



## PRESS RELEASE

### Tête-à-têtes to Take Over Downtown

Belleville, Ontario, June 9, 2021 - This summer for Al Fresco in the Downtown District there will be eight tête-à-têtes - Adirondack-inspired chairs joined together by a table - along Front Street. The chair sets will be painted with beautiful designs by local artists and sponsored by local businesses.

From June 14-21, you can watch the beauty unfold as the chairs are painted in place along Front Street.

From lighthouses to underwater scenes and from abstract designs to specific details, all eight designs will bring joy, colour and liveliness to downtown.

As we begin to reopen after the latest lockdown, we are hoping the tête-à-têtes will help the community come together once again. To appreciate the designs and colour, but also to connect with one another and resume those normal, daily conversations over some local food.

We are thrilled to have this colour be brought to life by our eight talented artists: **Patricia Blackburn, Autumn Davies, Abbi Solomon, María Moreno, David V. Alexander, Cynthia Solomon, Rich Gaudreau** and **Jan Coombs**.

“We are delighted to display the work of local artists for the community to share and enjoy,” says Luisa Sorrentino, Executive Director of the Downtown Belleville BIA. “This colorful initiative is just another piece of the puzzle to establish the Downtown District as a thriving centre of our community and improve the visitor experience.”

These chair sets are made possible thanks to our generous sponsors: **The Richmond Retirement Residence, McDougall Insurance and Financial, École élémentaire publique Cité Jeunesse et École secondaire publique Marc-Garneau, Complete Bookkeeping and Taxes, Doug’s Bicycle Sales and Service, Rian McLaughlin In Loving Memory of Margaret and James McLaughlin, Brady Clark Advisory Group - CIBC Wood Gundy** and **The Salon**.

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**BELLEVILLE**

“The Downtown District is so thankful for the sponsors that are joining us during AI Fresco 2021,” says Kathryn Brown, BIA Chair and Owner of Kate’s Kitchen Shop. “We love that the broader community is getting involved in our summer event and we are so appreciative of their contribution to arts and culture in the District.”

The sets are intended to not only add art to downtown, but to encourage conversation and sitting down to enjoy downtown take out.

To further encourage their use, we will be promoting Tête-à-tête Thursdays. On Thursdays from June 24th until August, head downtown and snap a picture sitting in the chairs. Post it online, tagging @downtownbelleville to be entered to win a new 2021 AI Fresco collectible t-shirt. For a double entry, make sure you have some downtown take out with you in the photo. Winners will be announced on social media every Friday.

To learn more about each chair’s design, we sat down with the artists and sponsors. See the design mock-ups, get to know the sponsors and understand the artists’ visions at [downtownbelleville.ca/teteatetes](http://downtownbelleville.ca/teteatetes).

**For more information please contact:**

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