

Wingham BIA – Annual General Meeting
Thursday, February 15th, 7:00pm – Knights of Columbus Lounge

Board Members Present: Dave Tiffin, Carolyn Young, Annette Monsma, Doug Kuyvenhoven, Ryan Ferguson, Joey Havers

Absent: Jim Snyder, Mitch Wright

Others Present: Paul Heffer, Tharon Riley, Penny Mulvey, Gary Lisle, Bruce Stainton

1. Welcome – Called to order @ 7PM
2. Approval of 2023 AGM Minutes – **Moved by: Dave Tiffin; 2nd by: Ryan Ferguson - Carried**
3. Report of BIA 2023 Activities – Dave Tiffin
 - a. The Curb Appeal subcommittee under direction of Doug K performed the usual maintenance along Josephine St of clearing weeds on a regular basis. Also did another Waste Free Wednesday across town. Also Looked after ordering and installing the flower boxes at businesses along Josephine St.
 - b. Doug also organized the “Green Team” that sanded and repainted the fencing at the Wingham cemetery.
 - c. Transformed Wingham Community Cash into BIA Bucks. Working with Libro, did a Christmas promotion of 5% discount. Program has been very successful and keeps shopping dollars in Wingham.
 - d. Have had other communities show interest into how our program works.
 - e. Continue to see ongoing demand for postings on the LED sign by Tim Hortons. Have also had requests from other centers as to how this project was planned and completed.
 - f. Participated in the Huron County mural project that’s now installed out the Complex doors.
 - g. Were disappointed to hear the museum wouldn’t be moving to the train station but started initiative with the library to create an Alice Munro display at the local branch in her honor. Work is ongoing with financial support in conjunction with the local library and the Huron County Museum.

- h. The new benches for Josephine St were ordered in 2023 but didn't arrive until the fall. They have recently been installed and the old benches will be refurbished for the trail.
- i. Proposed to Council that the section of the park between Patrick and John St by the splashpad be renamed Vance Park in honor of Leland and Thora Vance for their generous, ongoing donation to the town.
- j. Continued to support the Lions Club Santa Claus parade by paying the insurance costs and bringing in the Seaforth marching band.
- k. Although not BIA initiatives per se we're very happy to see many successful shows at the Town Hall Theatre which bring people into town. And the new sidewalk and crossings at the south end of town are a great addition for the businesses in that area.

Dave thanked the Board for their work throughout the year. Wingham BIA Board is totally volunteer with no paid staff. We are in the approximate 10% of Ontario BIAs that are all volunteer.

- 4. Treasurer – Financial Statements 2023– available on BIA Website. – Doug Kuyvenhoven
 - a. Benches – largest expense for 2023 @ \$23,132.
 - b. Old Benches to be refurbished and considered in budget as well
 - c. Community Event's / Sponsorships – Christmas parade, Insurance, Seaforth Marching Band
 - d. LED sign – primarily hydro costs
 - e. Retail Promotions Revenue – Campaign advertising for retailers
 - f. Curb Appeal Revenue – Flower baskets billed to retailers
 - g. GST/HST Payable – Town files and we pay back

Motion: To accept the 2023 Financial Statements as presented.

Moved by: Joey Havers; 2nd by Carolyn Young – Carried.

- 5. Treasurer – 2024 Budget – Available on BIA Website – Doug Kuyvenhoven
 - a. Main Street Benches Grant - \$7000 expected for RED grant – likely after March
 - b. Transfer from Reserves of \$28,500
 - c. Mainstreet Improvement – Main Street Wi-Fi and video Security Cameras
 - d. Mainstreet Improvement -Repainting of Welcome to Wingham Signs – eta spring
 - e. OBIAA Conference - Occurring in Mississauga this year (mid-April). BIA is intending on sending two.

Motion: approve proposal for 2024 budget to be submitted for approval
Moved by: Doug Kuyvenhoven; 2nd by Annette Monsma – Carried.

