



Online Pioneer  
Belleville, Ont.,  
Canada

There's nothing quite like reading a newspaper.

Updated: 11/12/2005 @  
12:00 p.m.

LOCAL NEWS

CAMPUS NEWS

WORLD NEWS

SPORTS

EDITORIAL

ENTERTAINMENT



## BBIA is ready to give downtown Belleville a makeover

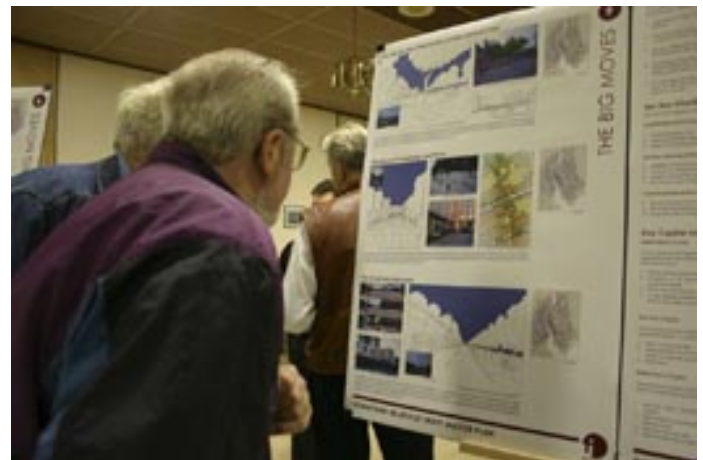


By: Nicole Wolters  
Date: 11/12/2005  
Web posted at: 12:00 p.m. EDT

The Belleville Business Improvement Area (BBIA) showed Bellevillians that they are ready to start improving the downtown area in an open house at the legion hall last Monday night.

Around 100 people attended the open house on Nov. 7 to watch as Harold Madi, from Office for Urbanism based in Toronto, presented his vision for a new downtown Belleville.

This vision, or master plan began early last year. Madi was hired to take an outsider's look at Belleville and held a



Amanda Bobbitt

**Belleville resident Bob Goshey examines the master plans carefully. He believes the plans are good, and that the down town definetly needs something.**

three-day workshop in late August 2005, so that citizens of Belleville could tell what they wanted to see happen in Belleville's downtown. From the workshop, Madi discovered that there was some treasured things in Belleville, many things to improve upon and a whole lot of suggestions were given.

Madi considered all this input and designed a master plan that he presented at the meeting.

"Your downtown has all the hallmarks to become a success," Madi said to the crowd of people who attended the meeting. "You have room to grow, you have both a riverfront and a waterfront, and you have an emerging winery."

Madi showed a series of slides, showing the vision he had for Belleville. These slides showed the need for more East to West walkways, promenades, green spaces, public art spaces, trees and parks.

Madi proposed some 'big moves', which included a promenade from the Moira River to Church Street, extending the pavement to streets to make a distinct downtown area to slow down traffic, more public washrooms downtown, bicycle racks, and providing more parking and moving the existing parking lots to better locations.

"The downtown isn't about driving, but it's about driving to get there," Madi said.

He also encouraged Belleville to provide more walking trails and things for people to look at, instead of rushing through the downtown.

"What's the rush? There should be places and things to see."

Michael Malachowski, chair of the BBIA was excited about the new master plan.

"It is long overdue," Malachowski said. "I think we have developed a strong master plan that has come from the community. We got all the ideas from people attending our open house and letting us know what they want."

Malachowski says that a lot of the things already in Belleville, such as the new library and the proposed Empire plaza, will fit ideally into the plan and will help

encourage the improvement of Belleville and attract private investments and businesses.

A resident of Belleville, Heather Rielly, has been interested in the improvement plans since the beginning.

"I have attending the meetings and I have a personal interest. It's wonderful if we could get things rolling downtown and figure out how we are going to put it all into place."

Selma Bochnek, a city councillor for the last 24 years, attended the meeting out of personal interest.

"I live in Belleville and I have been with this plan the whole time. I'd like to see the public product," she said. "I think that to really move forward, you need a long range plan and you need to be receptive to changes. It may be, not everything becomes a reality."

Although the BBIA has been working along side the city council, Bochnek gives all the credit to the BBIA.

"They initiated it and I give them all the credit."

Bob Goshey, a Belleville resident of 13 years, spends a lot of time downtown, spending money in the community each day. The semi-retired resident's major concerns are parking in the downtown core and maintaining the buildings the city currently has, both of which were problems addressed in the presentation.

"We definitely need something," said Goshey. "Now it needs money - somebody to put it forward."

After the meeting, people were given an opportunity to ask questions. They will also be given time to give more input and a final draft of the master plan will be submitted to city council in Dec 2005.

"The great amount of passion and love the people have for the downtown is evident," said Madi.

---

## Related Stories

[Library looks for home](#)

Date: 07/19/2003

[Street art is an undesirable asset](#)

Date: 11/22/2003

---

## Related Links

[City of Belleville](#)

The official website for the City of Belleville

[Downtown Belleville Buisness Association](#)

Downtown Belleville Business Association Ontario, Canada

Return to [Local News](#)

---

---

[Home](#) | [Local News](#) | [Campus News](#) | [World News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Editorial](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Search Links](#) | [About The Online Pioneer](#) | [IDEALS](#) | [Loyalist College](#)  
[Contact Us](#)

Copyright © 2002 Loyalist College All Rights Reserved