



# Town of Newmarket Agenda

## Main Street District Business Improvement Area Board of Management

Date: Wednesday, August 7, 2024  
Time: 8:30 AM  
Location: Streamed live from the Municipal Offices  
395 Mulock Drive  
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7

### Pages

#### 1. Notice

Members of the public may view this meeting through the live stream available at [newmarket.ca/meetings](http://newmarket.ca/meetings), or attend in person at the Council Chambers at 395 Mulock Drive.

#### 2. Additions and Corrections to the Agenda

#### 3. Conflict of Interest Declarations

#### 4. Presentations & Recognitions

#### 5. Deputations

##### 5.1 The Very Useful Theatre Company

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**Note:** Tom Pearson will provide a deputation regarding this matter.

1. That the deputation provided by Tom Pearson regarding The Very Useful Theatre Company be received.

#### 6. Approval of Minutes

##### 6.1 Main Street District Business Improvement Area Board of Management Meeting Minutes of July 3, 2024

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1. That the Main Street District Business Improvement Area Board of Management Meeting Minutes of July 3, 2024 be approved.

## **7. Items**

### **7.1 Sub-Committee Reports**

#### **7.1.1 Marketing**

#### **7.1.2 Working Group**

#### **7.1.3 Events**

### **7.2 Parking Update**

### **7.3 Financial Update**

### **7.4 Staff Update**

#### **7.4.1 Financial Incentive Program Staff Working Group Update**

## **8. New Business**

## **9. Closed Session (if required)**

### **9.1 Main Street District Business Improvement Area Board of Management (Closed Session) Meeting Minutes of July 3, 2024**

#### **9.1.1 Board Vacancy**

Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees as per Section 239(2)(b) of the Municipal Act, 2001.

## **10. Adjournment**





For Immediate release, Tues April 12 2024

## **Cutting Edge Arts Program offers accessible theatre to those living with Aphasia**

The 2024 V.U.T.C. Young Company season is excited to announce the **accessible arts initiative!** The accessible arts initiative was created with the goal of ensuring that community theatre is accessible to individuals with communication differences, particularly those with Aphasia.

Aphasia is a language problem that can occur after a stroke or traumatic brain injury, and can impact an individual's ability to produce language (message out) and/or understand language (message in). Supports such as Supported Communication of Adults with Aphasia techniques from the Aphasia Institute, use tools like key wording, body language, and verification to help facilitate communication for individuals with Aphasia. This year's youth productions will be created with Aphasia friendly support, allowing those with Aphasia to be included in this year's festivities!

Lead by ***Kira Rosenbloom*** (the Artistic Director of The V.U.T.C. Young company and Masters Candidate in Speech-Language Pathology at the University of Toronto) and in collaboration with the Aphasia Institute, young artists will have the opportunity to participate in Aphasia and communication workshops where they will learn about Aphasia, how to support communication for individuals with Aphasia and take part in creating the supports that will make this years performance Aphasia friendly.

Upon completion, the VUTC Young company will perform plays they themselves have written, are acting in and directing on their performance date – 2pm, Sunday Sept 8 - in the 2024 ***Newmarket International Festival of One Act plays***. The festival runs from Sept 5-8 in 2024.

At The V.U.T.C. we believe that theatre is for everyone, and we are excited to not only be a part of this shift in our field, but to inspire others to join us in ***making the arts more accessible.***

**Find out more about The Very Useful Theatre Company and the Newmarket International Festival of One Act plays @ [www.oneactplayfestival.com](http://www.oneactplayfestival.com)**



Rotary  
Club of Newmarket



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[oneactplayfestival.com](https://oneactplayfestival.com)





## TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCES SPONSORED BY:



The Main Street District Business Improvement Area (BIA) is a non-profit, community-based organization that represents the Town of Newmarket's downtown Main Street business community.

The BIA works to improve and promote Main Street District Business Improvement area through investment and advocacy to maintain its position as Newmarket's premier shopping, business, and entertainment destination.

The BIA was established in July 2006 with the assistance of the Town of Newmarket.

