

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - TORONTO, ON**

**2015 NATIONAL BIA CONFERENCE:  
BIAs, *The Heart Of Our Community***

---

This year, over 250 attendees brought HEART to the Awards portion of the 2015 National BIA Conference. Supporting and recognizing the valuable endeavours BIAs across Ontario achieve through the Awards is an important aspect of the conference.

In various categories representing BIA innovations, this year OBIAA received an exceptional number of submissions. We want to commend the innovative and creative efforts that we saw from BIAs across Ontario and would like to congratulate all of the recipients of the 2015 OBIAA BIA Awards.

**The recipients of the 2015 OBIAA BIA Awards are:**



**Bricks + Mortar**

**Toronto Financial District BIA** for their *“Raising the Standard – Public Realm Strategy for Toronto’s Financial District”* project.

**MainStreet Accessibility**

**Collingwood Downtown BIA** with their inclusive *“Downtown Collingwood Revitalization”* project.



**Marketing + Communications**

**Toronto Financial District BIA** and their unique *“Building Community in the Towers and Tunnels”* campaign.



**Special Events + Promotions**

**St. Thomas Downtown Development Board** for their impressive *“Nostalgia Nights Car Show”* event.



**The Alex Ling - Lifetime Achievement Award** recognizes an individual’s selfless, valued efforts and contributions to BIAs across Ontario. This year’s distinctive recipient is **John Wakulat** of the Roncesvalles Village BIA for his hard work and dedication to the improvement of the downtown community.

Each year these awards are presented to an impressive slate of candidates at the **National BIA Conference**.

Held at the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel in Toronto, the **2015 OBIAA BIA Awards** ceremony took place on April 20, 2015, during the April 19-21, 2015 Conference. The **2015 National BIA Conference** is in partnership with The Ontario Business Improvement Area Association (OBIAA), and the Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas (TABIA).

We look forward to seeing you at next year's Conference in London, Ontario taking place April 10-12, 2016.

Again, *Congratulations* to all of the winning submissions of the **2015 OBIAA BIA Awards**.

-30-

**For More Information Contact:**

Kay Matthews, Spokesperson for Ontario BIA Association: 647-521-5341 or 1-866-807-2227 | [info@obiaa.com](mailto:info@obiaa.com).

Copies of these pictures are available upon request.