



WHAT'S UP DOWNTOWN

CHATHAM
ONTARIO
W I N T E R
2011/2012
FREE ISSUE

www.downtownchatham.com

Welcome

Welcome to the Downtown Chatham BIA's magazine!



Lorie Gore
Executive Director
Historic Downtown Chatham BIA



Lynn O'Brien
Chair
Historic Downtown Chatham BIA

We are very pleased to present the 7th edition of Big Things Are Happening in Downtown Chatham. We've added some new features while maintaining a focus on the businesses in Downtown Chatham.

This magazine is produced entirely in Chatham-Kent. From the photographer to the models and the clothes that they are wearing, from the printer to the design and marketing – all done in Chatham. This is a source of pride for the BIA as our mandate "Shop Local, Shop Downtown Chatham" is our guiding principle.

We encourage you to "Shop Local, Shop Downtown Chatham" and check out the many stores and services in Downtown Chatham where "Big Things are Happening."



Editorial and design: **A. Thiel Marketing & Graphic Design Inc.**
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- Tomorrow, you start life's longest holiday: retirement. You've got no mortgage. How much income do you want, and when do you want that holiday to start?
- Do you want to save for a rainy day?
- Do you want to save for your children's education?

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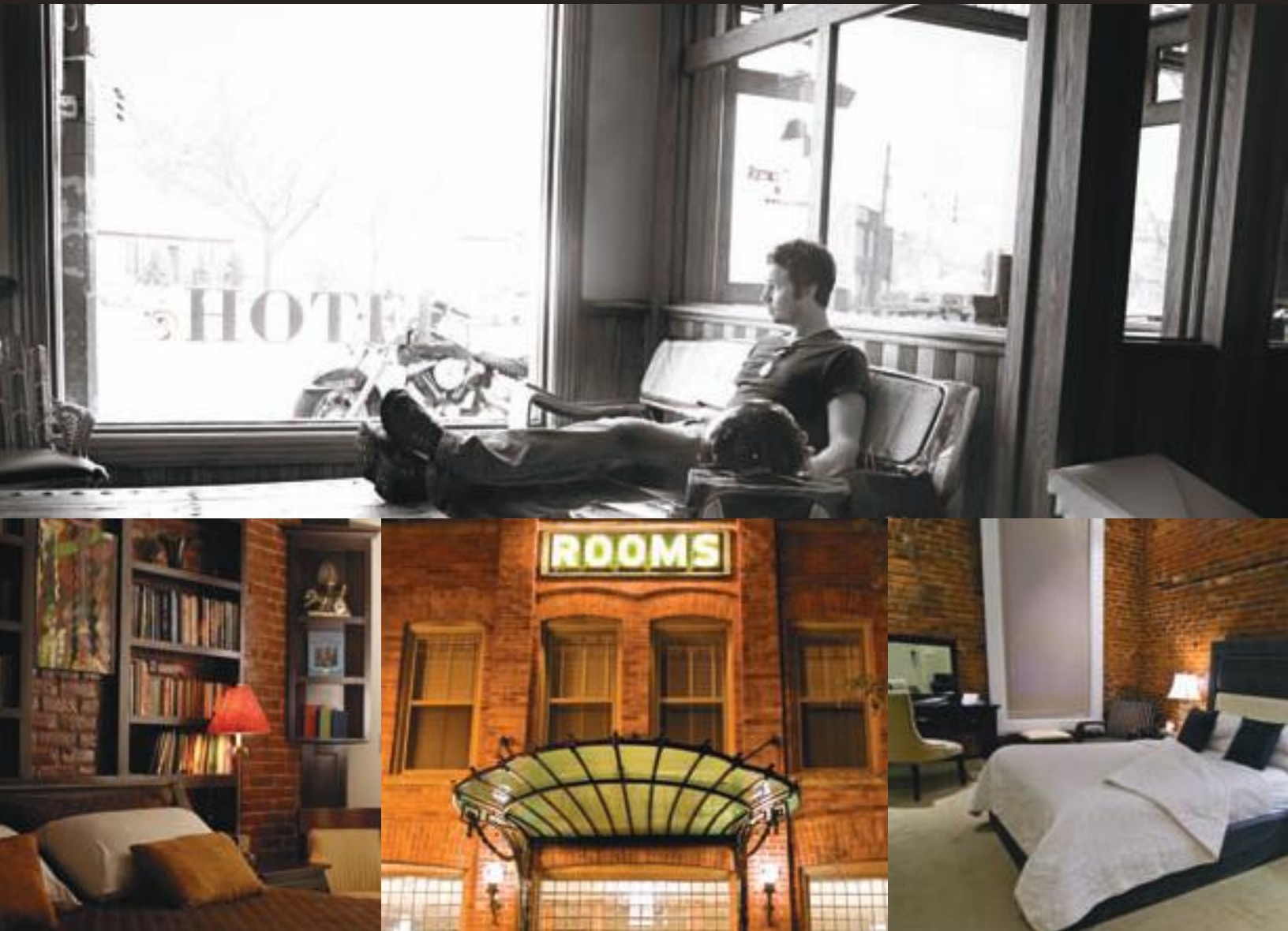
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Downtown Chatham Centre



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New Kids On The King William Block

Retro Suites

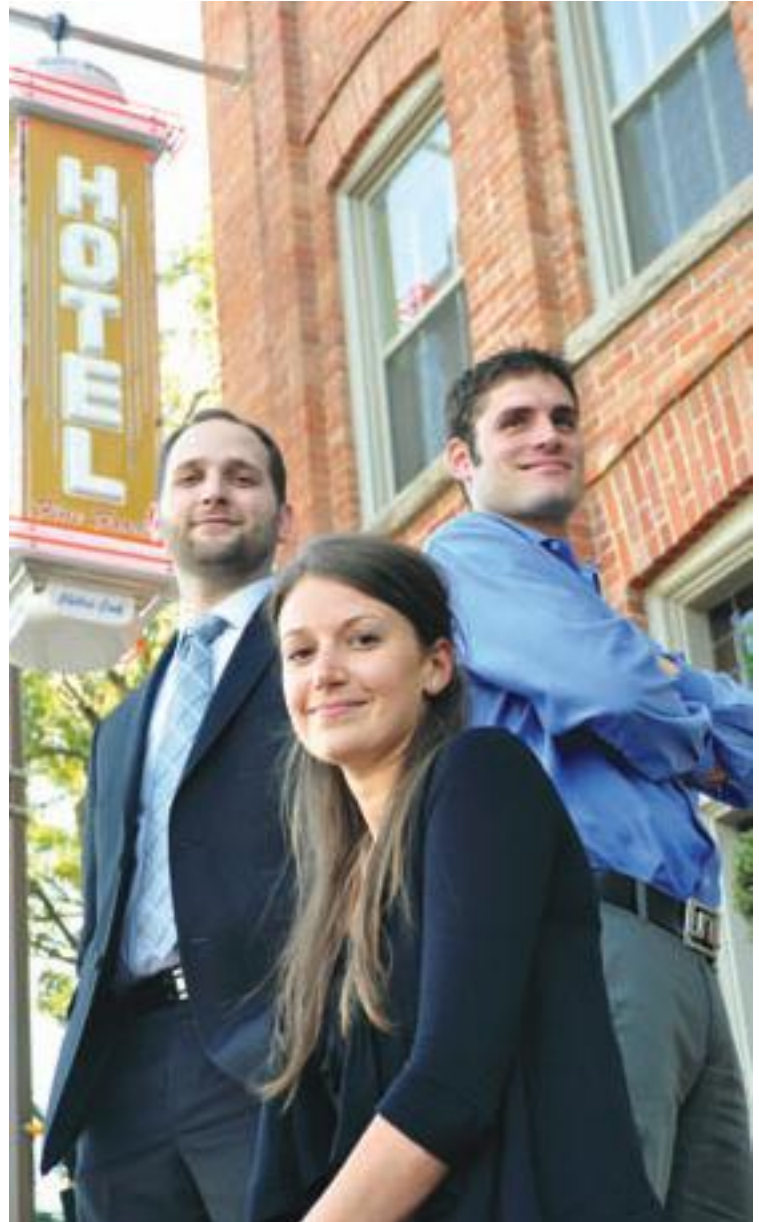


Anyone visiting The Retro Suites Hotel will notice that a new fresh feel has washed over this downtown jewel. Maybe it is all the buzz about downtown, maybe the on going expansion of the property, but most people attribute it to the new faces managing the property. Jessica Myers, General Manager; Pete Tsirimbis, Food and Beverage Manager; and George East are taking the property to an entirely new level.