# PLAYBILL

OLD TOWN HALL



## NEWMARKET INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ONE ACT PLAYS

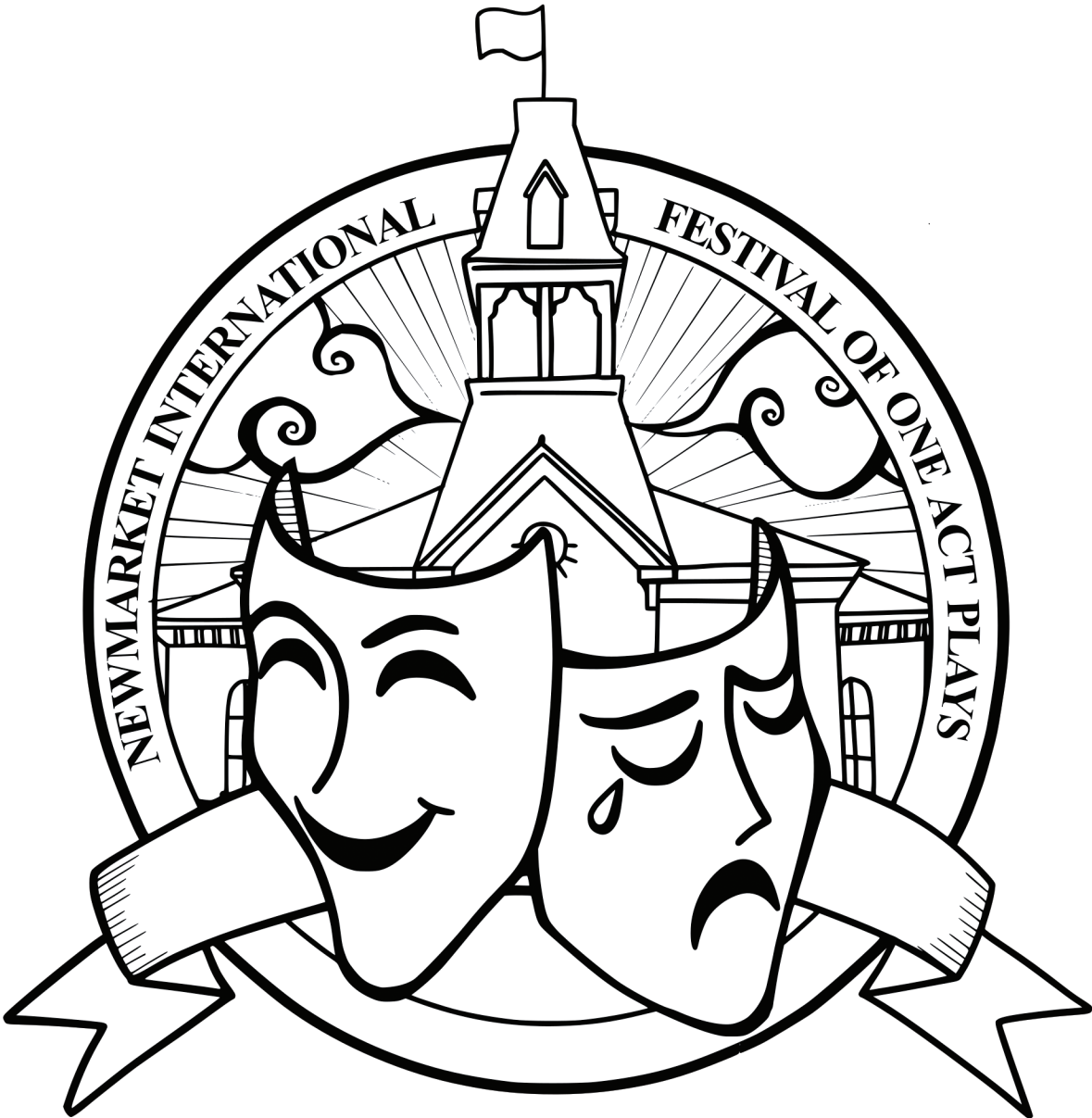
**Saturday September 9, 2023**

**PROVENANCE**  
**by Patrick Williams**

**GET IT OFF YER CHEST**  
**by Jordana Belaiche**



THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE VERY USEFUL THEATRE COMPANY



THEATRE HELPING COMMUNITY HELP ITSELF



**TOM PEARSON**  
PRESIDENT / STAGE MANAGER



**JOHN DOWSON**  
CREATIVE DIRECTOR / BOARD MEMBER



**KIRA ROSENBLOOM**  
BOARD MEMBER  
SECRETARY TO THE TREASURER  
YOUNG COMPANY ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



