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# WHAT'S UP DOWNTOWN *Chatham*

Welcome to the 2013 issue of What's Up Downtown. This issue focuses on how downtown Chatham is becoming the place to live and play for professionals of all ages.

Our historic downtown features a one-of-a-kind dining, shopping, and entertainment experience that caters to all ages. Learn about building developments set to improve the quality of living that this charming part of our community has to offer. Downtown Chatham has beautiful foliage, parks, plenty of parking, festivals, and world-class entertainment and shopping offerings.

When the sun goes down, downtown transforms into a place all its own. The quaintly lit treetops canopy over King Street sheltering in the heavenly smells offered by restaurant storefronts. The sounds of laughter from inside the restaurants and entertainment venues spill onto the outdoor patios and sidewalks, yet it's quiet enough to take notice of the intimate vocals and pleasant melody coming from here and there.

Whatever your lifestyle or age, historic downtown Chatham has something for everyone and we hope this publication piques your curiosity to find out... What's Up Downtown!

## WHAT'S UP DOWNTOWN

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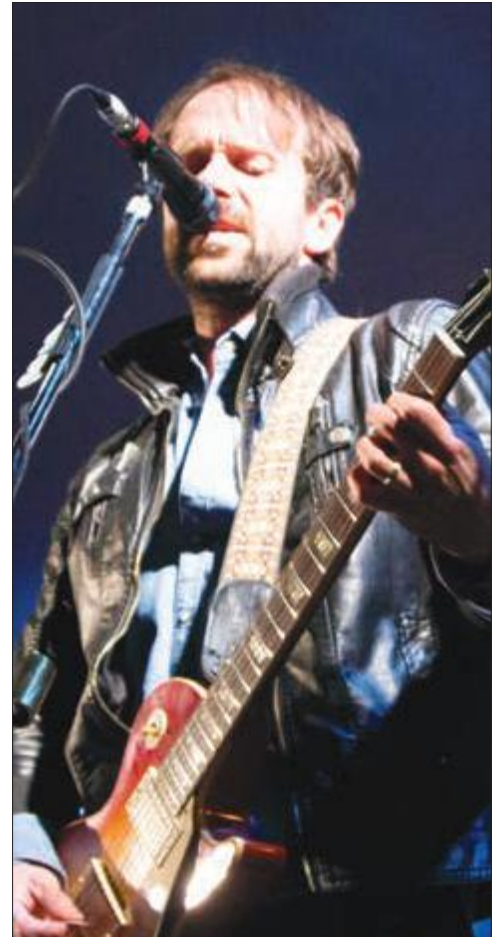

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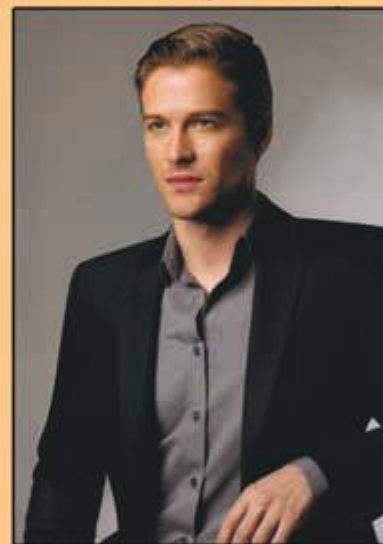
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# FASHION AND THE CITY

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## SEPT. 5

### DOWNTOWN CHATHAM

### 6PM - 11PM

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# FASHION AND THE CITY IN *Downtown Chatham*

*Fashion's Night Out 2012:  
Featured photos by Shean Harling*



While Vogue's Fashion's Night Out (FNO) is officially on hiatus in North America, local jeweller, Sonya Roe, and a small, dedicated committee are organizing the fashion event of the year in downtown Chatham this September.

Fashion and the City will kick-off at 6:00 p.m. the evening of Thursday, September 5, 2013 with two amazing events. The Fashion Show at the Capitol Theatre will accommodate 1 200 people with doors opening at 4:30 p.m. New this year is a full-blown wedding party, Rock the Reception, in the King/William Block starting at 6:00p.m. Over 40 vendors are involved this year, twice as many as last year's celebration. There will be after hours shopping, in-store events, outdoor block parties, hors d'oeuvres, music, giveaways, and many more surprises in participating stores throughout downtown. Exclusive Fashion and the City menus and speciality drinks will be served in downtown restaurants.

