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NOVEMBER 2007 **CHRISTMAS IN DOWNTOWN**

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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St. Thomas
downtown
DEVELOPMENT BOARD

DDB Meetings

Board Meetings

Board Meetings take place on the first Wednesday of the month at 8:00am in room 204, City Hall.

- November 7, 2007
- December 5, 2007
- January 2, 2008
- February 6, 2008

DDB Office

Karen Gordon, Administrator

Open Monday to Friday

8:30 am - 4:30 pm

(Unless otherwise posted)

City Hall, Main Level

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There is going to be an abundance of activities taking place over the weekend of November 16-17 on our downtown streets.

On November 16 the holiday season starts with the traditional **Tree Lighting Ceremony** which will take place on Mondamin Street between Curtis Street and Talbot Street at 6:00pm until 7:30pm on Friday November 16th. The event will feature horse drawn hay rides, entertainment by Dave Hoy, refreshments, door prizes, lightening of the tree, a visit from Santa Claus and much more. This year the huge City Hall tree will be illuminated with energy saving LED lights as a result of a partnership with St. Thomas Energy.

On November 17 the Optimist **Santa Claus Parade** will once again be a downtown evening parade and this year's theme is "Christmas Around the World". The Santa Claus Parade will follow a 2.5 km downtown route. The route will form on First Ave. between Talbot Street and Redan Street, then proceed down Talbot Street Westbound to William Street. Watch for the DDB's float!

The **St. Thomas Elgin Artist Guild** will be presenting their First Annual Show & Sale in the historic St. Thomas (CASO) Railway Station. This will take place on November 30 from 7pm-10pm. December 1 & 2 11am-6pm, The Opening Reception on Friday night will feature the opportunity to meet many of the artists with a cash bar and light refreshments. The show will feature outstanding original local art of all types. Other features, as planning for the show continues include asking for a food donation for Christmas Care or the Caring Cupboard as the price of admission. The theme is "**Twass the Art Before Christmas**".

For further information please contact June-Anne Reid, St. Thomas Elgin Artists Guild, Event Coordinator. www.portholegalleries.com or jaried@portholegalleries.com

You may also visit the website of the Downtown Development Board www.downtownstthomas.com "**What's Happening**" for more information of events happening in and around St. Thomas.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF OUR LOVED ONES

November 11th is Remembrance Day. We have placed the yellow banners up along the downtown landscape to show our support of the Canadian Troops and the fallen soldiers. The yellow is a symbol of our appreciation of the work of our troops. It reflects our thoughts and prayers are with them and hoping for a safe return home. We encourage all businesses and residents of St. Thomas to tie a yellow ribbon around a tree or store sign.

INVITATION TO THE BIA MEMBERS

The planning department has arranged for Mr. Scott Morgan to discuss his Regional Commercial Systems Study with members and representatives of the Downtown Development Board.

This informal question and answer session will be **Thursday November 1st, 2007 between 5:00 - 7:00 pm at the Timken Centre (Douglas Tarry Room).**

If you have any questions or concerns in regards to the Wal-Mart expansion this is the time to address those issues. Members of the City Council, Mr. Scott Morgan will be in attendance to address the concerns or comments from the members of the BIA members and representatives.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND ATTEND THIS MEETING WITH YOUR QUESTIONS.

PLEASE DO YOUR PART IN KEEPING DOWNTOWN BEAUTIFUL!!

Please keep your entranceways swept and free of litter. 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!**

About the Downtown Development Board

The Downtown Development Board is directed by a volunteer board of management whose mandate is to promote and beautify Downtown St. Thomas.

DDB projects and initiatives include but certainly aren't limited to: murals, downtown parketts, hanging baskets, planter boxes, seasonal banners, cross street banners, Banner Art Project, Tree Lighting Ceremony, Window Decorating Contest, Sidewalk Sales, Downtown Dollars, Clean Up Day, Directory in Community Centre, Downtown Brochure/Map, DDB website, Information Sessions, Revitalization of the Horton Farmers' Market and this monthly letter.

The DDB also partners with other organizations to bring events and programs to downtown, including Iron Horse Festival, the St. Thomas-Elgin Public Art Centre, The St. Thomas-Elgin Tourist Association

NEW YEARS EVE GALA

Ring out the old year and bring in the new year with the North America Railway Hall of Fame, December 31, 2007 at the Canada Southern Railway Station. The Sahara Swing Band will provide the music for an evening of dancing and an evening of fun and games. There will be door prizes, lots of food and a cash bar and a silent auction. The cost is \$60. per person, which include Dinner-Dance-Champagne-Party Favours. Semi Formal Attire. For more information or to book a table please call 519-633-2535 or email cathyhayward@narhf.org

Our New Winter Banners

We have just received our new winter banners. The Parks Department will be placing the new banners along Talbot Street and the side streets. This will be just in time for the Tree Lighting Ceremony and the Santa Claus Parade. A huge **Thank You to Ross Tucker and his staff** for all of their assistance all year round.

PLEASE 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.

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