



PRESS RELEASE-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Welcoming Streets Program Wraps Up: DBIA Calls for Ongoing Community Collaboration

Belleville, Ont., Jan. 28, 2025 – The Downtown Belleville District Business Improvement Area (DBIA) announces that the Welcoming Streets Program will conclude its operations following the expiration of its contract under the Community Safety and Policing (CSP) grant effective March 31, 2025.

Since its inception in 2021, the Welcoming Streets Program has been a cornerstone of support for downtown Belleville, offering innovative and compassionate assistance to local businesses and individuals experiencing challenges related to mental health, substance use, and homelessness. Funded by Hastings County, the City of Belleville, and most recently the CSP grant through Belleville Police Services, the program has made a lasting impact on the downtown core.

As the program transitions to a close, the DBIA will continue to focus on its primary mandate of promoting and supporting local businesses. The organization encourages social service agencies and community partners to continue building on the success of the Welcoming Streets Program by carrying forward its mission of creating a safe, inclusive, and supportive downtown environment.

“I would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the incredible staff of the Welcoming Streets Program for their unwavering dedication over the past



four years. Their work has been instrumental in creating a more supportive downtown environment, and their impact will be felt for years to come.” said Danielle Hanoman, Executive Director of the Downtown Belleville District Business Improvement Area.

“As we celebrate the program’s achievements, we are reminded of the power of collaboration and the importance of continuing this vital work within our community,” Hanoman said.

“The Welcoming Streets Program has truly been a community effort, bringing people together to find solutions and foster understanding and build empathy,” said Sara Behring, Director of Community Outreach. “I’m grateful for the partnerships we’ve built and the lives we’ve touched since 2021.”

To celebrate the accomplishments of Welcoming Streets and the dedication of its staff, partners, and community supporters, the program invites the public to an open-house event on **March 4, 2025, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Belleville Public Library**. This gathering will highlight the program’s journey, achievements, and contributions to the downtown community since its launch.

The Downtown Belleville District DBIA remains committed to fostering a vibrant downtown business environment and looks forward to seeing the continued work of social service agencies supporting the community.

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