



# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT PRESTON STREET BIA







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## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Preston Street BIA will hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) to review 2025 accomplishments, present the 2026 budget, and discuss priorities for the year ahead. All members are encouraged to attend.

**Date:** November 17, 2025

**Time:** 6:30–8:00 p.m.

**Location:** Heart & Crown, Preston

## AGM AGENDA

**6:30pm** Arrival & Mingling

**7:00pm** Meeting Called to Order

Approval of Agenda

Approval of 2024 Minutes

Chair's Address

Councillor's Remarks

**7:15pm** Guest Presentation:

Building Lebreton Project

**7:30pm** Executive Director's Report

Auditor's Report

Presentation & Approval of  
the 2026 Budget

Adoption of Governance  
Documents

**7:45pm** Small Business Funding  
Presentation

**8:00pm** Adjournment

## A NOTE TO OUR MEMBERS

It is with great pleasure that I present the 2025 Annual Report for the Preston Street Business Improvement Area. This year marked continued growth for Little Italy, with new projects and partnerships enriching the heart of our community. From our work on the heritage mural under the Preston Street bridge to the return of our beloved events, The Ottawa Italian Festival and Taste of Little Italy, we honoured our history while supporting a vibrant future. Our businesses, residents, and visitors brought new energy to

**Lindsay Childerhose, Executive Director**



Preston Street, reminding us all how much this community thrives when people come together. I'm deeply grateful to our members, volunteers, sponsors, and partners for their continued support and enthusiasm. Through strong governance and collaboration with City partners, the BIA is well positioned to build on this progress and embrace the opportunities ahead, including growth tied to the Building LeBreton project and other exciting developments happening within our boundary.

## A MESSAGE FROM COUNCILLOR TROSTER

Congratulations to the Preston Street BIA on your AGM. I am so proud of the work you are doing to promote our wonderful neighbourhood and support local businesses. From the Ottawa Italian Festival, to Taste of Little Italy, to all of the street murals you commission and the streets you beautify, you do such important work to promote and animate Little Italy. I love walking down Preston and enjoying the incredible culinary experiences, the street art and the patios full of people socializing and enjoying this lovely community. Thank you for all your amazing contributions. Please feel free to reach out to my office at [ariel.troster@ottawa.ca](mailto:ariel.troster@ottawa.ca) if there is anything we can help you with.

**Ariel Troster**



# BOARD OF MANAGEMENT



**Steve Moffatt, Chair**  
Waterford Property Group



**Marcus Filoso, Vice Chair**  
Aqualina Urban Parking



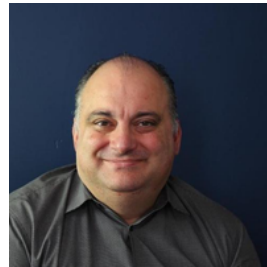
**Lauryn Santini, Treasurer**  
Santini Gallery



**Shauna Bradley**  
Heart and Crown



**Joey Frangione**  
Preston Hardware



**Claudio Lepore**  
St. Anthony's Soccer Club



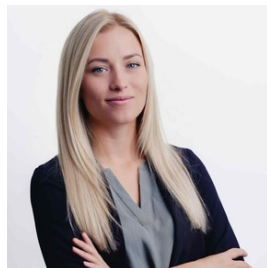
**Sabrina Mtanos**  
Avenue North Realty



**Tony Zacconi**  
Sala San Marco



**Ariel Troster**  
City Councillor



**Lindsay Childerhose,**  
Executive Director



**Katie Hetherington**  
Marketing and  
Communications  
Coordinator

## BOARD OF MANAGEMENT ELECTIONS

The Preston Street BIA is governed by a volunteer Board of Management comprised of local business and property owners within the BIA boundary. Board members set the organization's strategic direction, approve expenditures, and ensure accountability to both the membership and