Fashion and the City 2013, admission free and open to the public, is an inclusive event as all participating stores and restaurants downtown open their doors to the community on September 5 in a celebration of style. In-store events and block parties welcome shoppers to rediscover what downtown has to offer. "We wanted to create an opportunity that would inspire people to get dressed up and to gather. FNO was a great community event and I was proud to be a part of it," says Sonya Roe.

A highly anticipated event, the buzz surrounding Fashion and the City reinvigorates life downtown. It is an evening for guests to look forward to and offers a similar excitement for participating merchants. "The event works like magic. Vendors both celebrate and reintroduce themselves to the community and in turn welcome new and existing clients into their space for a truly great evening out," says Roe. "It was so nice to see people dressed up, mingling with old friends, and enjoying our downtown."

Last year's event brought over 8 000 people to Chatham's downtown core and the Fashion Show filled its seats well before models hit the runway. Be sure to arrive early this year and dress

to impress. "Fashion and the City is going to be big! FNO was shockingly successful and showed us that downtown needed an event that enabled the community at large and downtown merchants to gather in this way."

The event attracts out-of-town visitors just as much as it excites those who call Chatham home. We love to embrace the people who live in our community and enjoy local culture. It is an event that is certain to bloom beyond the expectations of last year's FNO goers.

Fashion and the City extends a special thank you to downtown participating merchants as well as the Community Partnership Fund, BIA, and Victory Ford Lincoln for their generous event sponsorships. Bring your friends and join us at the hottest shopping extravaganza of the season, Thursday, September 5 from 6:00p.m.-11:00 p.m.



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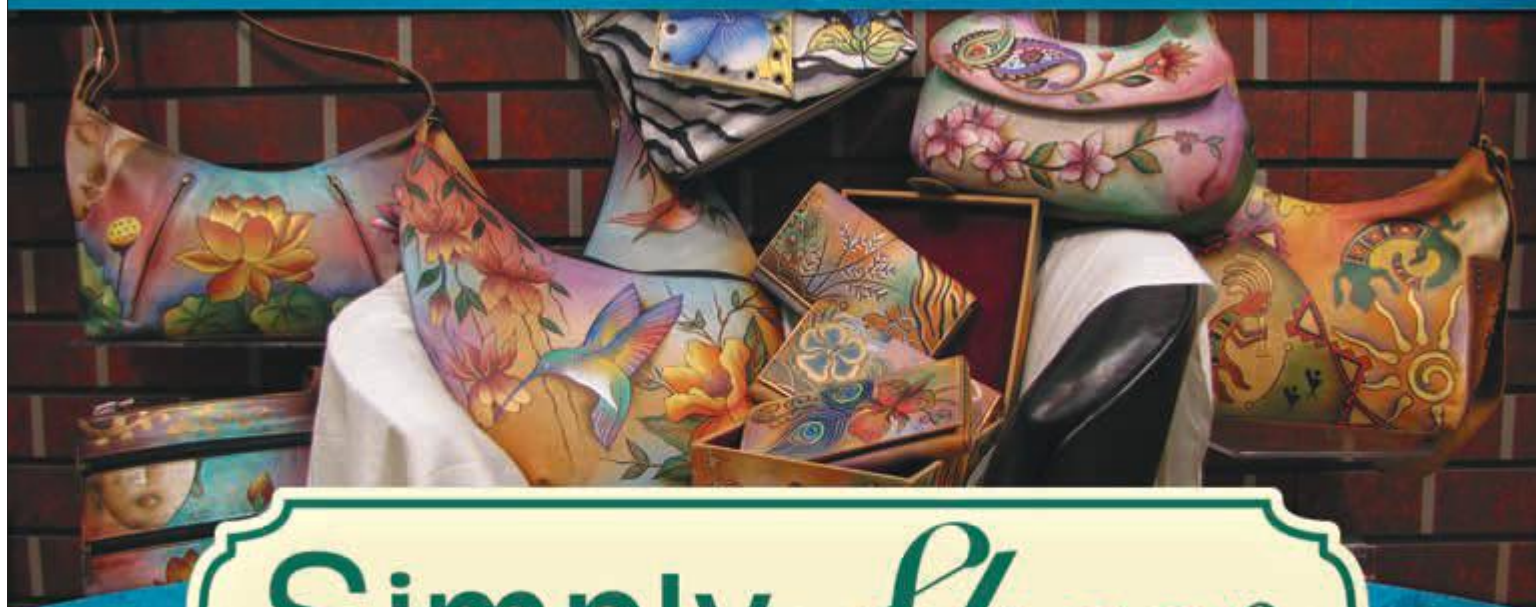
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## CULTURE FACTORY *Indiefest*