Pete Tsirimbis can be seen personally interacting with clients in the property's restaurant, The Chilled Cork, on a daily basis. "I am ecstatic that we are enjoying a packed house at lunch again, but we are seeing dramatic increases in all of our F&B outlets," says Tsirimbis. "No single issue can be credited, it is our new Chef Dylan McLay, our outstanding staff and their great attention to details, and just the new vibe that seems to be happening downtown." Tsirimbis is incredibly excited about the upcoming addition to the restaurant. The Cellar [which will be ready in the upcoming month (December 1st, 2011).] will be a new private dining room that will seat up to 40 guests and will be themed as a European wine-cellar.

George East, the latest addition to the management team, comes to the property with a wealth of knowledge in the guest service industry. East was formerly at the Toronto Marriott Bloor Yorkville Hotel where he honed his management style for over five years. Over the years East has won nine international marketing and advertising awards, including the prestigious Gold Quill Award of Excellence and the Canadian Silver Leaf Award.

Jessica Myers, the GM of the property, plans to celebrate Christmas with the addition of nine new suites to the hotel's portfolio. Four of the new suites will be built to suit long-term corporate clientele. The over 1000 square foot suites will have a plethora of services and perks including hardwood floors, jacuzzi tubs, washers and dryers, patios, private entrances, full kitchens with brand new state-of-the art appliances, gas fireplaces, and much more.



This young dynamic trio all work and live downtown and look forward to the new growth that seems to be happening around every corner. They enjoy some exceptional working relationships with other downtown entrepreneurs like Carson and Dan Warrener, the Dekok family, the Purple Pansy gang, and the A. Thiel Marketing group. "Eventually, we are looking to expand The Retro Suites Hotel brand," says Myers, "restoring vintage buildings in other locations across North America." With the contagious positive energy this group has, teamed up with their experience and outstanding work ethic, the sky truly is the limit.



The Chilled Cork Restaurant & Lounge



ATMOSPHERE The dining room has a perfect blend of modern eatery with old world charm. Large windows drench the exposed brick walls with sunlight. By striving for excellence the Chilled Cork has raised the bar in enjoyable dining experience.



FRESHNESS The chefs are dedicated to selecting ingredients based on their quality and freshness. Each dish is prepared daily with the highest of standards.

PREMIUM DRINKS Chilled Cork is known for their impressive wine and also features the best in beer and liquors. The knowledgeable wait staff can recommend the perfect pairing if you are adventurous in complementing your lunch or dinner with something new.

CREATIVITY No menu item is just food. Taste buds are lavished with unique concoctions of flavours and textures. The chefs have a keen ear to food trends and are eager to

share them with Chatham-Kent. A rotating seasonal menu it inspires the chefs to express themselves and ensures that food is seasonally fresh.

SOCIAL The Chilled Cork provides the perfect backdrop for corporate meetings, private dining, celebrations, or relaxing with a drink. With their off-site catering service the level of excellence you expect is available on the go.



FEATURES*

Everyday: Breakfast starting at \$4.00.

Monday - Friday: \$5.00 Lunch Feature

Monday - Saturday: Dry Aged and Kobe Beef Steak

Autumn Feature: Pan Roasted Tilapia: French green beans, toasted almonds, fingerling potatoes, compound herb butter, and chive oil. House Made Tagliatelle Pasta: Wild mushrooms, Baby Spinach, shallots, fine herb, truffle, and simple rose sauce. Dinner every evening. \$15.00.

* Starting December 1, 2011

Visit us online at www.retrosuites.com, under Chilled Cork for our full menu and pricing.

**Photography by Mark Requena*



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The Black Swan Wedding Project was a photo shoot that partnered florist Tricia Xavier and wedding photographer John Lyons with other industry talents for Bridal Confidential Magazine.

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The Get It On boutique offers a wide range of casual and formal wear, as well as the latest trends in jewelry, handbags, shoes, and other accessories. Some of the lines carried include Get It On, Frank Lyman Designs, Nuevo, Samuel Dong, and much more.



The Design Alternative has an amazing selection of truly distinctive and unusual gifts for you and your home. In this space you'll find gifts that range from classic to contemporary, timeless to seasonal, and everything in between. You are guaranteed to find that "just perfect" item that you have been searching for.



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Parsai Immigration Services



Anyone going through the sometimes challenging immigration process now has a valuable resource at their disposal.

Al Parsai, our first RCIC (Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant) and his team now have an office located in downtown Chatham. An RCIC is a person who has gone through a mandatory rigorous training and registration process to become a member of the Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council (ICCRC), a not-for-profit, self-regulatory body created to protect the consumers of immigration consulting services while ensuring the education, competency testing, and discipline of its members.

RCIC's are equipped with the latest information regarding immigration to Canada, keeping up-to-date by attending training sessions and seminars offered by ICCRC or its training partners. RCIC's are permitted by law to offer immigration consultation and represent you to immigration authorities for a fee.

Al (right), his wife Goldie (left), and their three children are happy to call Chatham-Kent home and love being located downtown. "There is so much energy here," says Parsai, "and we are close to so many great restaurants, shops, and other amenities. The Civic Centre, The Chamber of Commerce and The Cultural Centre are all within walking distance. Moving downtown has been a great move for my company."

Al's team consists of five people with plans of expansion shortly. Anyone in need of immigration consulting (temporary work permits, foreign live-in caregivers, permanent residency, etc.) is encouraged to drop by the Chatham office of Parsai Immigration Services, located on the 4th floor of the Waymur Building on Fifth Street. Tel: 1.519.480.0484



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Trish Trudell, the new Owner/Operator of "A New You," is happy to continue to offer the wonderful services at the premier day spa. Trish and most of her team of specialists have been involved with "A New You" since it relocated to the Wellington Street location, and are happy to offer superb services and products such as:

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Beth Peltier - Aesthetics

April Schenk - Aesthetics, Lipomassage, Laser Tech.

Billie Jo Tremblay - Hair Stylist, Lipomassage, Laser Tech.

Sharon Cartier - Hair Stylist

Lisa Maynard - Hair Stylist

Melanie Packam - Hair Stylist

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Lionel's boasts a wide selection in all aspects of menswear regardless of the season.

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Rick Hansen Celebrates 25 Years

Rick Hansen

Twenty-five years ago, with drive and determination, Rick Hansen wheeled through 34 countries in 26 months to complete his now-famous Man In Motion World Tour. His incredible worldwide journey inspired and electrified an entire nation to believe that anything is possible and moved thousands of people to make a difference in their communities.

That same drive and determination has been embraced by the Rick Hansen Foundation— a registered charity established in 1988—to raise awareness of the potential of people with disabilities, accelerate progress in building inclusive communities, and achieve breakthroughs in spinal cord injury (SCI) research.

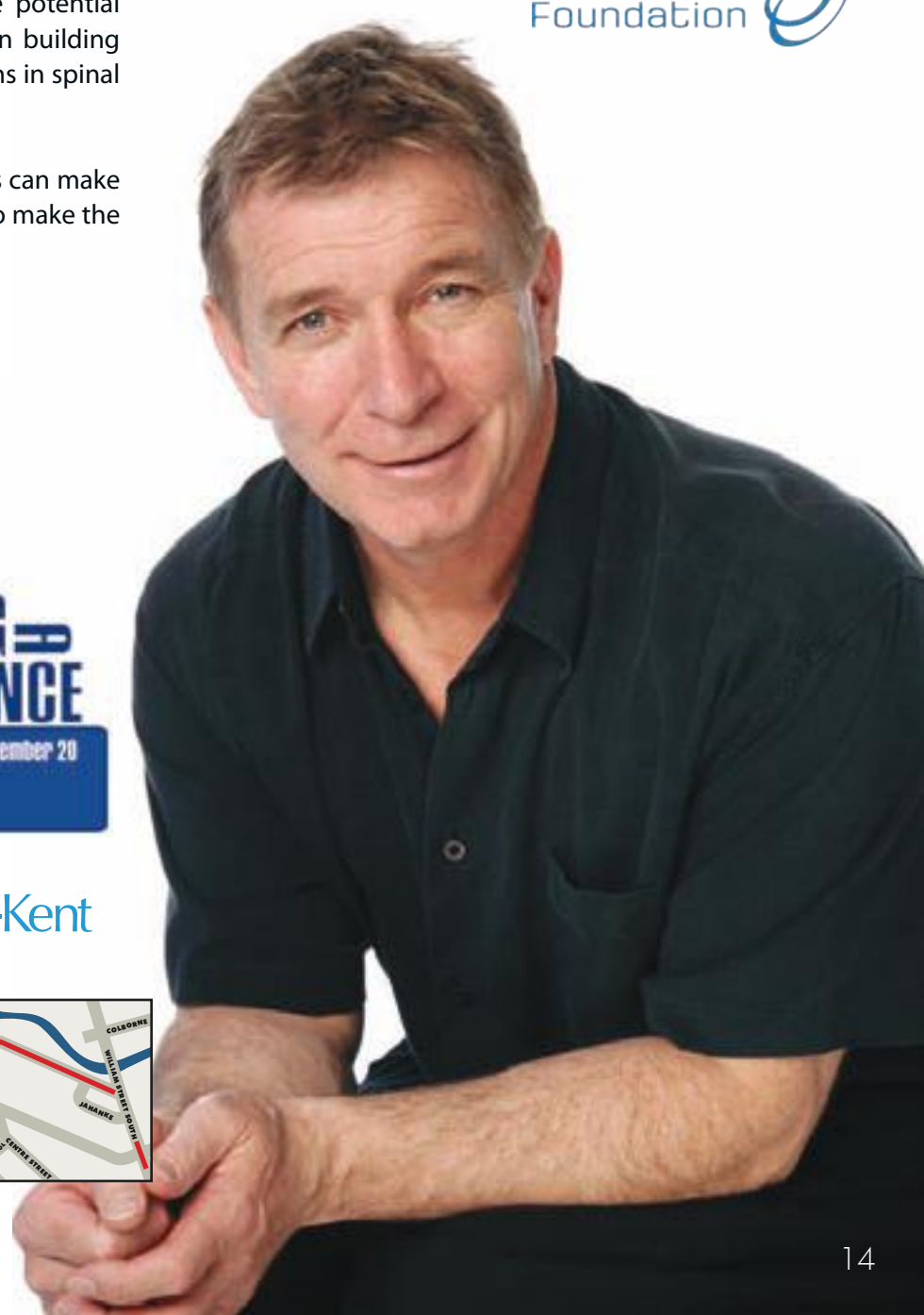
At the heart of our work is the belief that all of us can make a difference. Join us on our journey as we strive to make the world a healthier and more inclusive place.

We are honoured and pleased to have Rick Hansen travelling through downtown Chatham in the Many In Motion event, November 23rd, 2011.

Join our **end of day celebration** on Wednesday, November 23rd, 2011 from 4:00 - 8:15 at the St. Clair College Healthplex. For information call 519.360.1998.



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Treat yourself to the perfect latté when the weather turns blustery and the chill cuts you right through to the bone. Downtown Chatham features some of the most unique café experiences. This holiday season be sure to take a break from the hustle and bustle. Catch up with your girlfriends, pause from the holiday shopping, or even cozy up with a good book. Whatever you're in the mood for, we're sure you will be able to find your perfect cup!



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Dekoko's 44 Fourth Street

Keep things simple. A cup of Dekoko's premium espresso is the perfect drink when you are looking for that caffeine rush during the midday slump. Savour it with a dollop of whipped cream and a dash of cinnamon for extra extravagance.



William Street Café

28 William Street South

For the optimum in indulgence try William Street Café's custom concoctions. The Rocky Road (served hot or cold) is a creamy coffee accented with whipped cream, chocolate, and caramel.

Mamma Maria's Ristorante 231 King Street West

After a fantastic meal at Mamma Maria's don't forget the cappuccino. It is smooth and sweet complete with a treat – the biscotti.



find them here.

Dekoko's Espresso & Dessert Cafe



A desire for freshly roasted coffee is what Christy DeKoning, general manager of the DeKoKo's Espresso & Dessert Café, says brings customers to her coffee bar to find the flavour they favour.

Since opening at their 44 Fourth Street location in May, the café has been offering an extensive menu of unique made-to-order coffees and espresso-based drinks for those who know there's more to a good cup of coffee than cream and sugar.

"We pride ourselves on serving only the finest freshly roasted coffee," said DeKoning. "On top of being freshly roasted, our beans and loose-leaf artisan teas come from Te Aro, one of the top roasters in Toronto. If you enjoy espresso-based drinks, you'll find a quality cup of coffee here."

DeKoning added that the top quality, complex beans that

customers will find at her café are ethically traded, prepared using the same machine that is used for the World Barista Championship, and are used within 10 days of being roasted to ensure freshness.

"Coffee is sometimes compared to wine tasting," she said. "When you're really interested in getting a good cup of coffee it can be hard to find."

"I have a passion for coffee and I was finding that I had to go out of town to get the quality of coffee that I wanted. When I decided I was going to stay in Chatham-Kent, I knew that I needed a space that would be a creative environment and have good coffee."

The creative atmosphere of the café is clear – local artisan goods decorate the space, from metal jewellery to fine art to up-cycled gift-ware and candles. Most of the art is for sale, allowing customers the luxury of browsing while they sip their custom-roasted brew.

For another innovative touch, DeKoKo's offers home-based business owners, artists, designers, students, and established professionals a forward-thinking collaborative workspace called the Perch.

"The Perch is a place to work, network, create and collaborate," said DeKoning. "The Perch is your office without the cubicle walls. It's a place to work when you need a change of scenery or a spark of inspiration."

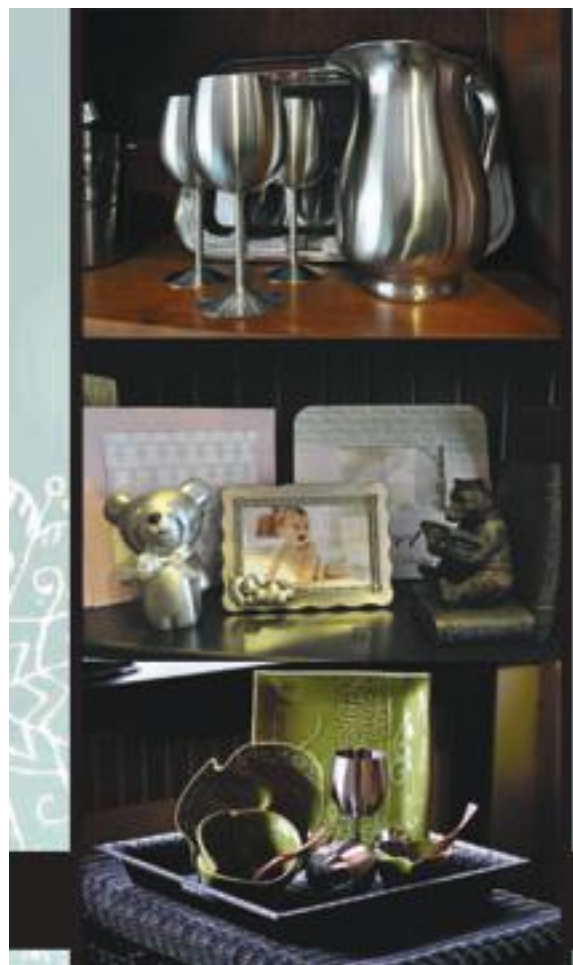
Access to free Wi-Fi, plug-ins and a public laptop is available for customer use.

Having created a discerning urban oasis of culture, creativity, and coffee, DeKoning said that managing her café in downtown Chatham has been a delight.

"I love it," she said. "It's challenging, it's fun, I get to meet a lot of new people and everyone's been so welcoming. It's fantastic. The people that are after the kind of coffee that we create, they're finding us."

DeKoKo's Espresso & Dessert Café is located at 44 Fourth St. and is open Monday to Saturday and is closed on Sundays. For private parties or special occasions, contact the café at 519.351.0606.





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The DCC Goes Platinum

Platinum Boutique



The Downtown Chatham Centre has recently welcomed Platinum Boutique to its family of retail stores.

Platinum Boutique is owned and operated by Rebecca and Ben Fieldhouse who have been married for nine years and are parents to three children. Rebecca grew up in Merlin and has been working in retail within the Downtown Chatham Centre for the past five years. Ben grew up in Beeton, Ontario which is near the Alliston and Barrie area. Ben has a background of working with non-profit organizations and has recently graduated from St. Clair College in the "Business Marketing Program." During Rebecca's time spent in the retail business, she has listened to her customers, gaining a wonderful insight of what they would like to see in addition to all the businesses currently in the mall. And so, with this vision and together with her husband Ben, she opened the new Platinum Boutique.

As you enter Platinum Boutique, you will be impressed with the details in the beautiful surroundings! Rebecca and Ben did most of the painting, decorating, and designing of their new space themselves, along with some professional help and, of course, help from friends and family. You receive a warm welcome as you enter and are then left to browse at your own pace through their many brands available, some of which are Silver, BCBG, UGG and Steve Madden. Most of their brands cannot be found anywhere else in Chatham-Kent and some of the brands, for example Paris Hilton, are even new to Canada. Another interesting line they carry is Whitney Eve.

(She is known for being one of the main cast members on the former reality series, "The Hills", and also was the main star in the former reality series spin-off, "The City.") Rebecca and Ben made the decision to carry just a few pieces of each line of the many different brands so they could offer a better variety, providing something for everyone. But no worries, if you don't see your size they will do their best to get it for you. They also made the decision to keep their price points as suggested from the manufacturers so that they could keep their products affordable while offering you brands that are mostly only found in bigger cities, thus allowing you to shop at home. Platinum Boutique is certainly another feather for the hat for Chatham-Kent!



Platinum

BOUTIQUE



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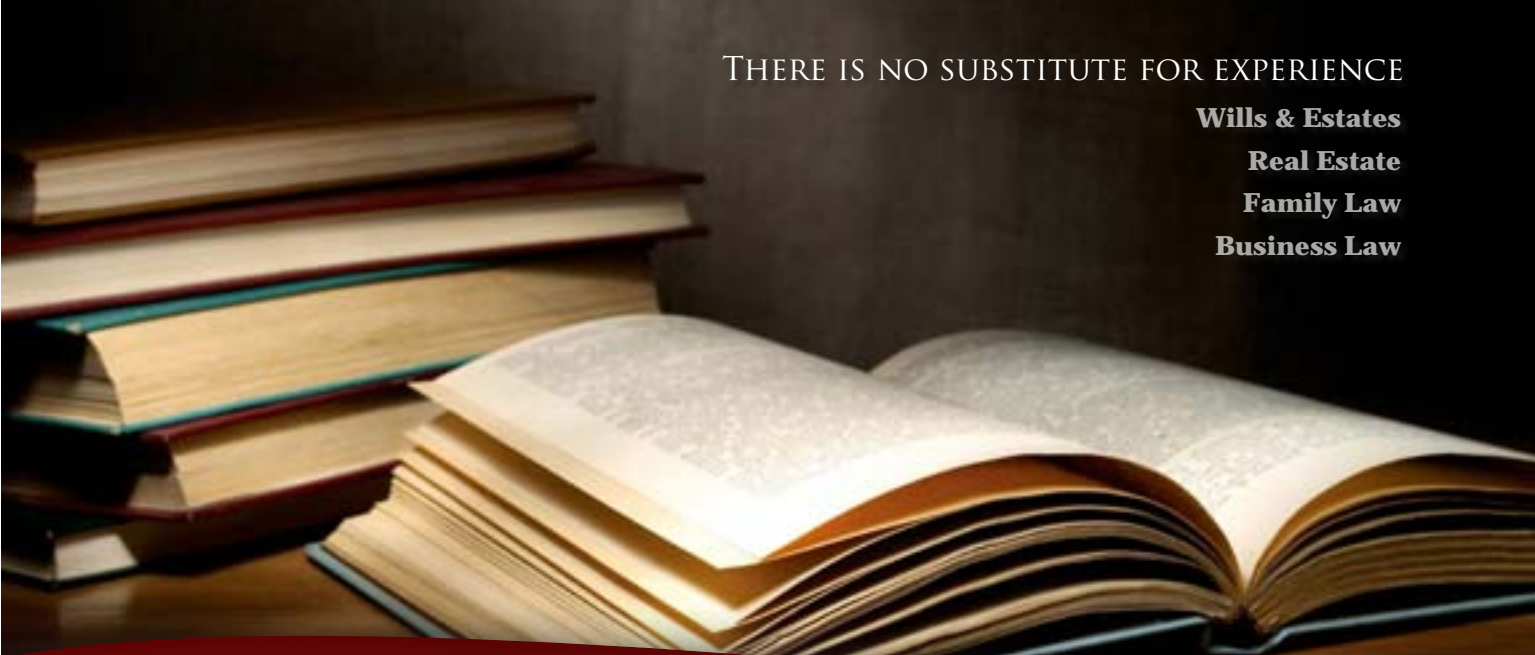
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The Money Exchanger

For those who are concerned about a volatile stock market and a sluggish economy, there may be good value in a visit to The Money Exchanger.

A full service precious metals store that opened its doors in the downtown core mid-September, The Money Exchanger specializes in providing customers with a full range of bullion products – gold and silver coins and bars – in a timely fashion.

According to owner and operator David van Eeyk, investing in world-recognized hard assets is the best way to preserve wealth and peace of mind.

“Gold and silver have maintained their value and been vehicles of wealth preservation for many millenia, and that is still the case today,” said van Eeyk, noting that hard money is not subject to the manipulation and devaluation of paper currencies and that owning hard assets such as gold and silver is one of the best ways to hedge against the economy and inflation. “Things like zero interest rates, high inflation, and the instability of the banks and the stock market can make it very difficult for people to save money, so they’re coming in to The Money Exchanger to protect their wealth.

“You come in with currency and you walk out with gold or silver,” he said. “You can hold on to it, it’s tangible. You can trade it in if you need currency again. Or, just keep it as financial insurance, protection from inflation, and for prosperity.”

After watching the markets for the last 20 years and seeing stock bonds and interest rates go down and the value of gold and silver increasing, Vaneeyk said it was a “no brainer” to open a precious metals store.

He said The Money Exchanger has an open door policy, and that he welcomes individuals to visit the store to find out more about the services provided.

“There’s a lot of misinformation in the market place,” he said. “People are more than welcome to just come into The Money Exchanger to find out what we do, learn about the difference between money and currency and wealth preservation.

“People are often amazed that they didn’t realize the difference between money and currency,” he said. “I’ve made it my goal to provide them with the opportunity to access information and the ability to preserve wealth.”

The Money Exchanger is located at 48 5th Street South and is open Tuesday to Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.





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From Fairy to Princess

Luxe Ladies Fashion Boutique



As soon as you enter Luxe Fashion Boutique, formerly The Gift Fairy, it becomes clear that owners Sherry and Lindsay Molema have a flair for fashion.

Having made the transition from gifts to garments over the past two years, the mother and daughter duo rebranded the boutique early this fall, now offering pieces for an outfit or entire wardrobe that exudes class, style, and individualism.

"My daughter and I are in business together so we have two pairs of eyes to seek out unique styles," said Sherry. "Blending our tastes and styles together, we cater to a wide age range – ladies aged 25 to 85 who want to look good and feel good in their clothes.

"Whether it's the latest pair of jeans, a dressy sweater, a sleek

cocktail dress, or an exquisite evening gown, our customers are certain to find that special something when they shop here."

For the fall and winter seasons, Sherry said Luxe has received shipments of wardrobe staples from Canadian, French, and Italian designers, as well as some fun extras including fur vests, shawls, scarves, and jewellery.

"Our newest shipment included Otazu jewellery," she said. "The designer designs for stars like Madonna, Lady Gaga, and Britney Spears. Each piece is unique, handmade with Swarovski crystals and pearls, and each piece will be retired by the end of the season. They're very special pieces."

Beyond the sparkle of crystals fit for a celebrity, Sherry said that she and her daughter pride themselves on offering customer service fit for a queen.

"These days in an ordinary clothing store, it's hard to find the personal attention that is given to each one of our customers at Luxe," she said. "Each one of our customers gets individual service. We consider it an honour to dress someone and our ladies often comment that they feel as though they've received the royal treatment. It's a great shopping experience."

Now in their fifth year of business in the downtown core with a well-established clientele and a new spot on CKSY delivering the "Fashion Minute," Sherry said she and her daughter are looking forward to continuing to offer customers high-fashions and hospitality.

"The downtown is really growing," she said. "We're in a good block here, this is the fashion block. There are new stores coming in, new businesses – it's exciting."

Luxe Fashion Boutique, formerly The Gift Fairy, is located at 137 King Street West and is open Monday to Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is closed on Sundays.



**Queen Anne
architecture
& early row housing
are rarely found in
the Municipality of
Chatham-Kent**



Historic Living Seconds from Downtown

John Hundt



383 - 395 King Street West condos are located on the north side of King Street West between Lacroix Street and First Street. The row of seven, two-storey red-brick residential townhouses were constructed circa 1895 and have recently been designated as a historical structure. These units are associated with Sylvester Hadley and his son, William, both members of a prominent Chatham family. Sylvester moved to Chatham from Toronto in 1848 and after arriving in Chatham he established a lumber mill, the successful S. Hadley Lumber Co. His wide-ranging purchases of lumber were made on the shores of Lake Huron and Georgian Bay and sold chiefly in Kent County, and the success of his planing mill allowed him to carry on his extensive business. Sylvester Hadley also served on Town Council for over 30 years and as Mayor from 1844 to 1885. Through his influence in both

Chatham's industry and politics he was able to involve his ten children in his success. Sylvester's son, William, was integral in the operation of S. Hadley Lumber Co. and it was through his position there that he was able to secure the means to construct 383 - 395 King Street West.

Maps indicate that in 1875 the Howard & Northwood Brewery and Malt house was located on this property, however, burnt down in the 1890s. It is believed that William Hadley built this structure in 1895, after the fire. Since its construction, and through to present, the structure has been occupied as residential rental units. In 1956, Judge Clarence Arnold purchased the row of houses and split each unit into two, creating the opportunity for more rental space, with the exception of unit 395, which he lived in himself. To date, the property has changed hands very few times, having only four owners, with John Hundt being the present owner.

The units deliver a Queen Anne style of architecture, and early row housing of this style are rarely found in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent and more commonly found in larger cosmopolitan cities. They offer a private park-like setting and are within walking distance to the downtown core. They are surrounded by a rich array of architectural styles that reflect the era and quality of their construction. The west side of the property is flanked by the beautiful Thames River, providing picturesque views for its tenants. These units are beautiful, inside and out!

For further information on this property please contact:
John or Ramona Hundt - 519.436.7246 - john.hundt@f55f.com



Great Gift Giving Ideas

Gift giving can be a hard task. Don't let yourself get stressed out worrying about where to go, what to get, or if they might have it. Downtown Chatham has a handful of unique shops with some of the most interesting finds. Everything from holiday themed items and clothes to year round treasures. It is guaranteed that you will find that perfect gift with lots of "wow" factor.



The Purple Pansy Flower Boutique

46 William Street South

FEATURE ITEM: **Christmas Reindeer**

These cute figurines make a great addition to any Christmas style. Perfect as a centrepiece or on a mantel.



The Loft

137 King Street West

FEATURE ITEM: **Smart Touch Gloves**

Give the gift that is the perfect fit this winter. Operate your handheld devices with ease and comfort.



Sears

100 King Street West, in the Downtown Chatham Centre

FEATURE ITEM: **Ricardo Cuisine 2 in 1 Cutting Board**

Foodies and chefs alike love this cutting board created by a Canadian company, Ricardo Cuisine. This set includes a large bamboo board and an anti-bacterial polypropylene. The Bamboo board incorporates divots on the side to slide a plate underneath or as handles to use as a serving platter.



find them here.



The Purple Pansy Flower Boutique

46 William Street South

FEATURE ITEM: Pear Decorations

These unique decorations are a great accent all year long. Perfect as a centerpiece or a kitchen accent.



Ella Minnow Pea

160 King Street West

FEATURE ITEM: Playmobil

Welcome someone into the wonderful world of Playmobil. With a wide range of figures and play sets available there is no stopping a child's imagination.

Home Needs

100 King Street West, in the Downtown Chatham Centre

FEATURE ITEM: Impression Collection

Rather than giving someone slippers what about a modern rug to warm up their wood floors. These plush rugs are imported from Turkey and come in all shapes and sizes to fit any décor.

Barrypatch Collectibles

205 King Street West

FEATURE ITEM: Crystalite Bohemia Decanter

This is a perfect accent for a bar top. This functional decanter is a work of art and will grab the attention of all your friends.



Sears

100 King Street West, in the Downtown Chatham Centre

FEATURE ITEM: Perfume

This season's fragrances created by the latest chart toppers. Perfect for the girl in the headphones. Purr by Katy Perry is a compliment of citrus, peach, apple, and green bamboo. Reb'l Fleur by Rihanna has a delicious scent of fruits and a hint of island flowers. Beyoncé's latest fragrance is Pulse. It is about finding the power outside with pear, bergamots, and Blue Curacao liquor.

Downtown Welcomes New Frenzd

Frenzd Tapas & Martini Lounge



Named for its focus on friends and trends, the Frenzd Tapas and Martini Lounge has been offering comradely epicureans a place to meet over tapas treats and martinis since opening its 216 King Street West doors early fall.

"It's very casual but a little retro," said Jen Macdonald, who owns Frenzd along with Tina Mesquita and Len Acampora. "It's a nice, calm, relaxed atmosphere where you can come in for a casual dinner and stay for a couple drinks. We've established that 25 + age group. It's a really nice mix of people."

"We've embellished the walls with the word 'friends' in every language, and offer a menu that invites our tables to come together over foods from all parts of the world," said Macdonald. "Our tapas have been going over especially well. Everyone's into the small foods that you can share. Our shared plates – spicy shrimp on rice cakes, scallops, coconut shrimp, and empanadas to name a few – really encourage conversation."

Frenzd also offers a full menu of entrees, from Mediterranean foods to Arabic features and options with an Asian flair. All of the tapas and entrees are freshly prepared in-house.

A wide variety of libations are available to fuel friendly conversation, including a top 25 martini list.

"Our customers can choose a martini from the top 25

martini list or if they have a favourite, our bar staff is happy to accommodate custom requests," said Macdonald. "We serve cocktails and blended drinks, all domestic beers, some imports, and have five beers on tap. And to celebrate the Christmas season we're going to bring in some specialty tap items."

"We also have a really nice wine list which includes a lot of reserves; you can try a glass or buy the bottle," she said. "The wine list includes varietals from Spain, Portugal, Argentina, Chile, and California to compliment food items inspired by the same regions."

With an established dinner rush and a full house on Friday and Saturday nights, Macdonald said she looks forward to operating the lounge as the downtown continues to expand and "become something special." For its part Macdonald said that Frenzd will begin offering feature nights in the New Year where customers can expect regular specials on certain nights. The lounge will also be promoting itself as a venue for business meetings and other private functions for parties of over 20, and promoting other special entertainment events including salsa dancing lessons in the summertime.

"In the meantime, we're going to continue to offer that really casual relaxed atmosphere where everyone can come and have a good time," said Macdonald. "We're where friends meet in downtown Chatham."

**Photography by Mark Requena*

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2. Cacao contains extremely high levels of magnesium, which help to support the heart, increase brainpower, build strong bones, relax muscles, and increase alkalinity.
3. Cacao has a low glycemic index and therefore doesn't cause

your blood sugar levels to rise and crash. A square of dark chocolate everyday can actually help to bring you into balance and reduce cravings for other forms of refined sweetness.

4. Cacao helps to increase your energy level and mood while reducing stress levels. Overall, chocolate makes us feel good. There is no questioning that!

5. The properties of cacao are even beneficial to the cardiovascular system because they can suppress the formation of blood clots. Be sure to fill your heart and your blood full of chocolate this month and all year around.



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Something Sweet

When the weather turns cold nothing brings more comfort than handmade confections. Downtown is lucky enough to not only have one amazing chocolatier but four! Eve, Bella, and Laura are your answer for decadent truffles, gift baskets, and fruit arrangements. Now if you're in the mood for English or vintage candy, Sugar Fix Candy Shop has you covered. So the question remains... what will you get?



Sugar Fix Candy Shop

235 King Street West

FEATURING: **British Candy**

Sugar Fix Candy Shop specializes in candy buffet bars, personalized wedding and birthday favours, corporate orders, and custom gift baskets. We also make all of our own candy apples, caramel apples, cotton candy, and candy kebabs.

Eve Chocolatier

14 King Street West

FEATURING: **Candy Cane Bark**

A holiday favourite indulgence, creamy Swiss white chocolate bark topped with all-natural candy cane pieces. The delightful tin packaging makes it a great gift.