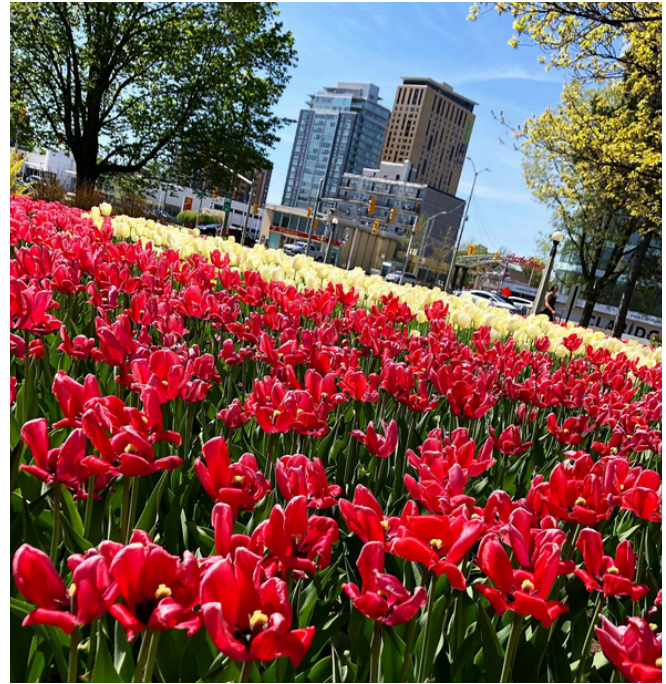
the City of Ottawa. Board elections take place **every four years**, following the municipal election cycle. The next election will be held in 2026, giving members the opportunity to put their names forward or vote for representatives who will guide the BIA through the next term. Serving on the Board is a meaningful way to help shape Little Italy's growth and ensure the business community's needs are well represented.



# PROMOTION AND EVENTS

## TULIP FESTIVAL

The Preston Street BIA has been a long time supporter of the Canadian Tulip Festival. Each year in May, this celebrated event brings hundreds of thousands of tourists to Dow's Lake and to Preston Street. This year, our sponsorship to the Tulip Festival helped the event to expand its programming at Commissioners Park, which saw over 500,000 attendees from May 9-19.



## TUESDAYCLUB613 IN LITTLE ITALY

In 2025, we proudly sponsored and created an ongoing partnership with TuesdayClub613, a dynamic social club that meets every Tuesday night to support local businesses across Ottawa. The Club was formed during the pandemic to support restaurants on their quietest nights. Through our partnership, we hosted three dedicated “crawl”-style events in Little Italy this year, featuring the Prescott, Vain in Versailles, Charm Thai, Pubwells, Part-Tee-Putt, and Ward14. Each event drew new customers and energy into our neighbourhood. Business owners consistently reported very positive feedback and strong sales on an otherwise quiet evening. We intend to continue this partnership into 2026 and warmly invite all BIA members to participate. To host or participate in next year's series, please reach out to the BIA.



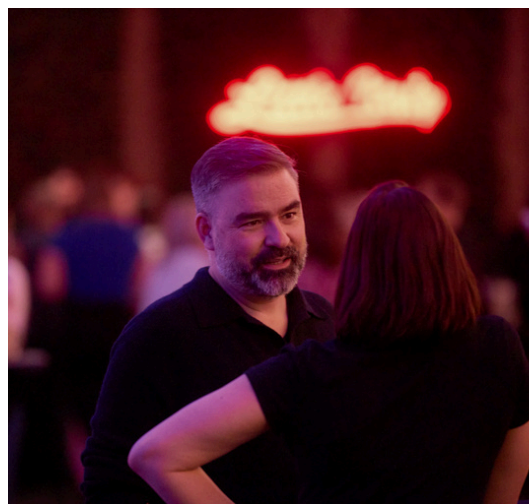
## TASTE OF LITTLE ITALY

Taste of Little Italy Ottawa returned for its second year under the guidance of a dedicated event committee. We're thrilled to share it was a huge success! This year's event was held at Preston Event Centre with over 100 more tickets sold. The event sold out in just ten days, proving that there is real enthusiasm for high-quality food and networking experiences in Little Italy.

We expanded the number of exhibitors and participating restaurants, bringing a wider selection to the event and adding wine, beer, and spirit samples to the mix.

From decor to guest flow to atmosphere, the evening felt polished, lively and elevated. The event also generated a meaningful donation to Cornerstone Housing for Women and all leftover food items were taken to their women's shelter on Eccles Street.

Guests shared glowing feedback, with many calling it the best year yet. We are so grateful to our partners, volunteers, and members for helping raise the bar once again, and we look forward to building on this momentum for an even stronger third edition next year.





# OTTAWA ITALIAN FESTIVAL

The 2025 Ottawa Italian Festival was a great success, marking the busiest weekend of the summer. With clear skies and warm temperatures, Preston Street came alive for three days of food, music, and celebration, welcoming tens of thousands of visitors.

## FCA OTTAWA FERRARI FESTIVAL

The BIA once again partnered with the Ferrari Club of America – Ottawa Chapter to bring the Ferrari Festival back to Little Italy. As a principal sponsor, the BIA helped draw thousands to Preston Street and Carling Avenue for a weekend of speed and exciting car displays. The Ferrari Demo Zone thrilled onlookers on Carling Avenue, while the Dow's Lake Concorso d'Eleganza showcased rare Italian automobiles from Ottawa and beyond.



## ITALIAN CAR PARADE

The BIA partnered with the Italian Car Club of Ottawa to present the annual Italian Car Parade, a long-standing festival favourite. On Saturday, June 7, Preston Street was filled with spectators eager to see vintage and modern Italian vehicles on display. With strong participation from clubs across the province, this year's parade was among the most impressive yet and captured the pride and passion that defines the Ottawa Italian Festival each year.

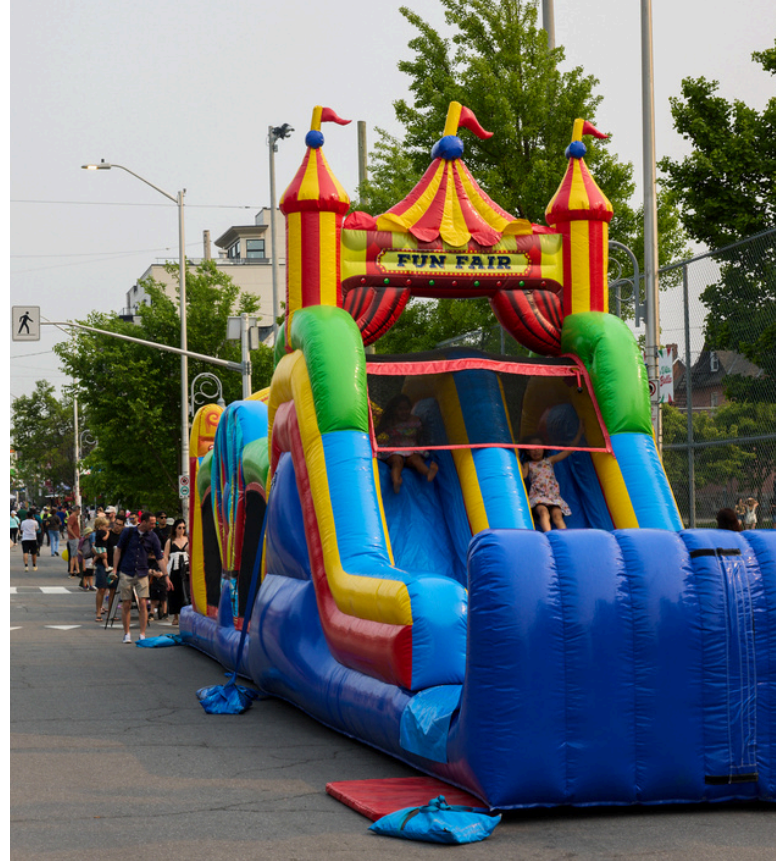


## PEOPLE, PATIOS, PERFORMERS

The BIA worked closely with the City of Ottawa to close Preston Street for three days of celebration. In partnership with Italian Week Ottawa, the street came alive with performers, living art, live music, and vibrant decorations. New this year, the Taggart Tent Stage, sponsored by **Taggart Realty**, brought cultural programming and live music to the south end, featuring performances by Fonte D'Amore Tarantella, the Academy of European Arts Ottawa, and local artists through a partnership with the Ottawa Music Industry Coalition.

## FAMILY FUN

Thanks to the generous support of **Preston Hardware**, the event featured a new addition of inflatable family activities. Families enjoyed an inflatable obstacle course at Preston and Anderson and carnival-style games at Preston and Louisa. The attractions were a huge hit with children and parents alike and are expected to return next year.



Face painting and balloon art were generously sponsored by **Avenue North Realty, Canada Day Arts Festival** and **Preston Dental Centre**. A special thanks to our tent sponsors this year — **Altis Recruitment** who brought bocce ball to the heart of Little Italy and **Meridian Credit Union** for their valued support of the event.

## PRESTON STREET BICYCLE RACES

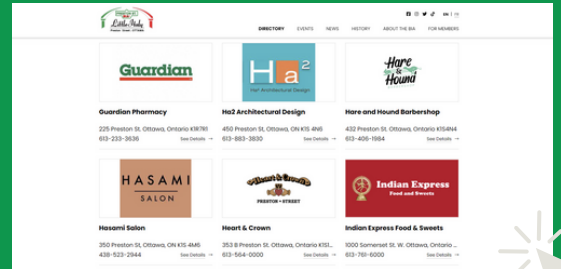
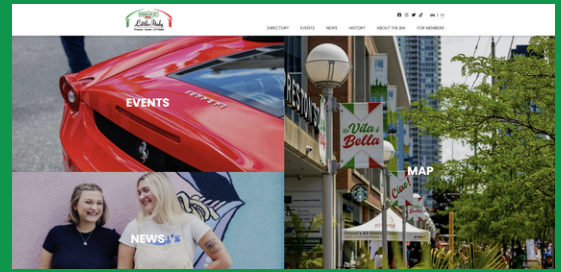
On Sunday, June 15, the Preston Street Bicycle Races returned for their 51st year, proudly sponsored by the BIA. Each year, the team at Bike Race Ottawa delivers a well-organized, high-energy event that draws cyclists and spectators from across the region. This year was no exception. Special thanks to the entire BRO team for their continued dedication in bringing this longstanding tradition to Preston Street.



# MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

## WEBSITE AND DIRECTORY

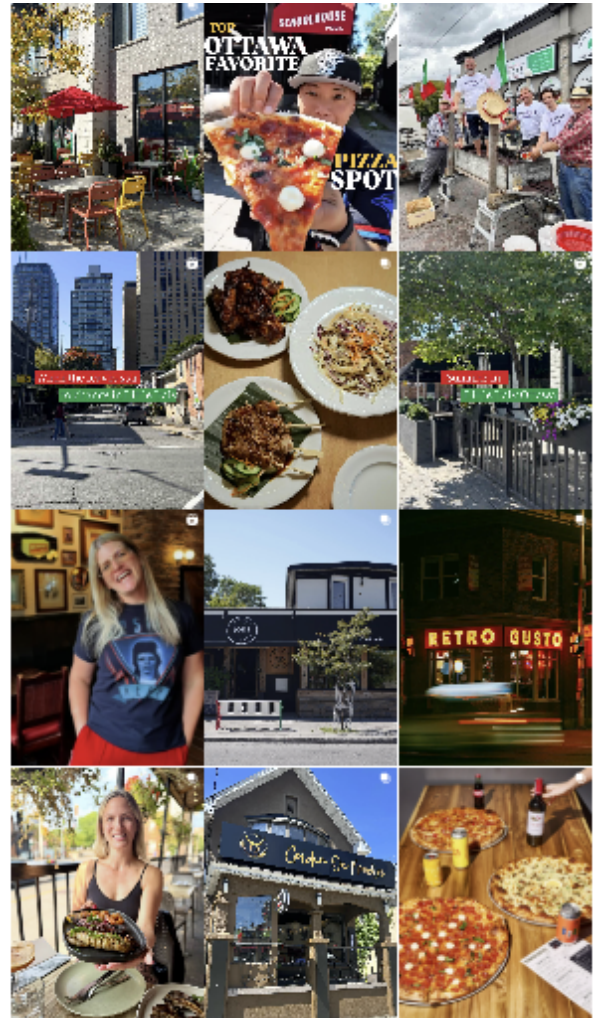
The BIA proudly shares the stories, business updates, and happenings of Ottawa's Little Italy on our website. The site features a frequently updated business directory, along with news, events, and community highlights. With over **55,000 annual visitors**, our website continues to connect residents and customers with everything Preston Street has to offer.



## SOCIAL MEDIA

This year, the BIA saw strong growth and engagement across all social media platforms. By focusing on creative and engaging video content, we continued to expand our reach and connect with new audiences throughout Ottawa and beyond. Instagram Reels remained a key tool for showcasing local businesses, community events, and the unique character of Preston Street, reaching over **190,000 accounts** this year alone. Consistent posting and real-time event coverage helped us build stronger connections with both residents and visitors, while maintaining a steady increase in followers and overall engagement.

The BIA also collaborated with local creators and influencers to reach new audiences and strengthen awareness of Preston Street as one of Ottawa's most dynamic destinations. Now reaching **12,720 followers** on Instagram, it is exciting to see the community's response and enthusiasm continue to grow online each year.





#### IN THIS ISSUE

**Have Your Say!**  
Review of food premise regulations  
in Ottawa

**Blade Sign Program**  
Add your business name to our  
directional blade signs—here's how

**Conference Coming to Preston  
Event Centre**  
Connect with over 500 attendees

**Changes to Paid Parking**  
Update on September parking  
changes and how to share feedback

**Community Spotlight**  
Join us in celebrating our  
community

**Small Business Resources**  
Resources supporting you and your  
business—new grants available

Read our July meeting minutes [here!](#)

## NEWSLETTER

We continue to engage members through our e-newsletter, providing timely updates on events, street activities, construction, and business resources.

Our newsletters share important information on grants, BIA initiatives, and other small business supports. In addition, our external community newsletter serves as a valuable marketing tool for members, highlighting business promotions and events to a growing audience of more than **700 subscribers**.

## GIVEAWAYS

The BIA runs social media giveaways throughout the year, including the popular Preston Street Holiday Gift Grab and event ticket promotions. These contests boost engagement, highlight local businesses, and attract new audiences to Preston Street. Businesses looking to leverage our platforms for their own giveaways or to grow their online following by participating in upcoming campaigns are encouraged to reach out.

## MEMBER RESOURCES

The Preston Street BIA keeps members informed through our Member Resources page, accessible through our website or newsletter. This one-stop hub features our newsletter updates, meeting minutes, member resources and annual reports; all in one place to keep you connected and informed.





# ADVOCACY

Advocacy is a key pillar of the PSBIA mandate. The BIA is committed to representing the best interests of its members and to creating a vibrant neighbourhood that supports the diverse businesses of the area. We are proud to have a seat at the table for key conversations about the health and future of our community and to provide a voice for our member businesses. These include:

## **BUILDING LEBRETON PUBLIC ADVISORY GROUP (PAG)**

The Building Lebreton PAG is comprised of key stakeholders who assist the NCC with the creation and implementation of the LeBreton Flats Master Concept Plan by providing fair and balanced input, and by sharing information with their communities.

## **SWCHC COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE**

The Somerset West Community Health Centre (SWCHC) Community Liaison Committee meets monthly to discuss issues impacting community health and well-being. With the current rise in drug and homelessness-related challenges, this Committee has been an integral part of connecting business owners with key resources and information. Through ongoing collaboration and open dialogue, the BIA continues to advocate for practical, compassionate solutions that support both businesses and community members.



# SPONSORSHIPS

Each year, the BIA allocates funds to support programs that bolster our community. Supporting local groups and initiatives aligns with our mandate to activate, beautify and promote the Little Italy area.

## **THE GLADSTONE THEATRE**

In 2025, the BIA proudly sponsored The Gladstone Theatre, a cornerstone of our community that brings visitors to Preston Street to enjoy independent theatre along with our restaurants, shops and services. The Gladstone actively promotes Little Italy through its marketing, website, newsletter, and ticket confirmations. BIA members can also request free tickets (limited availability) or enjoy a member discount for shows at The Gladstone.

## PARKING ADVOCACY

Parking has been a top concern for Preston Street businesses in 2025. Following the City's proposal to increase rates earlier this year and reduce free parking hours on Preston Street South more recently, the BIA has advocated for fair parking policies. We issued a public letter to City Hall opposing the changes, which was read aloud by OCOBIA representatives at the Transportation Committee meeting on the parking changes. We also conducted a parking survey to capture business feedback and data. The BIA will continue to advocate for business insights to play a key role in shaping future parking policies.

## ARCHWAY COMMITTEE

In 2024, the Second Archway Committee advanced plans for a new Preston Street archway at Albert Street near LeBreton Flats. The Committee worked with City of Ottawa Public Realm staff to establish a roadmap and timeline for the project, identifying and testing potential sites at the north end of Preston. A traffic assessment completed with CIMA+ confirmed a feasible location for construction, approved by the necessary City departments. In 2025, the Committee continued its efforts, focusing on the next stage of work: developing a public consultation plan to launch in 2026.

## OTTAWA COALITION OF BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREAS (OCOBIA)

OCOBIA represents the collective voice of 19 Business Improvement Areas across Ottawa, encompassing over 6,400 businesses and 128,000 employees. The organization advocates on behalf of BIAs on policies and decisions that impact them and promotes their role in strengthening local economies and tourism. It also fosters collaboration, knowledge sharing, and joint initiatives among members. As a member, the Preston Street BIA has a voice at all levels of government on issues impacting local businesses and access to resources, programs, and information that strengthen BIA operations and growth.