**DARRYL ERENTZEN**  
LIVE STREAMING  
WEB MASTER  
BOARD MEMBER



**KAY VALENTINE**  
THEATRICAL CONSULTANT  
READING COMMITTEE MEMBER



**LESLEY LYNCH**  
STAGE HAND / VOLUNTEERS COORDINATOR



**PAUL BATH**  
TREASURER / PAST PRESIDENT / BOARD MEMBER



**BRUCE WILLIAMSON**  
READING COMMITTEE CHAIR / BOARD MEMBER



**JOAN BURROWS**  
THEATRICAL CONSULTANT / BOARD MEMBER



**BRIAN STEEVES**  
PHOTOGRAPHER & VIDEOGRAPHER



**OLENA IVASHCHENKO**  
WEB / GRAPHIC DESIGNER & LOGO ARTIST

History of the Very Useful Theatre Company

«Theatre helping the community help itself.» This was the motto of the Very Useful Theatre Company, conceived by Ross and Jacquie Bayley and brought to fruition by a small group of their theatre loving friends back in 1993. The intention of which was to help the community in doing the thing they loved most, theatre. But they wanted something different, unique, something rarely if ever done by any theatre community. This led to the idea of the Festival of One Act Plays, originally hosted at Pickering College. In the late 90s, the Very Useful Theatre Company moved its operation and the Festival into a Main Street retail unit, Theatre on Main, where it remained for over a decade. Sadly, both its original founders passed shortly thereafter and the Very Useful Theatre Company went dormant until revived by another of its original founders, John Dowson. He and Rod Urquhart resurrected the one act play festival again.



## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT NEWMARKET SITS ON THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES OF THE WENDAT, HAUDENO-SAUNEE AND THE ANISHINAABE PEOPLES AND TREATY LAND OF THE WILLIAMS TREATIES FIRST NATIONS AND OTHER INDIGENOUS PEOPLE.

### A Special Thank-you to Town of Newmarket

*The V.U.T.C. Would like to also acknowledge the Town of Newmarket for their tremendous support.* From the mayor on down to the night cleaner who stayed late so we could meet and was so patient and nice to us and particularly to Colin Service and Sarah Earnst who helped with anything we asked of them as well Debbie Thorburn creating our box office listing who was always accommodating despite the numerous changes we invariably wanted and of course Janet Raponi who is most accommodating whenever we make a request regarding the hall. Thank you all for making our festival that much better, That is what community is all about! And while not technically working for the town, we'd also like to thank Katy Bennet from the Newmarket Farmers Market for getting us into the market to promote the festival with very little notice and on a wish and a prayer. Thank-you all so much!

***We could not hold this festival and provide the opportunities for the actors, directors and playwrights if not for the generosity of our sponsors. So each show we designate one or two as the show sponsors so we can make sure they are acknowledged.***



The Newmarket downtown B.I.A. has been more than instrumental in the longevity of this festival. Without their support this festival would have perished long ago. After the covid-19 lock down we were hard pressed to find early supporters and yet with little prompting, the V.U.T.C. heard through the proverbial grapevine that they were ready and willing to back us again. They recognized the value to the community this festival was and that it was a worthwhile community asset to invest in. Any business area or downtown area such as Newmarket needs a strong and forward thinking BIA to succeed and one only needs look around Main St these days – compared to how it was only a relatively short time ago – to know they are on the right track.

**Thank- you Newmarket Downtown B.I.A. for your vision and your ongoing support!**

### A Special Thank-you to Lee Wilson from the Very Useful Theatre Company

On behalf of the board of the very useful theatre company I would like to acknowledge and offer a special thanks to the venerable Lee Wilson for hosting not only an informative but actually top-notch, professional workshop this past summer for all aspiring and veteran actors, directors, playwrights and even those trying to glean advanced 'theatre knowledge'. Many theatre-goers here remember the talented Lee as the Founder of the prestigious Resurgence Theatre Company, which in those 10 glorious years, brought many Shakespeare classics to Fairy Lake in the heart of Newmarket. His theatre credentials speak volumes and are just too many to list here, but after Lee directed Hamlet, Twelfth Night and Romeo & Juliet, his peers nominated him for the Christopher Plummer Fellowship Award for his 'outstanding' contribution to classics and Shakespeare in Canada. And Lee, has worked alongside many great actors himself, including the late Christopher Plummer himself. What was never brought to the forefront, was that Lee did indeed attend high school here in Newmarket, grown now to become Assistant Professor of Drama at Windsor University, sharing his vast knowledge of this 'craft'. And this wonderful man came back to our lovely town to host this theatre workshop free to charge as a fundraiser for the VUTC and help promote this very Festival. Well I guess you can take the boy out of Newmarket but you can't take the Newmarket out of the boy! Thank you so much Mr. Lee Wilson!