6. 2024 Goals

- a. New benches have arrived and are in storage until the spring. Existing benches will be refurbished and placed at locations along the walking trail. Picture?
- b. BIA is assuming oversight of the Town Hall Theatre. A subcommittee has been set up to keep the bar high. Township will do the bookings at least for the time being.
- c. Look into Christmas decorations north of the train tracks. Businesses in that area feel left out, understandably so. The streetlights in that area don't have hydro.
- d. Projects planned for 2024 include: Security cameras along Josephine St., Josephine St Wi-Fi, Work with Alice Munro Library on display cases for Munro artifacts.
- e. F.E. Madill planning to hold a career/job fair on March 27. BIA is assisting with promotion. Afternoon and evening session.
- f. Continue the scheduled roundtable calls with other HC BIAs and HC Ec Dev for information sharing. Also attend OBIAA zoom calls on Tuesdays when possible. OBIAA calls have been good source of information
- g. Will keep notices of programs and training on the BIA FB page.
- h. Curb appeal projects will be ongoing under direction of Doug Kuyvenhoven Will work with Homecoming to have Josephine St looking great.
- i. Retailers are starting to meet monthly to discuss promotion options.
- j. Working with Marks Bros Auto for the refurbishment of the Welcome to Wingham signs at each end of town.
- k. We are planning to bring back a form of General meetings. These were stopped due to Covid and have never returned. Although Board meetings are open and people have an opportunity to speak on an agenda point, it is felt there should be a more general session where any topic can be approached.

- I. Propose to start General meeting at 6:30 the night of a Board meeting. There will not be an agenda, but guests can bring up items for discussion. Once these are dealt with, the general meeting will be adjourned, and we'll move directly into the Board meeting.

7. North Huron Council Update – Reeve Paul Heffer
 - a. Budget is completed
 - b. Projects – Resurfacing of sections of roads between west on Patrick, Edwards, Charles St's.
 - c. Sidewalks at hwy's 4 & 86 are completed
 - d. BIA worked in collaboration with public works on the new bench's installation. Lots of positive comments
 - e. Council thanks BIA for their work throughout the year

8. BIA Award Announcements

New businesses:

- a. Harmony Hearing
- b. Wholesome Raw Pet Food
- c. Syd's Barkin' Beauties
- d. Mane Inspirations
- e. Soul Journey
- f. Kneaded Relief

Civic Improvement:

- a. Arnold Morrison – Jewlz Designs/Annette's Treasures Galore
- b. Murray Simpson – former medical building

Volunteers:

- a. The Green Team – Organized by Doug Kuyvenhoven to paint the metal fencing at the Wingham Cemetery. Team members: Paul and Gail Heffer, Tharon Riley, Jeanette King, Penny Mulvey, Gary and Maureen Lisle. On most days, there were at least 5 working and usually went from about 8:30 until noon. There are 159 sections of fence with an average of 23 bars per section for a total of 3657 bars and they were all sanded first, front and back and then painted, some twice. We figured we spent around 325-man hours on the job and had lots of laughs and fun doing it. I believe we were there about 5 weeks.

Lifetime Achievement:

- b. Bruce Stainton – Bruce retired from the family business in 2023. He took over the business of Stainton Home Hardware from his father, Murray and ran it for several years. Bruce was a mainstay on Josephine St and very involved in business and community events.

- c. Bruce led the Dig Our Downtown retail event when Josephine St was reconstructed several years ago.
- d. That led to regular business meetings and the eventual development of the Wingham BIA
- e. Bruce was Chair of the Wingham BIA for several years after its establishment.

9. Questions and Answer Session

- a. Cruikshank Park Update – new Light fixtures are up. Dedication with Cruikshank family to be arranged. Waiting on new sign, new benches, and accessible picnic table.
- b. Question to Reeve Heffer about some of the resurfacing projects. Basically, comes down to budget and what has been approved. Council would love to do more, but projects must be picked each year.
- c. Town Hall walkways are completed.

10. Motion: Adjourn at 7:50pm – Dave Tiffin; 2nd by Doug Kuvenhoven – Carried.

Chair: Dave Tiffin

Secretary: