
FOR RELEASE ON APRIL 20, 2026

2026 BIA CONFERENCE AWARDS

In Full Bloom

Beamsville, ON – BIAs invest in, partner with, and celebrate their community for the betterment of the community. BIAs, through the Ontario Municipal Act, are mandated with the betterment of the public realm for the collective good – to make the area a better place to work, live and play. In order to do this work, each BIA raises an additional levy on the commercial property owners in their area to raise the necessary funds. OBIAA, in order to celebrate the work and accomplishments of our BIAs, and their partners, invites submissions. The Award winning are presented with their Awards at the annual Awards evening.

The Ontario Business Improvement Area Association (OBIAA) proudly hosted the 2026 BIA Awards Gala on Monday, April 20, 2026, celebrating the remarkable achievements of Ontario's Business Improvement Areas (BIAs). This year's theme, In Full Bloom, reflects the dynamic role that Ontario's BIAs play in nurturing resilient, inclusive, and economically vibrant downtowns through the purposeful leadership and collective efforts of BIAs, their members, and their communities.

With a record-breaking 66 submissions, the 2026 BIA Awards honored BIAs that demonstrated excellence in revitalizing and strengthening their local economies. Judged under OBIAA's key pillars of downtown revitalization, Advocacy & Governance; Operations; Business Retention, Recruitment & Expansion; Economic Resilience & Community Building; Special Events; Marketing; Communications; and Streetscaping & Public Realm Improvements, the award winners set new benchmarks for innovation and community impact on their Main Streets.

"On behalf of Ontario BIA Association Board, I am proud to recognize and congratulate this year's award recipients. Your commitment, leadership, and passion continue to strengthen and elevate Main Streets across Ontario," says Stephanie Hicks, President of the Ontario BIA Association.

OBIAA would like to congratulate all the recipients for 2026 and thank all the communities who submitted their work.

The 2026 BIA Awards Gala was held on Monday, April 20, 2026 at the Holiday Inn & Suites St. Catharines as a part of the annual BIA Conference. This Conference was made possible with special thanks to our generous sponsors.

OBIAA is proud to present the recipients of the 2026 BIA Awards – they are:

	<u>Award of Merit</u>	Advocacy & Governance
		Peterborough Downtown BIA for <i>Protecting Our Budget</i>

	<u>Award of Excellence</u>	Advocacy & Governance
		Collingwood Downtown BIA for <i>Collingwood Downtown Master Plan</i>

	<u>Award of Excellence</u>	Advocacy & Governance
		The Eglinton Way BIA for <i>Championing a Better Eglinton Way: A Complete Street That Works for Everyone</i>

	<u>Award of Merit</u>	Operations
		Streetsville BIA for <i>First-Year Operational Recovery and Program Excellence Under Extreme Financial Constraint</i>

DOWNTOWN	<u>Award of Excellence</u>	Operations
		Downtown Yonge BIA for <i>SafeTO BIA – Through an Economic Development Lens; Investing in our Neighbourhoods & BIAs Pt2</i>

	<u>Award of Merit</u>	Business, Retention, Recruitment & Expansion
		Mount Dennis BIA for <i>Small Green Business Incubator</i>



Business, Retention, Recruitment & Expansion

Award of Excellence

Downtown London BIA for Member Growth Kit



Economic Resilience & Community Building

Award of Merit

CityPlace & Fort York BIA for Community Canvas + Culture Fest



Economic Resilience & Community Building

Award of Merit

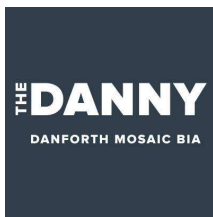
Clinton & Central Huron BIA & Municipality of Central Huron for The Giant Chair Tour: Recycling Tourists to Drive Local Economic Activity



Economic Resilience & Community Building

Award of Merit

County of Brant & Downtown Paris BIA for The 2025 Downtown Dig



Economic Resilience & Community Building

Award of Merit

Danforth Mosaic BIA for Warmth of Ethiopia – An Important Piece of Danforth's Mosaic



Economic Resilience & Community Building

Award of Merit

Downtown BIA for Metcalfe Plaza



Economic Resilience & Community Building

Award of Merit

Downtown London BIA for Downtown London Walking Tours



Economic Resilience & Community Building

Award of Merit

Town of Stouffville Economic Development Department, in collaboration with the Village of Stouffville Advisory Committee for *The Village of Stouffville Pre-Revitalization Work Plan*

DOWNTOWN



Economic Resilience & Community Building

Award of Excellence

Downtown Yonge BIA for Year-Round Food Tours



Special Events

Award of Merit

Clinton & Central Huron BIA & Municipality of Central Huron for *Around the World in Central Huron*



