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Business Improvement Areas

What is a BIA?

A Business Improvement Area (BIA) is an association of commercial property owners and tenants within a defined area who work in partnership with the City to create thriving, competitive, and safe business areas that attract shoppers, diners, tourists, and new businesses. By working collectively as a BIA, local businesses have the organizational and funding capacity to be catalysts for civic improvement, enhancing the quality of life in their local neighbourhood and the City as a whole.

Where are the local Cambridge BIAs located?

BIAs are an important part of our City and contribute to the beautification, promotion and improvement within the three Cambridge Core areas:

- Downtown Cambridge
- Preston Towne Centre
- Hespeler Village

The local BIA’s allow local business people and property owners to join together, and with the support of the municipality, organize, finance and carry out physical improvement and promote economic development within their areas.
How can I be a part of a BIA?

All property owners and tenants who pay all or part of the property taxes within the BIA boundaries are members of the BIA, and can therefore vote at the Annual General Meeting. BIA is run by a Board of Management which is comprised of a City Councillor and elected members of business, tenants, and property owners within the BIA who are then appointed by City Council. The Board of Management term is the same as the City Council term of office, namely four (4) years.

How can I find out when BIA meetings are taking place? Who can attend?

BIA Board of Management meetings are held once a month. Anyone can be a delegation to a BIA Board at a meeting. Please contact the BIA Executive Director or Board Chair if you decide to attend a board meeting for permission to appear as a delegation.

All BIAs are legislated to hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) pursuant to the Municipal Act. Contact your local BIA to find out the date for the AGM. Anyone can attend the Annual General Meeting, however only property owners and tenants who pay all or part of the property taxes within the BIA boundaries can vote at the Annual General Meeting.
Who can be on the BIA Board of Management?
The BIA Board of Management is comprised of a City Councillor and elected members of business, tenants and property owners within the BIA who are appointed by Council and therefore vote at the Annual General Meeting. Administration and strategic management of a BIA is the responsibility of the Board of Management including overseeing the planning, marketing, budgeting, implementing and evaluation of BIA projects.

How do I get nominated to be on the BIA Board of Management?
The BIA must schedule and advertise the election process. Prior to the election, the BIA undertakes a nomination process for the BIA Board of Management, after which the voting (or acclamation) process is conducted.

Who runs the vote? Is it a majority vote?
The BIA runs the election process under the guidance of the City. Typically, the BIA advertises the upcoming election, including information about the nomination process and the available Board of Management positions. All nominees for the Board of Management are circulated with a ballot sheet, and the BIA members vote for their choices. The new Board is decided by majority votes. For example, if there are twelve (12) nominees for nine (9) positions, those who receive the most votes are elected to be the Board of Management.
Downtown Cambridge

Legend

- Parking
- BIA
- Core Areas
Downtown Cambridge

The Downtown Cambridge BIA is the largest of Cambridge's three BIAs. This beautiful city centre is located on the banks of the Grand River and is comprised of iconic buildings including historic and new City Hall, Cambridge Farmers’ Market, Fire Hall Museum & Education Centre, the Cambridge Centre for the Arts, and the new branch of the Idea Exchange - our new Digital Library for the 21st century.

The European look and flare of Galt on the Grand, features historical buildings complete with walking trails winding along the Grand River. Grab a cup of coffee from one of the many cafes located in the area, and stroll down the beautiful streets to embrace the exquisite historic architecture. If it’s Saturday or Wednesday (seasonal), be sure to stop in to the Cambridge Farmer’s Market and enjoy the local produce.

As you explore the historical and new architecture in the Downtown Cambridge BIA, you have the opportunity to drop into the many unique boutiques, furniture, specialty shops, restaurants, bakeries and coffee shops. Downtown Cambridge has a blend of residential, retail and commercial business, and with a vast variety of shops with something for all ages year round.
Hespeler Village

Hespeler Village is a treasured destination located by the Speed River and is embraced with history and its natural beauty. This small community is recognized for its unique selection of stores featuring bookstores, home decor, clothing, gourmet foods, accessories and more.

Hespeler Village BIA welcomes you to a very warm and unique village experience. This area provides a great restaurant selection, unique shops to visit, and many festivals and seasonal events throughout the year suitable for the entire family. The presence of the beautiful architecture throughout the village is sure to captivate many. The Hespeler Heritage Centre (the old town hall), and the award winning architecture of the renovated Hespeler Library are a few of the iconic beauties of this area. When walking around, why not visit the Hespeler Village Farmers’ Market on Friday afternoons (seasonal). You will be sure to enjoy yourself.
Be sure to explore the natural attractions available locally, such as Forbes Park, Little Riverside, Jacobs Landing and an extensive trail system providing green space along the Speed River and through the downtown core. Need a culture boost? Why not experience the Fashion History Museum that boasts over 10,000 exhibit pieces.

The blend of nature, charm, culture, and strong connections in the local community provides a truly unique experience in Hespeler Village. We hope to see you soon.

For more information visit: www.hespelervillagebia.ca
Preston Towne Centre

Preston Towne Centre is situated in the west end of Cambridge starting at Union Street and extending to Fountain Street. The Preston Towne Centre Business Improvement Area (BIA) has organized a closely-knit group of merchants providing a wide range of goods and services including cafes, small specialty shops and department stores such as Giant Tiger. Consider spending a day strolling down the Preston Towne Centre BIA to explore in depth the beauty of this unique area of Cambridge. And if it’s Thursday (seasonal) be sure to stop by the Farmer’s Market in Central Park to appreciate local produce. There are many historical buildings to appreciate and visit. The area includes many attractions such as the Cambridge Library and Central Park where many of the iconic events take place. The park has recently been upgraded with a community splash pad complete with water conservation properties to help you cool off in the summer heat. Preston Towne Centre maintains its active community by hosting many community events throughout the year such as, the Sidewalk Sale, Annual Music Festival, Candyland, and more.
PRESTON TOWNE CENTRE

“We’re right in the heart of the city.”

Home & Family Fashions • Garden & Home Care • Sports & Recreation • Casual Dining & Entertainment
Personal Grooming & Health Care • Business, Legal & Professional Services
Cambridge’s Farmer’s Markets—Second to none

All three BIA areas offer exceptional Farmer’s Markets that draw produce and goods from the surrounding Region. Come try our local fare and support your community.

Downtown Cambridge Farmer’s Market (Civic Square)
Preston Farmer’s Market (Central Park, Preston Towne Centre)
Hespeler Farmer’s Market (Queen Street, Hespeler Village)

For More Information, please visit:
www.cambridge.ca/en/parks-recreation-culture/Farmers-Market
Cambridge BIAs Contact Information

Downtown Cambridge BIA
Mr. Brian Kennedy
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info@downtowncambridgebia.ca
www.downtowncambridgebia.ca

Preston Towne Centre BIA
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Hespeler Village BIA
Mr. Brian Kennedy
Executive Director
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For more information on all of the Cambridge BIAs please contact:

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Business Liaison Officer
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Or visit these sites:

City of Cambridge websites:
www.cambridge.ca
Investcambridge.ca

Ontario Business Improvement Area Association (OBIAA)
www.obiaa.com

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