

Downtown Development Report Board of Directors Tuesday, March 18, 2025



Social media

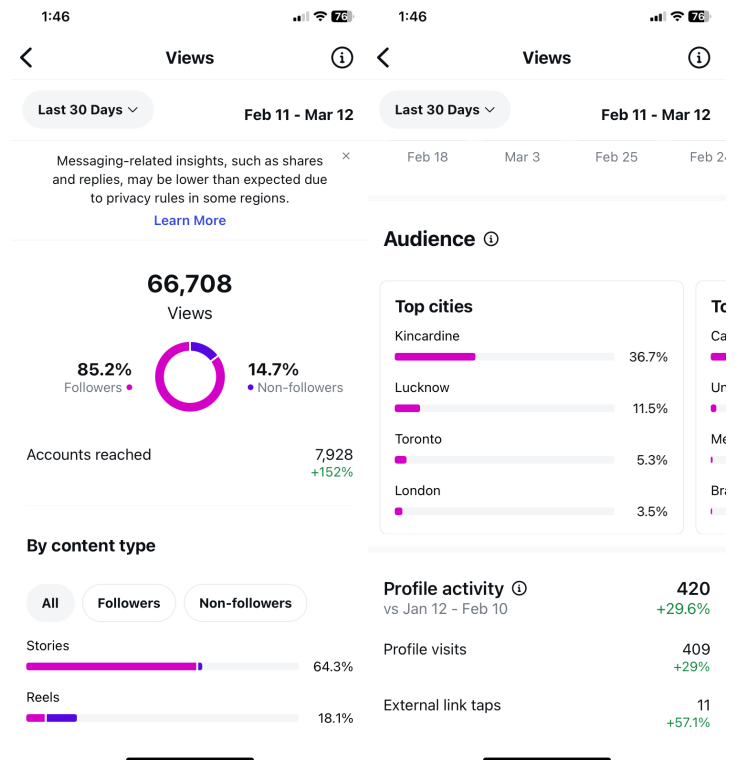
- Continuing with 'get to know your BIA' series
- Our accounts reached is up 152%
- Starting to promote upcoming events (MITP, May long weekend)

Items of Special Note

- No applications for board vacancy, posting going up again
- Lorusso's building has been sold
- First alignment meeting for 2025 set for March 24th - the purpose of these meetings is for the chamber, Strategic Initiatives, BIA, County and Tourism to plan activities and make sure we align on topics such as marketing, events, downtown and municipal business outreach, etc.... we keep each other up-to-date and also this helps to make sure we are not duplicating or making things harder for each other.
- MOK staff doing a preliminary walk around downtown on March 18th, a walk around with BIA will be scheduled after
- Tourism is planning a Movie night in Victoria Park on Saturday, June 7th
- Receiving quite a few inquiries for available space in our downtown for new businesses

BIA Bucks

- \$1,825 in redemptions so far for 2025
- \$2,450 in sales so far for 2025
- Will report on BIA Bucks reserve at the meeting



2025 Events

BIA Breakfast

- turnout was good - we had 32 registered attendees and a few more people came that hadn't rsvp'd
- Overall reactions seemed to be positive
- Notes and materials from meeting went out to membership this week
- Total cost for event was \$470.92

Harvest Dinner

- George's has come on board to provide the main course
- We will confirm the other restaurants participation soon
- Amanda and Tonya met to layout plans for this year
- Plan to have tickets on sale by mother's day

May Long Weekend

- Rick going to help us with live music for the long weekend
- Amanda and Lorie exploring the possibility of having the patio jersey barriers painted by artists to create an art walk through the downtown

Movie Night

- We have the opportunity to add something to the movie night to include our downtown
- Blinky will be in attendance

Safety and Security Downtown

We have received a few reports about a couple of downtown regulars who are causing issues in and around our businesses. Two individuals in particular have been causing scenes in businesses, harassing owners, and stealing. I have reached out to Constable Matthew Thorpe, the officer that attended our breakfast meeting, and I let him know what has been going on. Unfortunately, his suggestions have mostly been employed by business owners, I will include them below.

The idea of a downtown security camera system was mentioned by Constable Thorpe and there seems to be some interest from businesses for exploring this possibility. I have requested materials from OBIAA about other communities and I will share if I receive them in time for the meeting.

Email from Matt:

Hey Amanda,

I'll leave you with this link explaining citizen arrest powers and authorities. <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/other-autre/wyntk.html>

That being said – I do not recommend this, however it is an available option to business owners. It really isn't worth the risk of the altercations it would most likely create. Citizens arrests have a higher threshold than what the police are able to do; you need to actually witness the theft to be justified in your actions.

One recommendation is hiring of loss prevention/security officers however I do realize we're a small community where the amount of thefts may not justify the money spent on this; again just another option.

As my colleague suggested during our presentation, greeting everyone at the door and making eye contact does have a psychological effect on would-be thieves. A presence of cameras (or even dummy cameras for a cheaper option) will also have that effect.

Contacting police when you observe a theft or suspect a theft has occurred and providing accurate suspect descriptors may be the best option locally, and luckily our office is not far from the downtown core.

People that you suspect of theft but can't definitively say for sure, and business that do not have cameras to look back on to prove the theft – you can still trespass that individual from the store without justification, private business your store your rules type of idea.

Often when businesses catch shoplifters and deal with police, they're looking for the individual to just be trespassed from the store – I always encourage businesses to proceed with criminal charges and conditions be put in place for that person not to attend that store. That will hold a lot more weight for when they reattend; as a trespass order will only result in a \$65 ticket that they will most likely never pay.

Hope this answers your question but let me know if anything needs clarifying.

Another thought I had about the closed road situation is having a municipal employee stand at each end of the road closures with pylons. I get why the township has just the one sign in the middle, as to allow for emergency vehicle access. But if there was someone manning each side of that to have cones in place and remove them when required that would much more of a deterrent for people trying to go around the sign.

Matt