# PLACEMAKING

The Preston Street BIA is dedicated to enhancing the vibrancy and character of Little Italy through ongoing beautification, public art, and streetscape features that create a welcoming atmosphere for all.

## GRAFFITI REMOVAL

The BIA maintains an annual contract with Goodbye Graffiti to ensure the quick and timely removal of graffiti from storefronts and public spaces within Little Italy. When tagging occurs, businesses simply need to email the BIA, and cleanup is arranged right away at no cost to the member. This service helps maintain the welcoming, well-kept main street that visitors and customers expect. Keeping the area clean and vibrant maintains safety and reinforces local pride in Little Italy.



## STREET FURNITURE

This year, new red, white, and green benches were installed along Preston Street, adding a vibrant pop of colour to the corridor. The BIA worked closely with the City of Ottawa to customize the design, adding to the character of Little Italy.

## TREE LIGHT PROGRAM

Nutrilawn provides year-round maintenance for our tree lights, keeping Preston Street bright and welcoming through every season. The BIA maintains the hydro service needed to keep the street's signature twinkling glow year-round in Little Italy.



## BANNER PROGRAM

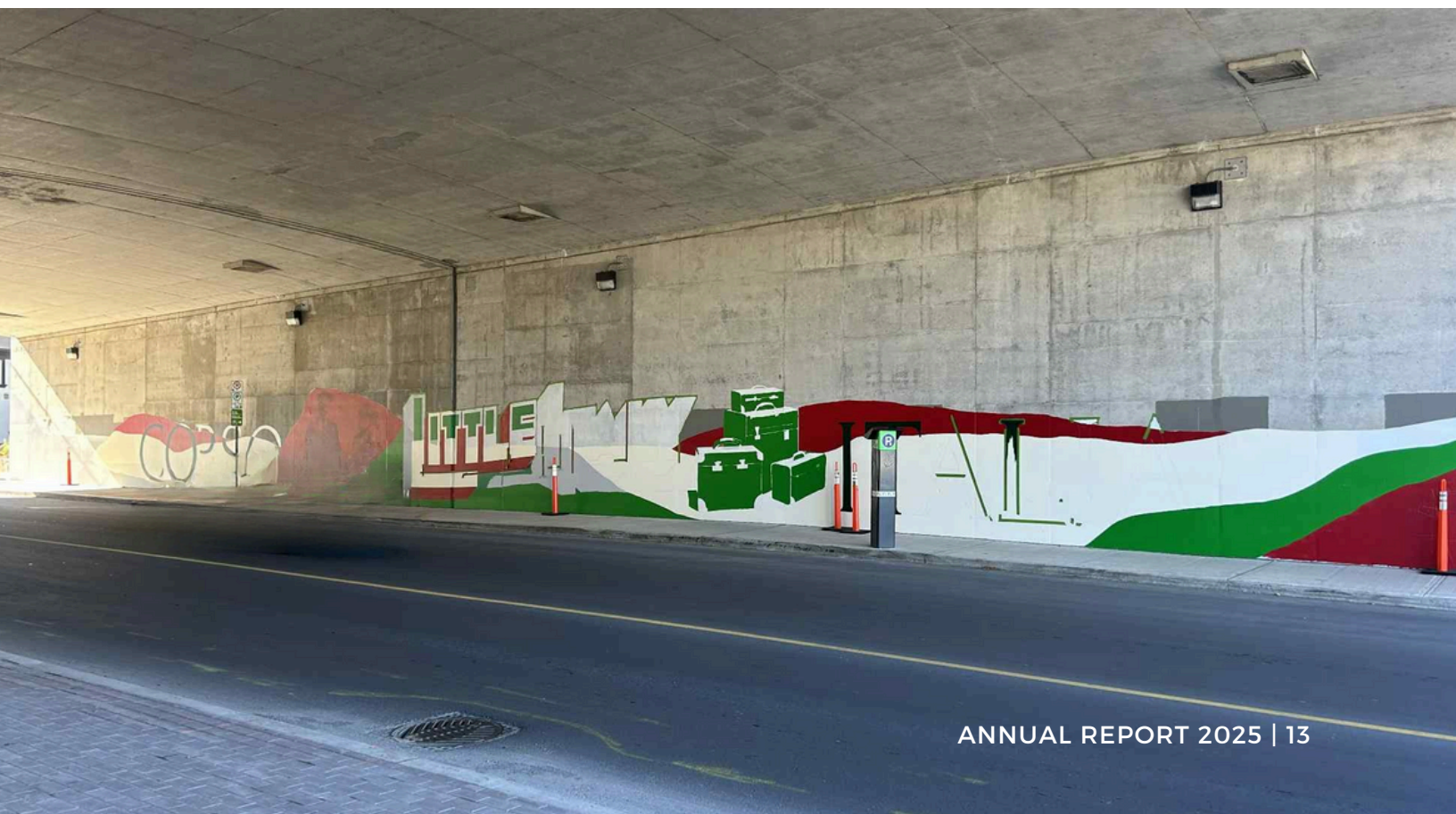
Our banner program adds colour and character to Preston Street, with vibrant Italian-themed flags celebrating Little Italy year-round. Banners and flags line the street from end to end, creating a strong visual identity for the neighbourhood. We maintain and replace them regularly to ensure they always look their best. This ongoing program keeps Preston Street lively, welcoming, and unmistakably Little Italy.

## BLADE SIGNS

Our distinctive Preston Street blade signs were reinstalled under the Queensway bridge, drawing renewed attention from the community. These iconic signs celebrate long-standing businesses and enhance the character of the street. The BIA is reopening the Blade Sign Program for eligible businesses that have operated on Preston Street for at least five years. Interested members can reach out to [info@prestonstreet.com](mailto:info@prestonstreet.com) for details.

## HERITAGE MURAL

This year brought a new splash of colour to the Preston Street underpass. Following last year's bridge replacement, the BIA issued a call to local artists for a new heritage mural beneath the Queensway bridge. We have worked with the local artist collective Style Over Status on a design that reflects the rich timeline and history of Italian-Canadian immigration in Little Italy. The mural is scheduled for completion by the end of November. Next year, the BIA will work with the Ministry of Transportation to reinstall the heritage panels that were previously mounted on the inner walls of the bridge.



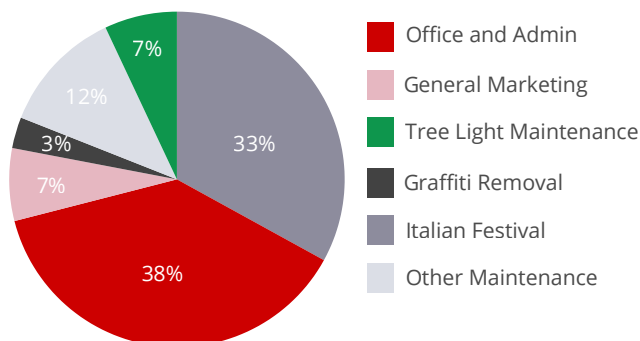


# FINANCE

In alignment with our mandate to improve and promote the Preston Street commercial catchment area, BIA resources are aimed at complementing the work of the nearly 270 member businesses and property owners in our boundary.

The 2024 Audited Financial Statements, included in the AGM materials, confirm that the “statement of financial position presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Entity as at December 31, 2023, in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.” For 2024, total audited revenues were \$469,907 and expenses were \$494,679. The BIA reported an audited annual deficit of \$24,772, reflecting planned, Board-approved investments for a transportation assessment of the proposed new archway at Albert Street and a structural assessment of the existing archway.

## Breakdown of 2024 Expenses



2024 expenses focused on delivering community events and ensuring the neighbourhood remained vibrant, clean, and well-maintained. Resources were also dedicated to staffing and operations needed to support these ongoing programs.



## ACCUMULATED SURPLUS

The audited value of the reserve fund at year end 2024 is \$289,919. Funds from the accumulated surplus will be used for large projects, such as the Second Archway Project, in the absence of other funding opportunities.

## PRESENTING THE 2026 BUDGET

The 2026 budget, approved by the Board of Directors, maintains a total levy of \$476,000. This budget supports the continued delivery of the programs and services that our members have come to expect and rely on.

Revenues	2024 Audited	2025 Budget	2025 Year-to-Date	2026 Budget
General Taxes	\$411,653	\$476,000	\$475,374	\$476,000
Grant Revenue	\$30,286	\$0	\$20,000	\$0
Event Revenue	\$27,968	\$0	\$20,523	\$0
Sponsorship	\$0	\$0	\$15,500	\$0
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$469,907</b>	<b>\$476,000</b>	<b>\$531,397</b>	<b>\$476,000</b>

Expenses	2024 Audited	2025 Budget	2025 Year-to-Date	2026 Budget
Administration	\$196,629	\$196,000	\$125,708	\$203,000
General Marketing	\$33,519	\$20,500	\$33,183	\$20,500
Italian Festival	\$164,285	\$170,000	\$203,792	\$170,000
Street Maintenance	\$100,246	\$89,500	\$98,182	\$82,500
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$494,679</b>	<b>\$476,000</b>	<b>\$460,865</b>	<b>\$476,000</b>

- Figures reflect 2024 audited financials, with some line items reclassified by the auditor for reporting consistency. Totals align with the audited statement of operations.

