

Visit us online at www.downtownstthomas.com

MARCH / APRIL 2009 ISSUE

ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES FOR SPRING CLEAN UP DAY!

The Downtown Development Board, Chamber of Commerce and Pitch-In Canada are inviting you to participate in the annual Spring Clean Up Day - **Wednesday April 22, 2009.**

How can you participate?

It's easy and free. All you need to do is cleanup your neighbourhood or business area. The DDB will be handing out garbage/recycling bags to each business in our BIA area members with a poster advising of the date.

Please join in by getting a team of your employees, friends or family together and join us for the clean up day of **Wednesday April 22, 2009** which is the official Earth Day.

Please call the DDB office at 519-633-5248 if you are interested in participating in the Downtown Clean-Up effort with us!

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 located throughout the downtown area. If we all pitch in, our downtown will stay fresh, and clean and most of all beautiful!

UP COMING EVENTS FOR 2009

Need to mark your calendars for this years events!!

April 22 - Earth Day / Clean Up Day

June 20-21 - Lions Club Autofest
- Wings & Wheels2

July 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26 - Thomas the Tank

August 20, 21, 22, 23 - Iron Horse Festival

August 29, 30, 31 - Fire Muster, Men's Fastball Competition

November 20 - Tree Lighting Event

November 21 - Santa Claus Parade

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.

- April 1, 2009
- May 6, 2009
- June 3, 2009
- July 8, 2009

DDB OFFICE

Karen Gordon Administrator

Open Monday to Friday

8:30 am - 4:30 pm

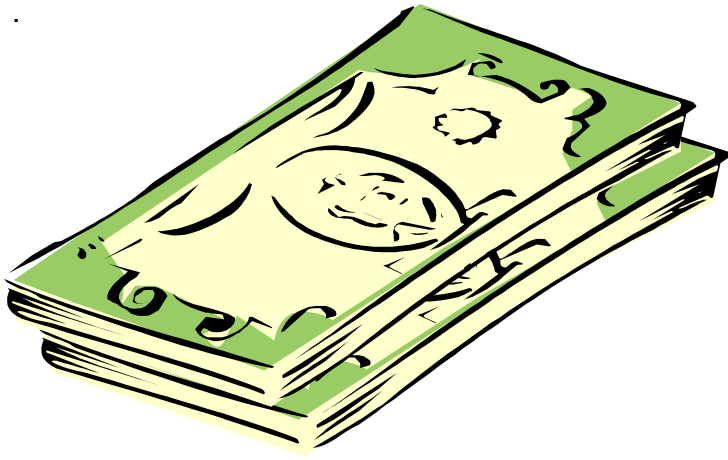
(Unless otherwise posted)

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

A NEW STRATEGIC PLAN FOR ST. THOMAS

The St. Thomas Economic Development Corporation (EDC), through the assistance of the Government of Ontario's Communities in Transition Program, has hired a consulting firm to develop an Economic Development Strategy for the City of St. Thomas. The strategy is intended to identify strategic directions and emerging opportunities on which to base the future prosperity of our City and input from the community is a key component of this process.

We encourage you to please share your experience and your opinions by completing the online survey located here:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=aoq98jhhOH2DNtrttBdpSA 3d 3d>
before March 27, 2009.

All answers will remain confidential and results will only be published in an aggregated form. Should you have any questions regarding this initiative, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Wheeler at 519-631-1680 ext 4132 or Sean Dyke at 519-631-1680 ex 4104.

The results of the entire Strategic Plan process are expected to be presented in June, 2009.

The EDC would like to thank you in advance for participating in this process



New Businesses to Downtown!

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

LIBERTY TAX SERVICE

Owner Jesse Grandbois
West Village
481 Talbot St.

PASSIONATE NAILS

Talbot Centre
589 Talbot St., Tel: 519-633-4407

MY SALON - is relocating

Owner Shelley Holmes
Talbot Centre
570 Talbot St., Tel: 519-637-8222
They will be offering a larger location with more space for personalized service and a growing variety of styling products for home use.

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

HORTON FARMER'S MARKET

The Horton Farmer's Market is on it's way to opening it's doors for the 2009 season. They have hired their new manager - Trisha Hubert. The opening day will be **Saturday May 9th**. Please support your local producers by coming out to shop and to have fun at the Horton Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings!

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*