Laura Secord/Hallmark

100 King Street West, Downtown Chatham Centre

FEATURING: **No Added Sugar Truffles and Chocolate Bars**

Laura Secord is Canada's largest and best known chocolatier, selling premium chocolates, ice cream, and other types of candies.



Bella Chocolatier

157 King Street West

FEATURING: **Edible Fruit Arrangements by Bella**

Bella Chocolatier is a gourmet chocolate shop offering handcrafted Chocolates, Truffles, Barks, Brittles, Fudge, Wedding and Event Favours, as well as Edible Fruit Arrangements and Chocolate Baskets.



find them here.

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Ella Minnow Pea

kids boutique & toy cupboard




Lesli, Sandy & Lauren invite you to visit them at Chatham-Kent's premier toy store. Find the perfect toy for a truly unique birthday gift not normally carried by department stores. Ella Minnow Pea also has a wide selection of retro-themed toys, scholastic crafts, games, puzzles and much more!

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Ella Minnow Pea Kid's Boutique and Toy Cupboard



Nestled on King Street West is Southwestern Ontario's premier toy store. Carrying everything play, Ella Minnow Pea Kid's Boutique and Toy Cupboard hand picks engaging toys, baby gifts, and clothing. Specializing in award winning toys, they offer products of quality & safety that ignite your child's imagination without hurting the wallet.

What's Up Downtown talks with Lesli Jeffery, owner of Ella Minnow Pea, about toys and got a few tips for this holiday season.

Lesli, the winter holidays are fast approaching. Do you have any recommendations for people looking for that special toy that stands out from the crowd?

We are especially fond of the Playmobil or Lego play sets, Melissa and Doug's line of career dress-up clothes, the life-like Middleton Dolls and we find our popular wooded barns and stables are always a hit. At Ella Minnow Pea we have fun, imaginative toys and are able to recommend anything for any age.

What about stocking stuffers. Any suggestions?

Melissa & Doug have done a great job with their line of small crafts for boys & girls; they are that are entertaining and functional. Other popular stocking stuffers are the Lego and Playmobil figures mystery boxes. Kids enjoy the surprise of finding out what collector figure they received as you don't know what you get until its open.

You have a large selection of wooden toys, is there a growing demand for them?

I found that the new generation of young parents specifically choose wooden toys. They are conscious of the devastating effects that plastic toys have on our landfills and are aware of the health issues that surround plastic toys. We find that parents are looking for toys that are easier to clean and the wood wipes down well.

You mentioned landfills there; do you have any tips on keeping the holidays green?

A number of companies are turning to hanging tags for toys rather than wasteful, costly boxes. Manhattan company is a good example of a company that makes an effort to reduce waste, and The Green Toy Company uses recycled packaging. The easiest way to keep it green is by reducing your waste and recycling the cardboard and plastics when the package has been unwrapped.

Can you tell us about what the "Oppenheimer Best Toy Award" and "Parents' Choice Award" are?

With all our toys we pay attention to the reviews parents give about them. With awards like Oppenheimer and Parent's Choice they are respectable and have become benchmarks of excellence to consumers. These awards have been adjudicated by experts in child development, children's literature, and education to find toys that promote learning, self-esteem, and reading skills.

Now I know a lot of parents are looking for things that make learning a new language fun. Can parents and education providers find French toys at your store?

Yes. We carry games that teach vocabulary through play. Playing games is a great way for children to get familiarized the language and learn about the different accents that accompany the words.

What makes your store different from other toy stores out there?

Ella Minnow Pea is a locally owned, independent business. Not being a franchise empowers us to choose the best and most imaginative toys available rather than stocking something based on volume deals and discounts.

At the store we know the importance of childhood and bring fun, quality, award winning toys to your child. We encourage imaginative play because a child should play with a toy rather than the toy playing for the child.



Welcoming all Kindz

All Kindz Of Kopies

Local printing company All Kindz of Kopies may specialize in high-speed copying services, but the business is far from being a copycat of other commercialized copy-centre chains.

Newly relocated to its downtown location at 163 King Street West, the printing shop's boutique storefront bears the slogan, "the printer for the creative soul," a moniker that owner Mandy Jacobs-Protopapas attributes to their expanding selection of creative printing services.

"I like the feel of our new downtown location," said Jacobs-Protopapas. "We were very commercialized at the other location. It looked like a Kinko's or a Staples. This feel, with the brick walls and the unique lighting, is a lot different than what we've had in the past.

"The downtown area is a unique, creative place and that's something we pride ourselves on being: unique and creative in business," she added. "We're known as the printer for the creative soul."

Coming from a background in graphic design, Jacobs-Protopapas merged her personal printing business, You're Invited Wedding Stationery, with All Kindz of Kopies when she took over ownership of the business in 2010.

Now, along with a staff who collectively have experience in graphic design, scrapbooking, and secretarial services, Jacobs-Protopapas operates the sister companies out of the new downtown storefront, offering business printing solutions as well as full-service wedding and event stationary design services.

"(You're Invited) strives to make each product as unique and extraordinary as the event or person for which it is created," she said. "Specializing in couture wedding invitations, announcements, and corresponding event stationary such as programs and menus, You're Invited focuses individualized attention on every part of the project."

Inspired by a "love of paper," Jacobs-Protopapas added that she continues to expand the printing portfolio of the business.

"We recently got into large-format printing. This produces high quality, durable posters, signage, banners, and graphics on a wide range of media, from canvas to vinyl. We can add

life to any photo," she said. "They make great gifts.

"No matter what type of printing service you require, All Kindz of Kopies can help."

All Kindz of Kopies is located at 163 King St. West and can be contacted by phone at 519.351.5399, by fax at 519.351.4883 or by email at mandy@allkindzofkopies.com. Store hours are Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays by appointment.



Left to right:
Claudette Gutteridge, Staff & Mandy Jacobs-Protopapas, Owner




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Holiday Unwind

It's the most wonderful time of the year. The wind is cold but that never keeps people's spirits down. There is an energy in the air and calendars quickly fill with parties and events. Keep up with the latest concoction this season with some of downtown's recipes. They are guaranteed to become yours... in your holiday celebration.



Freundz Tapas and Martini Lounge

216 King Street West

FEATURE DRINK: **Christmas Martini**

Try this classic dry gin martini with a hint of peppermint.

Elephant's Nest

149 King Street West

FEATURE DRINK: **Alexander Keith's Red Amber Ale**

Its dark amber hue and rich red overtones provide smooth and well-balanced ale with a hint of caramel. Be sure to enhance the flavours with a slice of lime!



Glitters Restaurant

162 King Street West

FEATURE DRINK: **Classic Caesar**

This Canadian invention

is always a great choice!

Chilled Cork

22 William Street South

FEATURE: **Any of our Ales, Pilsners, Lagers & Wheat Beers**

Try some of our handcrafted premium beers as unique and refreshing as the region they're from.

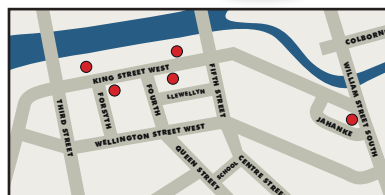


Mamma Maria's Ristorante

231 King Street West

FEATURE DRINK: **Mauro's Salamander Martini**


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5 Questions for Hope

Mayor Randy Hope



1. What does downtown Chatham mean to Chatham-Kent?

Downtown Chatham is really becoming an important brand for Chatham-Kent. It seems like it is becoming a district that has many facets of dining, entertainment, and shopping. Downtown Chatham is central for the municipality and is developing a large venue of activities. With recent and future development planned for the area, I think downtown Chatham may be an early indication of what is in store for the entire Municipality.

2. What is your vision for downtown Chatham?

I would like to see an overall increase of people working and living downtown. The downtown area should be very walking friendly, and the implementation of some sort of transit system in the upcoming years is really going to be important. I really like how downtown is now becoming a destination, almost an adventure, with a “boutique” feel manifesting itself in everything from shops to hotels. I think in the upcoming years we should also look at a plan for

some sort of riverfront development, and be sure to market downtown to new business where the “boutique” brand really makes sense.

3. What is your favourite food, sweet & coffee downtown Chatham?

That is a somewhat loaded question. Let me say that I have had outstanding meals and beverages at all of the restaurants downtown, and have thoroughly enjoyed them all. I am not a fussy eater and enjoy trying new things; downtown Chatham has a great variety of all kinds of foods that I enjoy on a regular basis.