Indiefest 2013 is taking place September 6 and 7 this year in downtown Chatham. Culture Factory is bringing 25 local and regional bands to the event for a weekend full of amazing independent Canadian music. The artists listed below are just some of the talent that we are thrilled to present. Stay tuned, surprises in store!

Highlights include:

**Dave Bidini** - Studio One

**Lily Frost & Gyles** - Jazzbah

**Time Giant, The Bluestones, The Fisher Kings, James O-L and The Villians, Summit Series, The Long Lots, Unquiet Dead** - TBA

**A Hip Hop show** - Encore Night Club

**A skate-park show featuring Sound System** - Chatham Skate Park

Visit [www.culturefactory.ca](http://www.culturefactory.ca) for more information. Time slots TBA.

A poster for Indiefest 2013. The background is a collage of images including a sunset, a crowd with raised hands, and a silhouette of a person. The text is in a bold, yellow, distressed font. At the bottom left is the Culture Factory logo, which is a stylized house with a sunburst above it.

**INDIEFEST**  
**2013**

**Downtown**  
**CHATHAM**

**SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> & 7<sup>TH</sup>**

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An advertisement for Riverside Terrace townhouses. The background is a photograph of a woman sitting on a grey sofa in a modern living room, holding a glass of blue wine and reading a magazine. The room has large windows, framed pictures on the wall, and a zebra-print ottoman. The text is overlaid on the image.

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# LUXURIOUS & AFFORDABLE *Downtown Living*

*Image below:  
Boardwalk on the Thames – The Essex  
1335 Sq. Ft. two bedroom, two bathroom  
open concept condominium with beautifully  
detailed features and two balconies.*



The downtown core is the centre and the heart of Chatham. With its lush green spaces, beautiful heritage building architecture, fine dining restaurants and martini bars, unique shopping boutiques, cafes, theatres, galleries, museums, and cultural attractions, Historic Downtown Chatham can be proud of its plentiful diversity.



*Image above:  
Executive Studio Units above 103 King St. W.  
Multiple units of various sizes available for  
short commercial lease or long term residential.  
Featuring excellent views of downtown and  
studio height ceilings.*

The new luxury condo development sites on King Street are within walking distance to it all, including the newly renovated Capitol Theatre with its exceptional repertoire of entertainment, the Cultural Centre, the Fourth Street Market Wednesdays, and Tecumseh Park, home of many events throughout the year such as the weekly Wednesday night Chatham Concert Band evenings at the bandshell, and special annual events such as Ribfest and Retrofest.

Excavation has begun on the long anticipated 113-unit Boardwalk condominium project in the heart of downtown. Located on King Street near the corner of

Fifth Street, the Boardwalk on the Thames project is now digging for foundation. Chatham-Kent's newest residential development is designed to take high-rise living to a whole new level. With beautiful architecture and exquisite interiors, the clean modern lines, complimenting the surrounding historically restored buildings inspire the Boardwalk exterior. Charm, character, quality, and elegance are evident in every meticulous detail. From lush landscaping, through the serene lobby to the beautiful entry of suites, each step provides a showcase stimulating the senses with beauty and sophistication.