**-VUTC President Tom Pearson**

***The Very useful Theatre Company would like to thank and acknowledge Almac Industrial Systems for building and donating our festival backdrop holder!***



### **A Word From The President of The Very Useful Theatre Company**

It is an amazing testament to the spirit of a community that this festival is here about to host performances for you. It takes full year to put together such an event from soliciting scripts, which we received a record 212 this year, to reading and selecting finalists, directors, actors, meetings to calling audition, and finding rehearsal locations.

That's precisely when community spirit comes into play. Community partners like the Optimists Club, The Maker's Mark and the Old Flame Brewers Co. step up, as well as the Town of Newmarket by offering up office space for our monthly meetings. It's like having a home base and it is very much appreciated.

And then there are the sponsors. We're a festival that has received no grants at all over the past several years, yet have still managed to grow even through the lock down period - that is certainly something to hang a hat on. But make no mistake, without continued support from sponsors including **The Newmarket Rotary and Optimist Clubs, Juliane Goyette - River Walk Wealth**, the Newmarket downtown **B.I.A., Roadhouse & Rose** funeral home and **Newfie Sisters** home staging, we would have lost a gem.

Community theatre is beneficial in so many ways, including bringing people together to congregate and get to know one another. Through the performances, we not only feel - laugh, cry, live – we are also influenced by our experience, which can translate into how behaviours are shaped and can even influence public policy through the way audiences react as the most significant changes in societies come from public pressure. So it's about entertainment, yes, but it is also about much more.

One of our plays tells the story of two homeless men and what they go through in their every day lives. Do they see food banks and community meals in the same way you perceive them? Can we learn from such a play? Some may and they become influences of change. All the plays contain some kind of message and figuring them out is one of the unique and exhilarating aspects of theatre!

Lastly, I would like to praise and acknowledge our amazing volunteers, many of whom assist all year round, by attending meetings and tasks in between dates, taking up hours of their own personal time, the actors too, directors and playwrights. They are all most passionate about theatre and understand the importance of it in a community. There can be no good nonprofits or charities without good volunteers and we have luckily been blessed with exceptional ones!

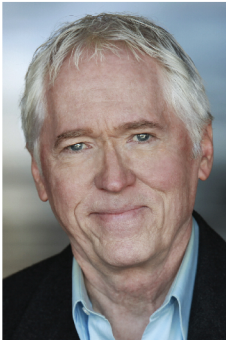
**Please enjoy your festival!**

**Thomas Pearson, President of The Very Useful Theatre Company**



# PROVENANCE

Comedy written by Ian Patrick Williams from Studio City, California; Directed by Bruce Williamson;  
A near-homicidal art collector confronts the forger whose painting he bought at auction.



**PLAYWRIGHT: IAN PATRICK WILLIAMS**

Ian Patrick Williams, a native Chicagoan, co-authored the hit play BLEACHER BUMS and later shared the Chicago Emmy award for the PBS teleplay adaptation. He now resides in Los Angeles.



**DIRECTOR & ACTOR IN THE ROLE OF BENJAMIN COX: BRUCE WILLIAMSON**

Bruce is excited to be a part of his favourite One Act Pay Festival, the 2023 NIFOAP again this year. He has directed and performed here numerous times, directing The Third Life of Eddie Mann, and Death Does Larry, and appearing as Warren in “Warren and The Polar Bear”. He has written plays for, and directed, and performed in theatres in Toronto, and throughout York and Durham region, most recently with InspiraTO Festival at the Alumnae Theatre in Toronto, and many years ago as a member of The Old Town Hall Players right here in this building. He is excited this year to tackle the double challenge of directing and acting in Provenance, and wants to thank Laurie Laing for helping to get the ball rolling, Bob McNeely for his dedication and patience as I switched hats, and to the wonderful Holly Todd Williamson for her inspiring set design, insight, and support.



