown dollars. You can assist by filling out the back of the dollars where it states Merchant Information completely. What we would like to see is the total amount purchased spent by the customer using the Downtown dollars. Ex. Coupon is worth \$5.00 but the customer spent \$20.00. That would advise us that the customer spent \$15.00. If you receive the coupons, just give the office a call @519-633-5248 and you will be reimbursed for the full face value of all the DDB dollars returned.

DDB'S WEBSITE

www.downtownstthomas.com

The DDB board have been working on our website making updates and changes. We had mainly focused our energy on the "What's Happening" part of the website. Since this has become so successful we have decided to put our energy into changing another area of our website to benefit the members of the BIA area.

We are now in the process of changing our business directory. We are going to add to our website on the "Business Directory" advertisement for each of the businesses downtown BIA member at **NO COST**. When you click on the business name it will produce a business card full of information about your business and a picture. With this said we will be coming to each business owner to gather the information that is needed to complete this. We are hoping to have this completed by the end of summer.

You can also assist by either emailing the office or stopping by to pick up the necessary form to fill out and complete to speed up the process. This is a very exciting next step for our website. Just a FYI in regards to our website we have more than 100,000 hits since January 2008 from visitors and people interested in obtaining information about our beautiful downtown area.

Phone number for the office is 519-633-5248 or email info@downtownstthomas.com

Happy New Year!!

The St. Thomas Downtown Development Board Would like to take this opportunity to wish every one a very Happy New Year!! We optimistically look forward to 2009 and the great things to come this year.

This time of year is wonderful time to reflect on the past year, and to look forward to the New Year! 2008 was certainly an adventurous year for the downtown St. Thomas, with many new businesses opening, moving to other locations in the downtown and the street closure due to the Sutherland Building and everyone having to work together to make a success of a bad situation. Thank you to everyone for your patience and understanding.

In 2008 the Santa Claus Parade held at night returned to the downtown, and had an incredible turnout. Other events in 2008 that brought people downtown were Thomas The Tank, the Iron Horse Festival which was a huge success and the Horton Farmers' Market which was open every Saturday morning that brought people from all over to our City.

New Businesses to Downtown!

The Downtown Development Board would like to welcome New Businesses to the Downtown!

ETAX

Owner Darryl Scott
Chartered Accountant
West Village
349 Talbot St.
Tel: 226-448-0060

MICHELLE & SAM'S HAIR DESIGN

Talbot Centre
9 Princess St.
Tel: 519-633-4100

PAMPERED POOCH

Professional Dog Grooming
West Village
10 Elgin St.
Tel: 519-631-9951

PHANTASTIC NAILS

Has relocated to:
Market Square
755 Talbot St.
Tel: 519-637-3700

WICKED GIFTS & DÉCOR

Owner: Robert Ross
Talbot Centre
570 Talbot St.
Tel: 519-870-0430

If you see a new business opening, a current business relocating, or even one closing, be sure to give us a call so we can mention it in this column! DDB Office 519-633-5248

Your Board of Directors

Mark Cosens, *Chairman*
Monty Fordham, *Vice Chairman*
Brian Dempsey, *Secretary-Treasurer*
Terry Ranta-Hall, Richard Hodgkinson
Kathy Easton, Andy Lerikos,
Shelley Holmes, Glenn Thorel,
Jennifer Copland

Council Representatives:

Alderman Lori Baldwin-Sands
Alderman Heather Chapman

Board Advisors:

Bob Allen, *Bob Allen Horticultural*
Sean Dyke, *Economic Development*
Bob Hammerlsey, *Chamber of Commerce*
Ross Tucker, *Parks Department*