The Boardwalk is luxurious living at its finest, with exquisite Victorian-inspired details rising 12 storeys above beautiful Historic Downtown Chatham and the banks of the Thames River. Impressively designed floor plans and customizable penthouses will transform ordinary accommodations into extraordinary ones. Functionality and desired aesthetics have been superbly designed, taking all essential needs into account. With multiple floor plans to choose from, varying from 1100 - 2500 square feet, you're sure to find the perfect unit. The Boardwalk is pleased to offer private viewings to inquisitive buyers who desire privacy in discussing their personal style and requirements in condominium living. The professional and courteous designers of the model suite will assist you in the decision making process of customizing your very own suite.

Riverside Terrace apartments are located at 383 - 395 King Street West 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 special historical structure. These rental units are



associated with Sylvester Hadley and his son, William, members of a prominent Chatham family. Sylvester moved to Chatham from Toronto in 1848 and after arriving in Chatham established a lumber mill, the successful S. Hadley Lumber Co.

Since its construction, and through to present, the structure has been utilized 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. To date, the property has changed hands very few times, having only four owners, with John and Ramona Hundt as the present owners. The units convey a Queen Anne style of architecture more common in larger cosmopolitan cities, but rarely found in Chatham-Kent. "They offer a private park-like setting and are within walking distance of the downtown core," says John Hundt. "The west side of the property is flanked by the Thames River and they are surrounded on the street side by a rich array of architectural styles that reflect the era and quality of their construction."

Luxury downtown living naturally integrates the significance for refined culture and an appreciation of fine arts. The Cultural Centre, located just across from Tecumseh Park on William Street, is one of Chatham-Kent's finest long-standing cultural institutions. The centre provides the community with a remarkable collaboration of arts, education, heritage, and entertainment within one building. It is the only venue of its type in Canada, and houses a museum (Chatham-Kent Museum), performance space (Kiwanis Theatre), art gallery (Thames Art Gallery), and living history museum (Milner Heritage House).

The Thames Art Gallery develops and presents 15 to 18 exhibitions over the course of a year that feature international, national, regional, and local artists. Exhibition projects are often supplemented or extended with select films, guest speakers, lectures, special educational opportunities, and visiting artists.

The gallery has a very strong arts education program that offers art classes for adults, youth, and children as well as a school visit program. These programs help to foster an appreciation for the creative mind and educate the public on the important role the artist plays in a community. To fulfill its role in the community as an educational institution the gallery brings in artists from all over Canada to teach, be present at gallery openings, and participate in art programs. When planning its exhibition schedule the Thames Art Gallery looks at artists whose works speak in a relevant way about contemporary issues, cultural diversity, politics, and religion.

The Kiwanis Theatre is a multi-use live performance space that annually presents an array of professional performances in addition to highlighting some of the best talent that hails from Chatham-Kent. The theatre is also home to two local theatre groups, Theatre Kent and Take A Bow Productions, and provides rental space to a number of community groups.



*Image above:  
Riverside Terrace – Rental Apartments  
These units deliver a Queen Anne style of architecture with  
the west side of the property flanked by the beautiful Thames River.*

The Chatham-Kent Museum is comprised of a main floor area that currently houses a semi-permanent exhibit entitled "Horse Power: A History of Vehicle Manufacturing in Chatham-Kent" and several temporary exhibits. To complement these exhibits, the professional staff of the museum offers a variety of curriculum-based school programs, public programs, and special events. The museum also maintains an archival collection and research area that is a popular destination for genealogists, authors, researchers, and students.

Fine dining and martini bars, quaint cafes, stylish boutique shopping, cultivated theatre, art, museums, and natural green spaces...the charm, politeness, and elegance of Chatham-Kent is irresistible! The Boardwalk On The Thames and Riverside Terrace are the preeminent luxury living properties in downtown Chatham. At these properties you can experience downtown living in style and opulence- the way it was meant to be.

*Image below:  
Boardwalk on the Thames – The Essex  
Spacious master bedroom with an  
elegant ensuite bathroom.*







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## WHAT TO DO

# Downtown

Downtown Chatham is a vibrant quilt made up of the city's many interests in shopping, dining, entertainment, markets, and festivals - downtown Chatham has it all.