**ALDO BRANZINI: ROBERT MCNEELY**

I am a member of Act II and act2StudioWorksInc, the studio/performance part of Act II Studio. I have been acting since January 2019. My recent past roles have included the plays Dinner With Goebbels, (Toronto Fringe Festival), Feminists, Fops, & Folderol, (ACT2works, Alumnae Theatre) Love Letters, (ACT II Zoom production), My Favorite Wife (Newmarket Stage Company- ‘Radio Show’ series) , The Next Ivan Sharansky (Very Useful Theatre Company) Blind River, Fresh Picks Festival in (ACT2works, Alumnae Theatre), Faster Than a Speeding Bullet; Room for Cream (Very Useful Theatre Company), Transit (Guelph Fringe Festival and reprising role in 2023 Toronto Fringe Festival), Back Porch Gang (Very Useful Theatre Company). In the time of the pandemic I performed roles in different ACT2works Zoom productions including Canterbury Tales, Melodrama: The Poor of New York; Because Our Hearts Were Pure. I was most recently in a production of A Lysistrata at Alumnae Theatre.

**SET DESIGN BY HOLLY TODD WILLIAMSON**  
**REHEARSAL STAGE MANAGER: LAURIE LAING**

# GET IT OFF YER CHEST

Comedy by Jordana Belaiche from London, England, U.K.; Directed by D. Jay Elektra;  
A sleep paralysis demon comes to visit a young lady and does not get the reaction it expects.  
What then is a demon to do!



**PLAYWRIGHT: JORDANA BELAICHE**

Jordana is a British-Algerian playwright and performer based in London. Their work explores liminal spaces, gender, occultism and the uncanny. Jordana is delighted to have their work showcased at the 2023 One Act Play Festival in Newmarket.



**DIRECTOR & SOUND DESIGN: D. JAY ELEKTRA**

Elektra is thrilled to be back for the Newmarket Festival again this year. She most recently directed No Exit for Theatre Aurora and Silver Dagger for the Village Players. She was a finalist in the Kelowna Fringe Festival for her short play The Waiting Game. As a film and television actor she got to rap with Gregory Harrison in Cadillac Girls and loop for Friday the 13 th . Her first screenwriting outing mashed themes of abuse with Disney in Feed the Birds. A musician, poet and DJ, Elektra is currently working on a book of poetry and a musical about DJ Larry Levan.



**DEMON / JEN: ALEKSANDRA MASLENNIKOVA**

Aleksandra has been involved in the GTA community theatre scene for several years. Favourite stage appearances include Edith Frank in The Diary of Anne Frank (Box Toronto), one-woman thriller show Red Lacquered Box (New Ideas), rowing onstage in a philosophical piece Rowing, Onward (Alumnae), and portraying two different roles in different languages in J.-P. Sartre's No Exit. During the day, Aleksandra works at a Toronto-based dance company. This is Aleksandra's first time taking part in the Newmarket Festival and she is excited to be here.



**GIRL: KAREN SCORA**

Karen is a Dora-nominated actor, improviser and educator. She is very excited to be a part of the premiere production of get it off yer chest, and she hopes you enjoy this smart, funny play!





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## **THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 5**

**SHOW START 8PM**

**Phone Solicitor - The Next Move - Killing Time**

*\*Purchase of opening night tickets also gains you entry to the Kick-off Party which runs from 7 - 8 pm.  
Includes live music, complimentary finger foods and a cash bar.*

## **FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 6**

**SHOW START 8PM**

**The Third Rule - House of the Holy Moment**

## **SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7**

**SHOW START 8PM**

**The Nature of Stars - Queen Mari's Castle**

## **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8**

**MATINEE 2PM**

**The V.U.T.C. Young Company**

**Battle of the Plays - White Family Funeral - Green Secrets**

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# Town of Newmarket

## Minutes

### Main Street District Business Improvement Area Board of Management

Date: Wednesday, July 3, 2024  
 Time: 8:30 AM  
 Location: Streamed live from the Municipal Offices  
 395 Mulock Drive  
 Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7

Members Present: Tom Hempen, Chair  
 Allan Cockburn  
 Ken Sparks  
 Dominic Pede  
 Patricia Carmichael  
 Sheila Stewart  
 Norm Pereira  
 Councillor Kwapis

Members Absent: Avi Wulfand, Vice Chair

Staff Present: E. Thomas-Hopkins, Legislative Coordinator  
 B. Morrow, Grant Coordinator  
 D. Lowes, Business Development Specialist

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM. Tom Hempen in the Chair.