4. What is your favourite event held in downtown?

I have always had a soft spot for Retrofest. The theme of the event really embraces many of the elements of downtown Chatham, and the entire municipality. The historical aspect, the classic car element, and the boutique shopping feeling, all throw you back. The downtown BIA has really been instrumental in developing Retrofest into one of the top 100 festivals in Ontario. I look forward to leading the parade each year and can hardly wait for May to see what will be new for 2012.

5. What do you think of downtown becoming a dining, entertainment & shopping destination?

I think that it is definitely a step in the right direction. Many investors look at developing projects in a certain districts - districts are just a better way to brand yourself. The same holds true for our traditional communities. Each can make the most of its own personality and attractions. Someone looking at wanting to develop a big box store may be partial to one area, someone opening an auto dealership maybe partial to another, but anyone looking at developing an outlet that would feature specialized service and higher end goods would have to consider downtown Chatham now. Even companies looking at locating offices in downtown now realize that there is an added value to being downtown. Being close to parks, cultural outlets, restaurants, and even retail outlets, enrich the overall experience of employees working for a company downtown, this is great potential selling point that I think is just starting to be realized.

Calling All Shutterbugs



Downtown Chatham BIA's PHOTO CONTEST

Grab your camera and be sure to get in on the
Downtown Chatham BIA's photography contest!

Winner receives a \$100 Gift Card to your choice of advertiser
in this Winter 2011/2012 issue.

Share your best photo of Downtown Chatham to be in the running for this prize.
The judges will be two of Downtown Chatham's finest photographers; Julie Rhodes Photography
and Jason Korkidakis of Enlighten Studios.

All photo submissions must be entered by January 31st, 2012 to:

Historical Downtown Chatham BIA Office

In Person (printed): 237 King Street West, Chatham, ON N7M 1E6

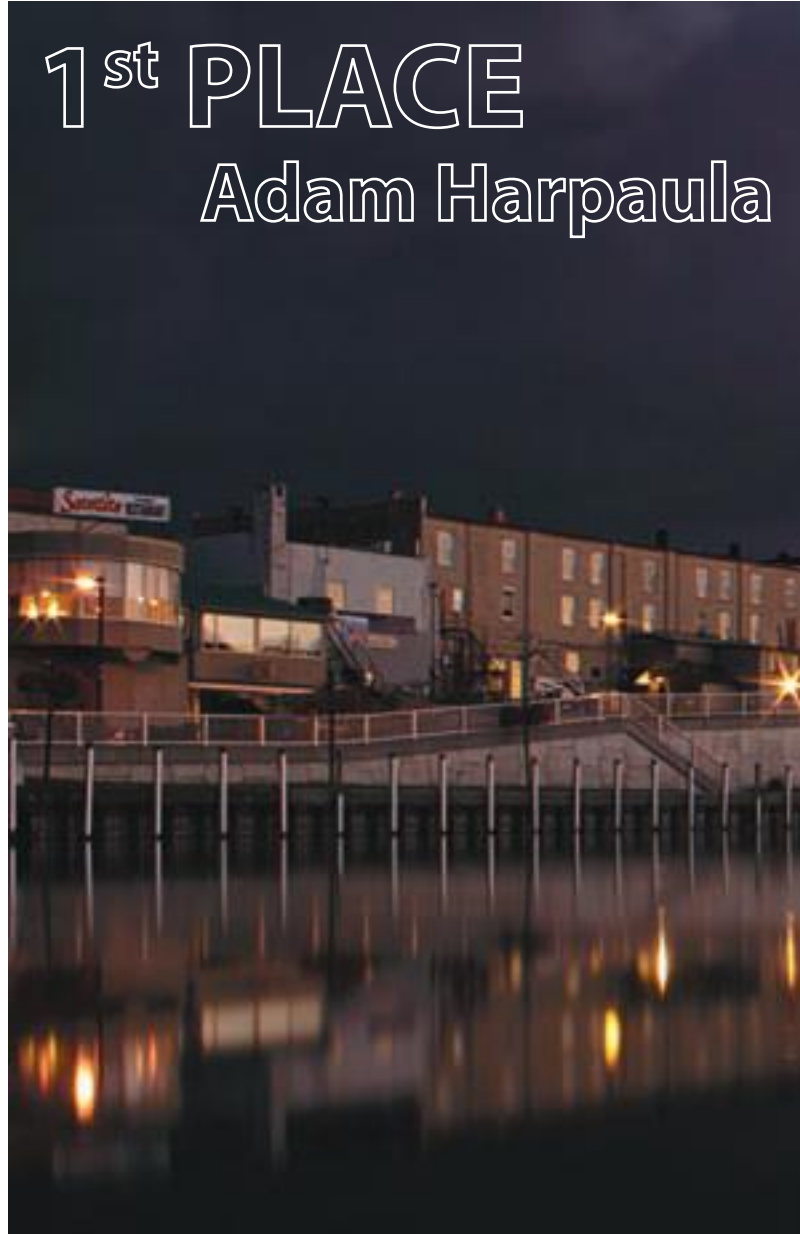
E-mail: info@downtownchatham.com (subject line "BIA Winter 2011/12 Photo Contest")

focus on DOWNTOWN

The Chatham BIA called out to the community to share their best photo of Downtown Chatham. The response was phenomenal. Local shutterbugs captured everything from local celebrations to finding hidden features that are often forgotten. Judges Julie Rhodes of Julie Rhodes Photography and Jason Korkidakis of Enlighten Studios had their work cut out for them.

After much deliberation the winner of BIA's first ever photography contest is Adam Harpaula. His photo was not only a visually stunning composition but he captured the beauty of the downtown's riverscape. Find more of Adam's photos on Facebook under Lighten-Up-Photography.

1st PLACE Adam Harpaula



Honorable Mention:
Bryan Geleyne's playful busker
crowd at this years Retrofest. *(above)*

Honorable Mention:
Jason Findeis' focus downtown's
details. *(left)*

Honorable Mention:
Jason Stokley's Night at
Retro Suites Hotel complete
with a vintage Porsche *(right)*



Winner of the BIA's First Ever Photo Contest is...



Honorable Mention:
Mary Bishop's sepia of the downtown
cenotaph. *(left)*

Honorable Mention:
Frank Doyle's blast from
the past of 5th & Wellington
from 1979. *(right)*



There are always
two people
in every picture:
the *photographer* and the *viewer*
~ Ansel Adams

Morgan's House of Fashion



Anyone who loves women's fashion and shops downtown would have certainly noticed that Morgan's House of Fashion has recently relocated.

The new store is double the square footage of the old location. The beautiful window frontage is impeccably decorated to feature some of the most stunning clothing ensembles available in Southwestern Ontario. The decor throughout the store is only bested by the world class service offered by Rene Borrowman and her staff.

Morgan's, named after Rene's daughter, has been an icon in the downtown Chatham fashion scene for many years. With over twenty years of experience you are guaranteed personalized service and attention to detail. Morgan's carries exclusive brands such as Marc Cain, Myka, Cambio, Sarah Pacini, and many more.

"I love the look and feel of downtown Chatham," says owner Rene Borrowman, "our downtown is truly the heart of Chatham-Kent. It has been amazing to see it transform over the past few years, with the restoration of some of our heritage buildings and with so many new businesses opening and thriving. We also really enjoy the new relationships with our neighbors; our section of King Street seems to be becoming branded as 'the ladies fashion district'."

Rene invites everyone to drop by and see the new location at 167 King Street West.

"I am so thankful for the relationships we have fostered over the years. We truly cherish the fact that many of our clients have become more than friends - they are almost family. We really are looking forward to providing current clients, and new ones, with a more extensive selection and our usual incredible level of service, all from a brand new location!"





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Downtown Chatham

centre

Downtown Chatham Centre



Excitement is in the air once again in downtown Chatham. After months of speculation and rumour Lynn O'Brien, General Manager was please to confirm that Dan Warrener has purchased Downtown Chatham Centre.

The boarding is up and Dan is pleased to announce his first major tenancy of approximately 32,000 square feet will be the Union Gas IT department. Early in 2012 there will be over 200 new faces daily coming to the shopping centre. "They will greatly add to the daily traffic flow to the mall and create demand for additional retail opportunities," said Warrener.

The new office space for the utility giant, which Warrener hopes will be complete is the first of a number of major plans for revitalization. "From a visible construction point of view, we are starting with a few minor changes that will include new lighting, some changes to the parking flow, and adding canopies over the two bridges from the parkade to the second level of the mall," he said.