Gather with friends for a drink with a view of the Thames River at: Mamma Maria's Ristorante 231 King St. W.

One-of-a-kind findings and experiences can be found in our various retail shops. Businesses such as Morgan's House of Fashion, Luxe Ladies Fashion Boutique, and Nina Marie's make it a point to offer clothing not found in a department stores. It's all about showcasing your individual style and Holland Optical has your perfect pair of reading or sun glasses, to accessorize any outfit. Don't worry guys... we haven't forgot about you! Menswear Place and Boyes & Herd are ready to outfit you in a custom tailored suit or just give you that personal shopper experience to help excite your day-to-day closet.

Are you looking to spark some visual interest? Make a point to check out some of Chatham-Kent's talented artists' work, on display at Artspace, Thames Art Gallery, and the Cultural Centre. Learn a bit of local and national history at the Chatham-Kent Museum or take in a show at St. Clair College Capitol Theatre. Sometimes entertainment can be as simple as admiring the downtown life while savouring Coffee Culture's signature coffee and listening to music being played from the King Street Commons. Historic downtown Chatham is quickly becoming the municipality's "Cultural District."

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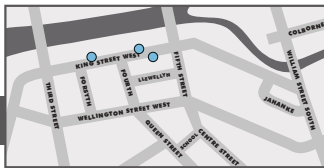
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# UCB CANADA IN CHATHAM-KENT

## *A Brief History*

It was a day like many others in 2004 when Bob Beasley, the Executive Director of Back to the Bible Canada, was passing through Belleville, Ontario. He tuned into United Christian Broadcasters (UCB) Canada's Belleville station and decided to pay them a visit. During the course of the conversation, Bob asked if they would be interested in putting a station like Belleville's on the air in Chatham.

That same year, representatives from UCB International went to Chatham to meet with members of the community. A meeting was held at Gregory Drive Alliance Church to discuss UCB International's and UCB Canada's ministries. They were well received by the people of Chatham and an application for a station was made to the CRTC, the regulator of broadcast licenses in Canada. On March 29, 2006, a license to broadcast 100% Christian programming in Chatham-Kent was granted and the preliminary work began.

James Hunt came on as Executive Director in February 2007. Garry Quinn was named General Manager of New Projects and he spent months in Chatham meeting with residents and the support base for the new station. It began with a weekly prayer meeting. That meeting grew into a steering committee to guide the process of getting on the air. Many of the early supporters are still supporting this ministry today including Dan and Karen Loney, Orv Gleason, Murray Campbell, Ed Koke, and others. On April 4, 2007, a pre-recorded broadcast of Christian programming went on the air on 89.3 FM. The pre-recorded broadcasts continued through the spring and summer. In June, it was decided that the launch date for live programming would be November 3rd of that year. Things began to accelerate. Office space was provided by Ed Koke and in September, Al Baker, UCB Belleville's Program Director, stepped down from that position to work

with Garry Quinn in creating the product which would become CKGW, UCB Canada 89.3 in Chatham-Kent.

Intense weeks followed. A product had to be created, money had to be raised for the product, the launch date had to be promoted, staff had to be hired – a busy time! Finally, Saturday, November 3 arrived. The station was abuzz with supporters, listeners, and staff as well as Chatham-Kent dignitaries like MP Dave Van Kesteren and Mayor Randy Hope. The switch was thrown at 11 a.m. There was a real party atmosphere with a barbecue going on in front of the building where the radio station operates, a young people's gathering happening in an

adjacent room, and Dylan and Mr. Whittaker from Adventures in Odyssey meeting and greeting the guests.

It's been well over five years since that first day in Chatham. The small staff consisted of Al Baker, Matt Reaume, and Tyler Miller with volunteers Marlie Dawson, Karen Loney, Emerson McFaul, Elaine Wolting, Carrie Nydam, Eloise Nydam, Tina Moore, and Jim McLachlin. Sarah Masters began volunteering in 2008 and later became a paid employee who hosts the station's midday show, manages the front desk and many other things.