## ABOUT THE LEVY

The BIA previously held levy agreements with two large property owners within our boundary. The City of Ottawa has confirmed that these agreements will reach their end in 2026. One of the agreements has not been renewed, requiring the BIA to recalculate levy distribution beginning next year to ensure fairness across all members.

While the overall levy amount remains unchanged at \$476,000, this redistribution will result in most members seeing an increase of 14% in their individual levy share. The BIA Board approved this approach to maintain fairness and consistency while minimizing the financial impact on members.



# THE PRESTON STREET BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at December 31, 2024, with comparative information for 2023

<b>Financial assets</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Cash on deposit with the Corporation of the City of Ottawa	<b>\$273,754</b>	\$334,153
Accounts receivable	<b>20,000</b>	12,992
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<b>293,754</b>	347,145
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Deferred revenue	<b>—</b>	—
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities <i>[note 2]</i>	<b>44,727</b>	78,696
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>44,727</b>	78,696
<b>Net financial assets</b>	<b>249,027</b>	268,449
<b>Non-financial assets</b>		
Prepaid expenses	<b>1,209</b>	1,413
Tangible capital assets <i>[note 4]</i>	<b>39,683</b>	44,829
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>	<b>40,892</b>	46,242
<b>Accumulated surplus</b>	<b>\$289,919</b>	\$314,691

See accompanying notes

# THE PRESTON STREET BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the year ended December 31, 2024, with comparative information for 2023








<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Budget 2024</b>	<b>Actual 2024</b>	<b>Actual 2023</b>
	<i>[note 5]</i>		
Tax revenue <i>[note 3]</i>	\$414,000	<b>\$411,653</b>	\$392,765
Other revenue	–	<b>58,254</b>	74,292
Subtotal	414,000	<b>469,907</b>	467,057
CEWS repayment <i>[note 6]</i>	–	<b>–</b>	(65,563)
Total revenue	414,000	<b>469,907</b>	401,494
<b>Expenses</b>			
Advertising and promotion	110,000	<b>130,455</b>	145,548
Salaries	132,250	<b>139,882</b>	112,328
Maintenance	75,500	<b>70,497</b>	80,341
Professional and consulting fees	96,700	<b>98,779</b>	62,674
Office	17,050	<b>21,010</b>	18,596
Rentals	14,000	<b>18,039</b>	15,631
Audit fees	–	<b>5,337</b>	4,997
Insurance	3,500	<b>3,499</b>	4,313
Depreciation	–	<b>7,181</b>	4,075
Total expenses	449,000	<b>494,679</b>	448,503
<b>Annual surplus (deficit)</b>	(35,000)	<b>(24,772)</b>	(47,009)
Accumulated surplus, beginning of year	314,691	<b>314,691</b>	361,700
<b>Accumulated surplus, end of year</b>	\$279,691	<b>\$289,919</b>	\$314,691

See accompanying notes



# DID YOU KNOW?

As a BIA member, you can influence what happens in your commercial district by providing feedback, getting involved with your BIA Board, Board committees and annual meetings.

BIA CONTACT INFO	MEMBER INFORMATION
 <a href="http://www.prestonstreet.com">www.prestonstreet.com</a>	For all member information, visit <b><a href="http://www.prestonstreet.com/members">www.prestonstreet.com/members</a></b> or sign up for our e-newsletter.
 343 Preston Street, Office 1177	Connect with us on social media:
 343-291-1178	  
 <a href="mailto:info@prestonstreet.com">info@prestonstreet.com</a> <a href="mailto:social@prestonstreet.com">social@prestonstreet.com</a>	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/littleitalyottawa">@littleitalyottawa</a>

To sign up for our newsletter, please send an email to [social@prestonstreet.com](mailto:social@prestonstreet.com). You'll receive our updates featuring community news, development information, road closure notices, small business resources, funding opportunities and notice of events in Little Italy.