Warrener also plans to create a new King Street entrance to the mall that will enter the facility close to the escalator area. "We will be adding approximately 150 feet of retail space windows to the King Street facade of the mall near the new entrance and this construction will create six to eight new retail space opportunities," he said.

Creative fashion accessories, clothing, and footwear store Ardene has already doubled its existing square footage, and Bluenotes, Charm Diamond Centre, and Bell Mobility have plans to re-open new and improved stores as part of the revitalization. Platinum Boutique has opened a sleek new store on the first level, offering brands and styles that shoppers may have had to travel out of town for in the past,

and Lowerys gift store, an authorized dealer of Pandora jewellery, giftware, and home accessories has also opened shop.

"While this process does not happen overnight, it is very encouraging to see it happen one step at a time," he said. "I congratulate every business owner, big and small, that helps make the revitalization happen.

"To compliment the exciting new shopping opportunities coming to the Downtown Chatham Centre, there will be an expanded focus on family-centric events and promotion" said Warrener, who also owns and operates the production company Dark Knights. "The plans will be advertised as they come together."

Carson Warrener joins the DCC staff as Operations Manager. His priority for the foreseeable future is the build out of over 40,000 square feet of new space to accommodate the new tenant and the moves of the three retailers to the main level of the centre. "It truly is a busy, fast-paced environment at the moment" said Carson.

He's excited about the new challenges and opportunities that lie ahead with the project. "I've always been interested in the revitalization of Chatham's downtown," he said. "I work downtown, live downtown, play downtown, and believe in downtown."

For Downtown Chatham Centre leasing opportunities, contact General Manager Lynn O'Brien at 519.351.1271 Ext. 227.



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Deli

Enchantment
Bridal

Frendz Tapas
Martini Lounge

Gentry Manor

Glitters Fun
Eatery

Holland
Optical

I Luv
Juicy

Jim's Six
Cent Shop

Lionel's
Men's Wear

Luxe Ladies
Fashion
Boutique

Mamma
Maria's

Mayes
Law Firm

Platinum
Boutique

Pots &
Pantry

Purple
Pansy

Retro
Suites

The
Loft

Zandberg
Foot & Ankle
Clinic

Winning has never been easier! Ask any one of the merchants or staff on duty to initial the circle that corresponds with their businesses listed above. Once you have collected as many signatures as you can, hand in this page at the Downtown Chatham Centre office (10am-4pm Monday-Friday). The more stores you visit, the bigger your prize could be! No purchase necessary. The winning ballot will be drawn on January 31st, 2012.

1 - 9 Signatures - \$100.00

10 - 18 Signatures - \$175.00

19 - 27 Signatures - \$250.00

*** one submission per person**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____



Aries

Your adventurous nature will have you restless this winter season. Make sure you stay active to keep from going stir crazy. We suggest joining Goodlife Fitness; they offer a variety of classes that will keep you moving.

Goodlife Fitness, 100 King Street West, Inside the Downtown Chatham Centre.

March 21 - April 19



Libra

Congratulations, you will find that Prince/Princess you have been looking for between February and March. Your royal love will be so large the British paparazzi will chase you down. Make sure you look your best in case the cameras are on you. We suggest that the gentlemen at Boyes & Herd fit you for a sports jacket, perhaps something in Navy.

Boyes & Herd, 143 King Street West

September 23 - October 22



Taurus

There will be a chance for free time coming up in the New Year. Try picking up a new hobby. With your patient nature you would be an excellent candidate for learning an instrument. We suggest talking to the wonderful staff at Frank's Music Centre; they will be able to help you pick the best instrument from their wide stock of everything music.

Frank's Music Centre, 75 King Street West

April 20 - May 20

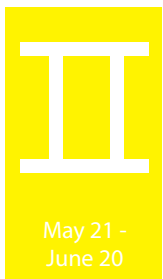


Scorpio

You are the champion of answering everyone's questions. Be careful around the 15th, someone close to you will try to stump that encyclopedia mind of yours. We suggest keeping that mind active by reading up on a new subject. Coles has a great selection of books and magazines to make sure that you stay the king/queen of answers.

Coles, 100 King Street West, Inside the Downtown Chatham Centre

October 23 - November 21



Gemini

Between December and January you will always be on the move. Keep your feet comfortable while darting from one place to another. We suggest making one of your stops Simply Shoes; their friendly staff will make sure your feet will have proper support AND be fashionable at the same time.

Simply Shoes, 155 King Street East

May 21 - June 20



Sagittarius

Anything is possible this holiday season. Keep optimistic and try something new. We suggest embracing your free spirit and joining a dance class at All That Jazz. It is a good way to beat the winter blues and release all that creative energy that been has building inside.

All that Jazz, 66 Fourth Street

November 22 - December 21



Cancer

The romance of the Christmas lights will have you in a good mood all season. Keep things romantic with an exotic dinner at Tikki Tornado. We suggest the Fireworks Roll as it's full of crab.

Tikki Tornado Sushi Bar, 103 King Street West

June 21 - July 22



Capricorn

You are all business, even over the holidays this season. Come January and February take the time to figure out what's in your future. We suggest giving Darrin Utlea a visit to discuss financial investments. They will be able to customize a plan to make sure 2012 and beyond is financially secure.

Darrin Utlea Financial Planning Group Inc., 41 Fourth Street

December 22 - January 19



Leo

You are social by nature and this winter will keep your calendar busy. Don't let time race by; make sure to pencil in some time for you. We suggest a relaxing spa treatment at A New You. Make it a girl's day by inviting a friend.

A New You, 146 Wellington Street West

April 20 - May 20



Aquarius

People will be regarding you as a trendsetter in the New Year. Don't disappoint. You are original and innovative so wear something that reflects your personality. We suggest the unique jewellery from Sonya Roe. People will be in awe of your one of a kind piece.

Sonya Roe, 158 King Street West

January 20 - February 18



Virgo

There are a lot people on that holiday list this year, don't let your giving nature get out of hand. Keep things simple. We are suggesting the decadent chocolates of Eve Chocolatier. Their tin packaging is so attractive you can even skip the gift wrapping.

Eve Chocolatier, 14 King Street West

August 23 - September 22



Pisces

You will be torn between many decisions this winter. Do not let this get you down as your choices will lead you to unusual places and great memories. We suggest capturing these memories in a scrapbook. Visit The Paper Pickle to pick up everything that you'll need including how-to classes.

The Paper Pickle, 44 Fourth Street, Chatham

February 19 - March 20

SHOPPING DINING ENTERTAINMENT

A. Thiel Marketing & Graphic Design Inc.	519.397.4444
A New You	519.397.0696
All Kinz of Kopies	519.351.5399
Armoury Four Diamond Catering	519.355.1279
Barrypach Collectibles	519.358.1455
Bella Chocolatier.....	519.355.1544
Boyes & Herd	519.352.1570
Chilled Cork	519.354.7818
CK Fashion	519.397.4444
Coffee Culture.....	519.351.3304
Darrin Utley Financial Planning Group Inc	519.397.5000
Dekoko's Espresso & Dessert Cafe	519.351.0606
Downtown Chatham Centre	519.351.1271
Downtown Deli	519.351.8444
Ella Minnow Pea	519.354.5444
Enchantment Bridal & Formal Gowns	519.360.1100
Frendz Tapas Martini Lounge	519.436.1313
Gentry Manor.....	519.352.9420
Glitters Fun Eatery	519.352.0820
Holland Optical	519.352.8632
I Luv Juicy	519.351.9970
Jim's Six Cent Shop	519.436.2436
John Hundt	519.436.7246
Lionel's	519.352.0244
Luxe Ladies Fashion Boutique	519.352.0752
Mamma Maria's	519.360.1600
Mayes Law Firm	519.436.1040
Morgan's House of Fashion	519.380.0531
Nina Marie's.....	519.380.0707
Parsai Immigration Services	519.480.0484
Platinum Boutique	519.397.0672
Pots and Pantry.....	519.351.0220
Purple Pansy	519.354.5555
Rachel's Room.....	519.354.6082
Retro Suites.....	519.351.5885
Ryan's Room/Kiki's Kloset.....	519.380.0707
Simply Shoe's	519.352.6770
The Loft.....	519.351.9508
The Money Excxhanger.....	519.352.9999
Zandberg Foot & Ankle Clinic	519.351.9762