In June 2010, Malcolm Hunt was hired from the Shine group of radio stations in Alberta. He serves as Station Manager. Since then, the sales department has expanded to include Dale Elliott and Roberta Hunt. Today, UCB Canada in Chatham-Kent has a paid staff of six and a host of volunteers, the newest of whom are Lisa Smith, Tom Labonte, and Jeff Hopman.

Over the years, UCB Canada's support has grown and we hope to continue to make an impact on the Chatham-Kent community with the message of salvation through Christ over the airwaves.



*UCB Canada – Chatham-Kent Team*  
 Top row, left to right: Dale Elliott,  
 Matt Reaume, Allen Baker & Malcom Hunt  
 Bottom row, left to right: Sarah Masters,  
 Roberta Hunt



# 2013 IMPROVEMENTS TO *Downtown Chatham*

*Image below:  
Wellington & Fourth Street,  
Parking Lot Resurfacing, and  
a newly landscaped corner with  
downtown gateway sign.*



As downtown Chatham continues to evolve, we have seen important advancements in the downtown core, initiated by both the private and public sectors. The Historic Downtown Chatham BIA has been very busy working with the Municipality of Chatham Kent, Goodwill Industries, Entegrus, and the Everlast Group to make some significant improvements to the downtown Chatham area.

## **Downtown Cleanup**

- Lampposts, flower stands and signs painted & refinished
- Flower pole stands repaired or replaced
- Lamppost light lenses retrofitted with new clear panes
- Litter collected and weeds pulled from tree surround
- Cigarette urns cleaned or replaced
- Flower boxes painted

## **Downtown Beautification**

- Circulation, installation and removal of seasonal banners
- Replacement of broken banner poles
- Purchase and replacement of lights in trees for year round lighting
- Resurfacing of 4th Street parking lot to fix safety issues and cleaned
- Addition of a gateway sign with landscaping on Fourth and Wellington.

With funding made available from the Downtown Chatham infrastructure fund the Historic Downtown Chatham BIA was able to complete and finance some long talked about projects. The tree surrounds downtown were an issue that was frequently brought up. People had a difficult time exiting their cars, and the tree surrounds made it challenging for snow removal, and sidewalk cleaning. Since

their removal merchants and visitors have expressed their thanks. The tree surrounds were not scrapped but reclaimed and used by one of the local golf courses.

After an assessment of the condition of items that were on the streets within the Historic Downtown Chatham BIA, it was determined that some flower stand poles, banner arms, and other items needed maintenance. These were replaced and repaired by the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, and some of the work was completed by the Historic Downtown Chatham BIA with the aid of a private contractors and volunteers.

The Historic Downtown Chatham BIA purchased four sets of seasonal outdoor banners, which have been circulated on a regular basis,



*Image above:  
Volunteers helped to revitalize  
downtowns historic King Street.*



adding flare and positivity to the downtown area. With the help of Entegrus and the downtown infrastructure financing, the BIA initiated the replacement of the faces in the lampposts. The old faces were over thirty years old, faded, and in need of repair. The installation of the new faces has improved the look of downtown and has increased the amount of light in the area at night.

By way of Historic Downtown Chatham BIA infrastructure funds, new lights for the trees in the area were purchased, and installed by the Municipality of Chatham-Kent.

Through a Goodwill Industries work program Historic Downtown Chatham BIA was able to paint and refinish lampposts, flower stands, and signs. Litter was picked up in the district, weeds were pulled from tree surrounds, and sand was replaced in cigarette urns.



Image above:  
Newly painted lamp posts with new lamp lenses and freshly planted hanging baskets.

Through a partnership with Everlast Group, the municipality, and the Historic Downtown Chatham BIA, 120 new parking spots were developed at the new lot on the corner of Wellington and Fourth Streets. The Historic Downtown Chatham BIA landscaped the far corner of the lot, installed the third Downtown Chatham gateway sign, and provided a new bench and garbage can to frame off the area.

With both public and private support the BIA continues to work to beautify the main street of Historic Downtown Chatham.

