

**Economic Development, PBIA, and
Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce
2015 Year in Review**

Economic Development:

2015 was a transition year for economic development. We established an Economic Development Advisory Committee and Council approved the development of a Community Improvement Plan. Once established, this plan will help us attract new business to the City. An Economic Development Officer has been hired and will begin employment with the City on February 1st.

PBIA:

The City and PBIA worked together to finalize a memorandum of understanding between the two groups and finalized a strategic plan. The City and the PBIA continue to work as true partners. In 2015 the PBIA created a Downtown Awards Program which highlighted many of the downtown businesses.

2016 will see three major events take place as the PBIA celebrates their 40th Anniversary.

- One will be the Downtown Hockey Spree which will take place Saturday, February 6th;
- Two is a Summer Medley Festival which will be held Saturday, June 25th. It will be a celebration of food, culture, music, entertainment and more, to kick off the summer season; and
- The third is a Downtown Funk Street Party which will be held Saturday, October 1st.

The City is pleased to support these initiatives. A 40th Anniversary commemorative booklet celebrating downtown stories will also be made available. I look forward to continue as the Council's representatives on the PBIA Board of Directors.

Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce:

I also represent Council on the Board of Directors for the Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce. The mission of the Chamber is to be a coordinating body, providing a cooperative environment to support member businesses. The work of the Chamber in providing leadership and education is important for the continued growth and sustainability of businesses in the Upper Ottawa Valley. The 12th annual Business Awards ceremony will be held Saturday, January 30th at Festival Hall.