



PRESS RELEASE

Choose Downtown for Your Holiday Shopping

Belleville, Ontario, December 13, 2021 - The Downtown Belleville BIA is encouraging residents to shop local this holiday season. Shopping locally benefits everyone, and is especially helpful around the holidays for shoppers, store owners, and the greater good of Downtown Belleville.

Any money spent in our Downtown shops and businesses will support that business and contribute to bettering our city. Shopping local often provides the experience of speaking and working with the store owners, who know the store better than anyone else.

Obi's Kitchen at 199 Front Street, Unit 102, has unique, customizable gift baskets that you won't find anywhere else. For something specific, contact the store with a desired theme and price range and they will package a basket for delivery or pick-up.

Supporting Obi's allows shoppers to support other Canadian businesses and farmers, as Obi's ingredients are locally sourced or Canadian made. So, the money trickles down to do so much good for Canada with only one purchase.

Many Downtown Belleville businesses like to support Canada, including **Miss Priss** at 215 Front Street. They sell products from Canadian brands like Michael Tyler, Piccadilly, Iska, and more. Right now, they also have some holiday special products only available during holidays.

By choosing to shop in Downtown Belleville, shoppers also have the opportunity to browse our beautifully lit streets and find all of our holiday decorations. Including the five light installations, all of our bright holiday banners and garland that line the streets.

We have so many experience-based services and consumable gift options that are perfect for those wanting to improve their carbon footprint, and not let any gifts go to waste. A relaxing massage at **We Thrive** or **The Spah**, a new hairstyle from one of our many salons, even a new tattoo or piercing from **Twisted Anchor** or **Feminink**.

Many wonderful family and friend experiences stem from playing games at the kitchen table, and **Scalliwag's Toys** has so many to pick from.

There's even a fun experience in buying from them, if you choose to pick from their secretly wrapped Mystery Boxes at a discounted price.

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If unique is what you're looking for, they have it. Their Wanderhome and Sleepaway Camp games are perfect examples. Both roleplaying games center around storytelling and problem solving instead of combat. Their growing collection of books representing the LGBTQIA community and Indigenous peoples and support of the community showcases the generosity of small business owners.

Shopping locally is especially important during the holiday season, but it isn't something to forget as the new year rolls around. As Stuart—one of Scalliwag's owners—put it, "Shopping locally is so important. This Christmas it helps a lot of local business owners put food on the table, and helps a lot of us stay in business. But ultimately, the true spirit of 'shop local' shouldn't be seasonal. We should always want to shop local, because those businesses generally support local themselves."

Find a directory of Downtown Belleville businesses at <https://downtownbelleville.ca/directory/> and plan your local holiday shopping.

For more information please contact:

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