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*I am proud to have my office in historic downtown Chatham. Please feel free to stop in for all your Federal Government inquiries, we are here to serve you.*  
- Dave Van Kesteren

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# DOWNTOWN CHATHAM WELCOMES *New Businesses*

Downtown Chatham welcomes St. Clair Insurance Brokers Limited, M.P. Surplus, and The Cellular Magician to the area. We also extend our welcome with a feature article for All-Risks Insurance Brokers Limited and ROA Architecture Studio Inc.

Many of these new businesses carry on the downtown tradition of being owned by local entrepreneurs who specialize in unique offerings, and focus on extreme levels of customer service.

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## ALL-RISKS INSURANCE BROKERS LIMITED

Jeff Comiskey and Mike Hosfeld form a well-teamed pair of high energy entrepreneurs who have opened a Chatham location for All-Risks Insurance Brokers Limited. With a local staff of four, they now call the space above Scotia Bank, at 213 King Street, home. With the support of a brokerage formed in 1954, All-Risks Insurance Brokers Limited is a full service insurance brokerage offering a broad array of property, casualty, life, health, and investment products and services to the residents of Ontario. They offer both current and future customers a choice of high quality insurance products from a number of reputable and financially secure insurance companies in a friendly and courteous environment.

Jeff, a University of Windsor MBA graduate, spent the first eight years of his career working in the oil and gas industry in project management. Further to this, he has spent the last eight years managing the day-to-day operations of a successful financial services office. Jeff has been a Registered Insurance Broker of Ontario for the past five years.

Mike, prior to his entry in the insurance industry, spent the first twenty years of his career working for a local tool and die company before its untimely closure due to the economic downturn. It was at that point Mike



*Image Below:  
Marco Rasposo (left), Joseph Ouellette (right)*

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## ROA ARCHITECTURE STUDIO INC.

Marco Rasposo and Joseph Ouellette are two of the newest entrepreneurs to be striking out on their own in the Downtown Chatham area. The pair has launched ROA Studio Inc. These two architects were formerly with Jordan and Cooke, where they worked on various projects that included the Riverview Gardens Long Term Health Care facility as well as the St. Clair College Healthplex.

ROA offers a range of architectural services to a strategic diversity of clients. The firm's services are comprehensive and consist of architectural design, space planning, sustainable design and LEED certification, contract documentation, and contract administration.

At the core of ROA, they strive to provide a place where imagination and reality come together to create spaces where people love to work, live, and play. Each project is taken on as an individual idea, with the knowledge that no two businesses are alike, neither are their designs.





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Canada's workforce  
are employed  
by small  
businesses

decided he wanted to do more to protect the friends and family that he grew up with, and moved into the insurance arena, where he is able to provide a much valued service to the community. Mike has been a Registered Insurance Broker of Ontario for the past four years.

Jeff, Mike, and their staff look forward to continually providing professional and personal customer service to all clients without exception. You can rest assured that you will be well represented when dealing with the experts at All-Risks Insurance Brokers Limited.

Image Left:  
Mike Hosfeld (left), Jeff Comiskey (right)

To best deliver a client based problem-solving solutions through innovative design, ROA is a group of individuals who came together at the studio, to express the creative passion of architecture. They aim to take the client's requests beyond a need, creating specific and unique visions capable of transforming obstacles into beautiful and functional structures.

The pair noticed the transition of the downtown Chatham area to a space that is increasingly catering to creative young professionals. They thought that it was the logical platform to launch their innovative approach to architectural design, and all of the downtown core bids them welcome! Raposo and Ouellette are looking forward to new projects that will test their acquired knowledge and offer a blank canvas for expression.

The studio is located at 67 King Street West, to visit them online go to [www.roastudio.com](http://www.roastudio.com)

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# CREATING HAVOC SAFELY AT *Retrofest*

*Image below:  
Thousands of spectators gathered around the exceptional display of classic cars, along the streets of Chatham's historic downtown core.*



On the 11th anniversary of the annual event, Retrofest 2013 was once again a tremendous success featuring more than 1,000 classic vehicles, and attracting an estimated 40,000 people to downtown Chatham over the weekend of May 24 and 25, 2013.