#### 1. Notice

Tom Hempen advised that members of the public were encouraged to attend an Advisory Committee or Board Meeting by viewing the live stream available at [newmarket.ca/meetings](http://newmarket.ca/meetings), or attending in person at the Council Chambers at 395 Mulock Drive.

## 2. Additions and Corrections to the Agenda

The Legislative Coordinator provided the following additions to the agenda:

- Presentation material for item 5.1 - deputation from Lawrence Moule regarding After Hours Big Band; and,
- Closed Session item 8.1 - Board Vacancy
  - Regarding Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees as per Section 239(2)(b) of the Municipal Act, 2001.

Moved by: Norm Pereira

Seconded by: Patricia Carmichael

1. That the additions to the agenda be approved.

**Carried**

## 3. Conflict of Interest Declarations

None.

## 4. Presentations & Recognitions

None.

## 5. Deputations

### 5.1 After Hours Big Band

Lawrence Moule provided a deputation regarding After Hours Big Band including an overview of the upcoming event, past event support and community involvement.

Moved by: Norm Pereira

Seconded by: Patricia Carmichael

1. That the deputation provided by Lawrence Moule regarding the After Hours Big Band be received.

**Carried**

Moved by: Norm Pereira

Seconded by: Dominic Pedo

1. That the Main Street District Business Improvement Area Board of Management authorize a donation of \$120 to the After Hours Big Band for the "The Great Crooners" event on October 26, 2024.

**Carried**

## **6. Approval of Minutes**

### **6.1 Main Street District Business Improvement Area Board of Management Meeting Minutes of June 5, 2024**

Moved by: Norm Pereira

Seconded by: Dominic Pedo

1. That the Main Street District Business Improvement Area Board of Management Meeting Minutes of June 5, 2024 be approved.

**Carried**

## **7. Items**

### **7.1 Sub-Committee Reports**

#### **7.1.1 Marketing**

None.

#### **7.1.2 Working Group**

None.

#### **7.1.3 Events**

Ken Sparks provided a verbal update regarding the recent Canada Day event on Main Street including number of vendors and business revenue.

### **7.2 Parking Update**

Tom Hempen provided a verbal update regarding parking including a recent meeting with staff, making the public aware of parking in the downtown, usage of bollards and parking signage, and parking on the east side of Church Street.

Councillor Kwapis discussed parking over the Canada Day weekend.

### **7.3 Financial Update**

The Treasurer provided a verbal update regarding year-to-date spending of the Board.

### **7.4 Staff Update**

#### **7.4.1 Financial Incentive Program Staff Working Group Update**

The Business Development Specialist provided a verbal update regarding the Financial Incentive Program Staff Working Group including that staff continue to manage applications as received. The Business Development Specialist provided a verbal update regarding the BIA Park and Walk project including the number of participants and revenue generated and spent in the Business Improvement Area.

## **8. Closed Session**

Main Street District Business Improvement Area Board of Management resolved into Closed Session at 8:55 AM.

Main Street District Business Improvement Area Board of Management (Closed Session) minutes are recorded under separate cover.

Main Street District Business Improvement Area Board of Management resumed into Open Session at 9:06 AM.

Moved by: Norm Pereira

Seconded by: Patricia Carmichael

1. That the Main Street District Business Improvement Area Board of Management resolve into Closed Session to discuss the following matter:
  - a. Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees as per Section 239(2)(b) of the Municipal Act, 2001.



**Carried**

### **8.1 Board Vacancy**

## **9. New Business**

### **9.1 Board Appointment**

Tom Hempen advised that Board recommends that Council appoint Mike D'Angela to the Main Street District Business Improvement Area Board of Management.

Moved by: Norm Pereira

Seconded by: Dominic Pede

1. The Main Street District Business Improvement Area Board of Management recommends that Council appoint Mike D'Angela to the Main Street District Business Improvement Area Board of Management.

**Carried**

### **9.2 Digital Main Street Grant Program**

The Grant Coordinator provided a verbal update regarding the Digital Main Street Grant Program including currently available grants and an upcoming grant called the My Main Street Grant.

### **9.3 Central Counties Tourism**

The Chair requested Central Counties Tourism be invited to an upcoming Board Meeting.

## **10. Adjournment**

Moved by: Norm Pereira

Seconded by: Allan Cockburn

1. That the meeting be adjourned at 9:10 AM.

**Carried**

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Tom Hempen, Chair

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Date