Special Events

Award of Merit

Collingwood Downtown BIA for *Collingwood Fashion Week*



Special Events

Award of Merit

Downtown Brampton BIA for *Party in the Lanes – Special Event*



Downtown
Kingston

Award of Merit

Downtown Kingston BIA for *Spirit of Winter*

Special Events



Award of Merit

Downtown London BIA for *Popping Up with Downtown London*

Special Events



Award of Merit

Peterborough Downtown BIA for *Movies at the Park*

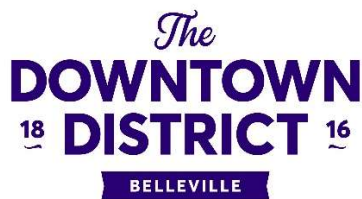
Special Events



Award of Merit

Creemore BIA for *Creemore BIA Summer Solstice*

Special Events



Award of Excellence

Downtown Belleville BIA for *Savour the Series: A Four Season Culinary Strategy for Downtown Belleville*

Special Events



Award of Excellence

Manotick BIA for *Taste of Manotick 2025*

Special Events



MUNICIPALITY OF
**Huron
East**

Award of Excellence

Municipality of Huron East for *Seaforth Homecoming 2025: Working Together for Success*

Special Events

	<p><u>Award of Merit</u></p> <p>Downtown Brampton BIA for Brand Refresh 2025</p>	Marketing
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	<p><u>Award of Merit</u></p> <p>Downtown Kingston BIA for "Find It Here" Campaign</p>	Marketing
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	<p><u>Award of Merit</u></p> <p>Kingsville BIA for Southwestern Ontario BIAs Small Business Week Cross-Promotion Campaign</p>	Marketing
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	<p><u>Award of Merit</u></p> <p>Roncesvalles Village BIA for 'Made in Canada, Found on Roncy'</p>	Marketing
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	<p><u>Award of Merit</u></p> <p>The Junction BIA for The Junction Journal</p>	Marketing
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	<p><u>Award of Excellence</u></p> <p>Gerrard India Bazaar for Bazaar Bucks</p>	Marketing
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	<p><u>Award of Excellence</u></p> <p>ZAC Vanier BIA for Merchant Mondays</p>	Marketing
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Communications



Award of Merit

ZAC Vanier BIA for Member Hub and Information Kit

Communications



BURLINGTON DOWNTOWN

Award of Excellence

Burlington Downtown Business Association for The Green Lanyard Project

Streetscaping & Public Realm Improvements



Award of Merit

Bracebridge BIA for Downtown Bracebridge Selfie Wall

Streetscaping & Public Realm Improvements



Award of Merit

Cooksville BIA for Enhancing the Public Realm through CVBIA's Streetscape Ambassador Program

Streetscaping & Public Realm Improvements



Award of Merit

Downtown Bench Beamsville BIA for Little Free Art Gallery: Everyday Placemaking in Downtown Beamsville

Streetscaping & Public Realm Improvements



Downtown Simcoe BIA for Let There Be Light!



Streetscaping & Public Realm Improvements

Award of Merit

Southampton BIA & Town of Saugeen Shores for SBIA High Street Revitalization



Streetscaping & Public Realm Improvements

Award of Excellence

Downtown Orillia BIA for SOAR Birds of Ontario Public Art Exhibition



Streetscaping & Public Realm Improvements

Award of Excellence

Toronto Downtown West BIA for The Deck at Clarence Square: A People-First Public Realm Transformation



Streetscaping & Public Realm Improvements

Award of Excellence

Uptown Saint John Inc for Local Love: A Business-Led Placemaking & Pride Initiative



Jan Hawley Memorial Pinnacle Award



Alex Ling Lifetime Achievement Award



Maureen Sirois, for her years of dedication to The Eglinton Way BIA and TABIA as a Board Member and Chair for both organizations.

Andrea Steenbakkers, for her years of dedication to Barrhaven BIA, OCOBIA, OBIAA, as well as all BIAs across the province and beyond.

MORE INFORMATION:

CATEGORY	MEMBER NAME	SUBMISSION	RESULT
Advocacy & Governance	Peterborough DBIA	Protecting our Budget	Merit
Advocacy & Governance	Collingwood Downtown BIA	Collingwood Downtown Master Plan	Excellence
Advocacy & Governance	The Eglinton Way BIA	Championing a Better Eglinton Way: A Complete Street That Works for Everyone	Excellence
Business Retention, Recruitment & Expansion	Mount Dennis BIA	Small Green Business Incubator	Merit
Business Retention, Recruitment & Expansion	Downtown London BIA	Member Growth Kit	Excellence
Communications	ZAC Vanier BIA	Member Hub and Information Kit	Merit
Communications	Burlington Downtown Business Association	The Green Lanyard Project	Excellence
Economic Resilience & Community Building	CityPlace and Fort York BIA	Community Canvas + Culture Fest	Merit
Economic Resilience & Community Building	Clinton & Central Huron BIA & Municipality of Central Huron	The Giant Chair Tour: Recycling Tourists to Drive Local Economic Activity	Merit
Economic Resilience & Community Building	County of Brant & Downtown Paris	The 2025 Downtown Dig	Merit
Economic Resilience & Community Building	Danforth Mosaic BIA	Warmth of Ethiopia - An Important Piece of Danforth's Mosaic	Merit
Economic Resilience & Community Building	Downtown BIA	METCALFE PLAZA	Merit
Economic Resilience & Community Building	Downtown London BIA	Downtown London Walking Tours	Merit
Economic Resilience & Community Building	Town of Stouffville Economic Development Department and Village of Stouffville Advisory Committee	The Village of Stouffville Pre-Revitalization Work Plan	Merit
Economic Resilience & Community Building	Downtown Yonge BIA	Year-Round Food Tours	Excellence
Marketing	Downtown Brampton BIA	Brand Refresh 2025	Merit
Marketing	Downtown Kingston BIA	"Find It Here" Campaign	Merit



Marketing	Kingsville BIA	Southwestern Ontario BIAs Small Business Week Cross-Promotion Campaign	Merit
Marketing	Roncesvalles Village BIA	'Made in Canada, Found on Roncy'	Merit
Marketing	The Junction BIA	The Junction Journal	Merit
Marketing	Gerrard India Bazaar	Bazaar Bucks	Excellence
Marketing	ZAC Vanier BIA	Merchant Mondays	Excellence
Operations	Streetsville BIA	First-Year Operational Recovery and Program Excellence Under Extreme Financial Constraint	Merit
Operations	Downtown Yonge BIA	SafeTO BIA - Through an Economic Development Lens; Investing in our Neighbourhoods & BIAs. Pt2	Excellence
Special Events	Clinton & Central Huron BIA & Municipality of Central Huron	Around the World in Central Huron	Merit
Special Events	Collingwood Downtown BIA	Collingwood Fashion Week	Merit
Special Events	Downtown Brampton BIA	Party in the Lanes- Special Event	Merit
Special Events	Downtown Kingston BIA	Spirit of Winter	Merit
Special Events	Downtown London BIA	Popping Up with Downtown London	Merit
Special Events	Peterborough DBIA	Movies at the Park	Merit
Special Events	Creemore BIA	Creemore BIA Summer Solstice	Merit
Special Events	Downtown Belleville BIA	Savour the Series: A Four Season Culinary Strategy for Downtown Belleville	Excellence
Special Events	Taste of Manotick 2025	Taste of Manotick 2025	Excellence
Special Events	Seaforth Homecoming Committee in partnership with the Municipality of Huron East and Seaforth BIA	Seaforth Homecoming 2025: Working Together for Success	Excellence
Streetscaping & Public Realm Improvements	Bracebridge BIA	Downtown Bracebridge Selfie Wall	Merit
Streetscaping & Public Realm Improvements	Cooksville BIA	Enhancing the Public Realm through CVBIA's Streetscape Ambassador Program	Merit
Streetscaping & Public Realm Improvements	Downtown Bench Beamsville BIA	Little Free Art Gallery: Everyday Placemaking in Downtown Beamsville	Merit
Streetscaping & Public Realm Improvements	Downtown Simcoe BIA	Let There Be Light!	Merit
Streetscaping & Public Realm Improvements	Southampton BIA & Town of Saugeen Shores	SBIA High Street Revitalization	Merit
Streetscaping & Public Realm Improvements	Downtown Orillia BIA	SOAR Birds of Ontario Public Art Exhibition	Excellence
Streetscaping & Public Realm Improvements	Toronto Downtown West BIA	The Deck at Clarence Square: A People-First Public Realm Transformation	Excellence



ONTARIO BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA ASSOCIATION

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Streetscaping & Public Realm Improvements	Uptown Saint John Inc	Local Love: A Business-Led Placemaking & Pride Initiative	Excellence
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QUICK LINKS

[Ontario BIA Association](#)

For more information on the awards recipients and their road to success, click the link below.

[OBIAA Conference](#)

Social media: **#2026BIAConference**

ABOUT OBIAA

OBIAA is the network that represents unique and vibrant BIAs across Ontario. The Association supports and advocates on behalf of its members through the building and nurturing of strong relationships and partnerships. OBIAA is a leader in the development and sharing of information, tools, resources, and best practices, and is the ONE voice on common issues.

MEDIA CONTACT

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