*Image above:  
The Trews – Colin MacDonald rockin'  
Tecumseh Park*

The event began by closing off Fourth Street for a party with a live band playing 50s and 60s music on Friday, May 24 at 5:00 p.m. The OLG Classic Car cruise started at the John D. Bradley Convention Center at 565 Richmond Street at 7:00 p.m. and participants cruised along the winding, scenic Thames River en route to downtown Chatham. There was a free movie on the big screen in Tecumseh Park at 9:00 p.m.

balloon rides, a zip line, and a designated beer garden hosted by the Knights of Columbus in the park. There was fun for the whole family during another fabulous Retrofest weekend!

Culture Factory, with the support of RM Auctions and the Historic Downtown Chatham BIA, hosted award-winning Canadian band The Trews who rocked Tecumseh Park with a free concert on Saturday night. Barry Weiss of the hit television show *Storage Wars* made a special appearance on stage and got the crowd pumped up and excited for the headlining band.

"By bringing in RM Auctions' support and sponsoring the concert and movie cars, amongst other items, I wanted to help make this year's Retrofest the biggest to date, and we succeeded," said Rob Myers, Chairman and Founder of RM Auctions. "It is a wonderful event for the community and many community leaders came together to make it memorable."

"We are really happy with the turnout for the cruise on Friday, and



*Image below:  
Face painting for the kiddies at Retrofest*

Action began early Saturday morning with the Kent Historic Auto Club Annual Car Show registration at 9:00 a.m. sharp at the corner of King and Fifth Streets. Participation plaques were given to the first 500 people who registered and all registered vehicles had a chance to win one of 50 fantastic prizes. The sun was shining, and thousands of people hit the streets. Owners sat on chairs alongside their extraordinary collector automobiles and told their stories. The restaurants, bars, and cafes filled up with visitors, with special precedence taking place on the patios for crowd watching. The event provided family-friendly entertainment throughout the day, including Elvis impersonators, on site food vendors, hot air



the show on Saturday," said Ron VanDeWynckel, President of The Kent Historic Auto Club. "The John D. Bradley Convention Centre group were great to work with, and we got a lot of positive feedback about



Image above:  
Going for a ride on the zipline – Tecumseh Park

the new staging area, which easily accommodated the more than 450 cars involved. On Saturday, we were impressed by the more than 650 cars that registered for the show and everything ran really well."

Once again, the BIA teamed up with its long-time partner, the Kent Historic Auto Club, and formed a new relationship with

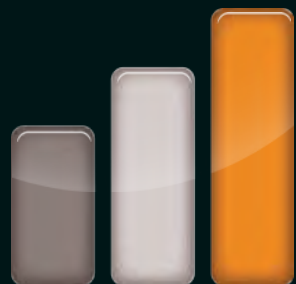
Culture Factory, supported by RM Auctions. "It truly was a community event this year," said Connie Beneteau, the BIA representative for Retrofest 2013. "The Retrofest Steering Committee worked as a team, and the result was truly amazing. The event also would not have been possible without the support of so many volunteers and, of course, the outstanding sponsors that came on board." "We also thank the municipal representatives that guided us through the process, Special Events Coordinator Patricia Peters and Sergeant Jim Lynds of the Chatham-Kent Police."

Retrofest has become a very successful economic asset benefitting the whole community of Chatham-Kent over the past 11 years, and many years saw attendance of over 50 000 people. "It is amazing to see how the classic car theme has embedded itself into the fabric of the community," said Janice Wieringa, former Executive Director of the Downtown Chatham BIA. "I am proud to have been given the opportunity to work side by side with so many great friends and volunteers in this community in the past. It really goes to show that the classic car spirit is alive and well and has a great future in Chatham-Kent!"

Each year Retrofest involves a number of local charitable organizations and raises thousands of dollars for local community charities. The Historic Downtown Chatham BIA thanked all of the community partners that made Retrofest 2013 not only possible, but a resounding success.

Retrofest would not be possible without the generous support of local businesses. The historic downtown Chatham BIA extends a special thank you to all those who helped to make this year's event possible.

Image below:  
The Downtown Chatham BIA, along with the Kent Historic Car Club, helped to fill the streets with an exotic display of vehicles and attract thousands of visitors throughout the day on Saturday, as well present a classic car cruise on Friday night.



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