



## MEDIA RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**(Orillia, Ontario, Friday October 18, 2024)** – There are many individuals and organizations who played a key role in the success of the BIA this year that it's nearly impossible to mention everyone without forgetting someone. Nevertheless, let's celebrate all of those who made the *Downtown Orillia BIA* the place to be in 2024.

We're going to get things rolling with the people who are responsible for making sure that the BIA does what it's supposed to do every day. Our BIA maintenance team of *Rick Elliot* and *Glenn Thompson* are top notch. Their commitment to be out there every day (rain or shine) ensuring that our sidewalks are plowed & salted, our garbage cans aren't overflowing, and that litter, cigarette butts and dog waste don't become the hot topic of conversation on *Nosey Neighbours*.

We also want to acknowledge the newest additions to the BIA team, *Deron Johnston* and *Tarah Harper*. They haven't been here very long, but they've already made significant progress on implementing BIA best practices, improving communication with members and creating a climate of mutual respect and professionalism.

A BIA cannot thrive without a Board made up of committed, hard-working and unselfish people and we have that in spades. Not only have they stepped up their level of commitment over the past year, but they've been enduring meetings sometimes lasting multiple hours in order to make the kind of decisions that will create the conditions for downtown businesses to be successful.

Our relationship with the *City of Orillia* is critical and we're blessed to work with so many city staff who are helpful and supportive. Though we appreciate the work of all city departments, some of the departments that we've worked closely with and who deserve some special gratitude are:

*Economic Development, Tourism, Bylaw Services, Finance, Operations and the Fire Service.*

Thank you to *Mayor McIsaac* and the rest of the members of Council for their support and willingness to consider the recommendations and suggestions that flow from the BIA Board of Directors. We also appreciate the opportunities to be part of committees and working groups on subjects that impact the downtown business community.

Special thanks to *Councillor David Campbell* who has been a perfect compliment to our Board as the Council appointee. David is professional, knowledgeable and brings a high degree of integrity to Board discussions.

Thank you as well to our downtown partners: *The Orillia Public Library, the Orillia Opera House, Orillia Lake Country Tourism, the Orillia Area Community Development Corporation, the Orillia Museum of Art and History, the Orillia Farmers' Market, Creative Nomad, Streets Alive, Lightfoot Days Festival and the Mariposa Folk Festival.*

We also want to acknowledge the work of the *Ontario Provincial Police, the Lighthouse and One Community Services* for what they do to make the downtown a safe place to do business and what they do for the people who call downtown home.

In the coming year, we look forward to continue working with other community organizations: *The Orillia District Chamber of Commerce, the Port of Orillia, the Rotary Club of Orillia, Lake Country Pride, The Royal Canadian Legion, The Orillia Youth Centre and Roots North Music Festival.*

In closing, we would like to thank everyone for attending our AGM. Throughout our social media, marketing materials and communications you'll start to see the word *family* used when it comes to referencing the *Downtown Orillia BIA* business community. One of the most important aspects of being a family is the understanding that even though we may not agree on all topics, at the end of the day we all understand that we are bound to each other. We also understand that by working together, we can multiply our individual efforts to make downtown the place that everyone wants to be.