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VACANT SECOND STORIES COMING TO LIFE AT COLLIA PROPERTIES

BY JUSTIN KNEPPER

Downtown Sault Ste. Marie is undergoing constant transformation, and one of the biggest transformations underway is located in the upper floor of the historic "Endress Block" building owned by Misti Collia and Bob Collia Jr., and located at 221/223 W. Portage Avenue. Misti and Bob purchased the 118 year-old building a few years ago, which currently houses their unique clothing/thrift shop "Second Childhood and Adults Too," as well as Sault Ste. Marie's number one brewery, Soo Brewing Company, in the space next to their store.

The building was originally constructed with up to 27 miniature but "strictly high-class" apartments, according to historic newspaper articles. When Misti and Bob Collia purchase the building, it had been vacant upstairs for decades. They worked with the Downtown Development Authority, as well as the City of Sault Ste. Marie, to apply for a Community Development Block Grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, and received a grant to assist them in the project.

Collia's project will cost more than \$850,000 and result in six beautiful, newly constructed apartment buildings. The grant requires that a portion of the units be rent restricted for one year; two will be market rate, open to any renters immediately, and then all six will make that transition after grant requirements are met.

Local contractor McGahey Construction and many local subcontractors are heading up the project. Demolition of the original apartments has been completed, and the build-out is underway; Misti's goal is for the six new apartments to be ready in spring 2020.

Captured below is a street view of the second floor apartment exterior.



COLLIA PROPERTIES APARTMENT RENOVATIONS (INTERIOR VIEW)



YEAR END EVENT REVIEW

BY LINDSAY ELLIS, MAIN STREET COORDINATOR

A change in seasons and cooler weather ushered in tremendous seasonal events following a busy summer downtown!

Portage Avenue hosted Sault Ste. Marie Fall Festival, formerly known as Oktoberfest, featuring: street performances; live music; vendors; food, and activities for families and children in September.



Fall Festival filled Portage Avenue
with smiling faces for an activity filled day
September 28th!

In October, Halloween SpookTacular brought thousands of costumed boys and girls (and pets) downtown to participate in business to business trick-or- treating. This thriving downtown event continues to bridge engagement from a great number of community partners who brought entertainment , in addition to trick-or-treating, increasing the evening's activities.



Downtown business
owners "treated"
hundreds of ghouls and
goblins during
Halloween Spooktacular
October 25th



November was a busy month for events downtown! Unofficially/officially kicking off the holiday season was the Parker ACE Hardware Parade of Lights on the Friday following Thanksgiving. Close to thirty entries lit up the night as rosy faced children awaited Santa's arrival for the ceremonial community Christmas tree lighting alongside Sault Ste. Marie's newest mayor, Don Gerrie.



2nd Place Float Winner
Sault Locks Childrens Museum



1st Place Float Winner
Soo Co-Op Credit Union



3rd Place Float Winner
Lake Superior State University

Parker ACE Hardware Parade of Lights lit up the night November 29th!



On the following day, retailers geared up for Small Business Saturday; a nationally recognized #shopsmall event designated to the small business owners of America who greatly impact the communities they occupy. Shoppers took advantage of savings and discounts offered exclusively on Small Business Saturday from downtown merchants.



PSA!

Small Business Saturday is not just one day a year!
Small Business Saturday Shoppers enjoyed a kick off party before hitting the stores November 30th!



Also in November, area foodies were treated to a week of celebrating Sault Ste. Marie's foodie culture during Restaurant Week. Restaurateurs and chefs worked creatively and thoughtfully to craft special dining menus with fixed prices for affordable higher end dining. Restaurant Week continues to gain popularity and considerations are being made for an International Restaurant Week in 2020.



From Mussels to Sandwiches-
Restaurant Week did not
disappoint!

L- Mussels and Andouille, The
Wicked Sister
R-Aloha Turkey Sandwich, Birds
Eye Outfitters



Further, adding flare to downtown shopping were horse-drawn carriage rides and visits with Santa during Christmas Open House.



With 2020 on the horizon, the Downtown Development Authority and Main Street Program are gearing up for a year of strengthening our partnerships and growing our capacities at events and festivals. On deck for 2020 are new event concepts such as: Sault Ste. Marie Spirit Week - a kickoff celebration for the 2020 Soo Locks shipping season; Boutique Week - a shopping event highlighting Downtown Sault Ste. Marie retail shops, and Burger Week - a week long event showcasing Sault Ste. Marie's foodie culture similarly to Restaurant Week.

Follow Downtown Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan on Facebook for event updates!

\$13 MILLION OSBORN COMMONS PROJECT ON TRACK FOR SUMMER 2020

BY JUSTIN KNEPPER, DOWNTOWN DIRECTOR

Osborn Commons, a 64-unit mixed use development under construction along Moloney Alley in Downtown Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan is continuing to progress. Osborn Commons is being developed by the Woda Cooper Companies, a property developer with holdings across Michigan and many other states.

The project is funded by federal low income housing tax credits, and will feature a mix of unit price points, some with income restrictions and a few that are open to all renters. The best description of the project is a "workforce housing" development, that will cater to many of Downtown's young professionals, those in entry level positions, as well as seniors and other populations.

The location allows for residents to enjoy terrific access to amenities such as Soo Locks Park, one of the most beautiful parks in the Eastern Upper Peninsula; great shopping, dining and nightlife options along Ashmun Street and Portage Avenue, proximity to many of the largest employers in the area; as well as schools, churches, and day care options.

Craig Patterson, Senior Vice President with Woda Cooper Companies informed the Downtown Development Authority that "Osborn Commons is still on track for August lease up, in spite of the early winter. The commercial suite [facing Osborn Boulevard] will be ready for occupancy by June [2020] and we are working with a tenant that plans to occupy at that time."



The rarity of this type of project, as well as the extremely urban location of the Osborn Commons development has been of interest to Noah Anderson from Sault Ste. Marie-based Anderson Media. Noah has captured incredible imagery of the ongoing construction and shared those with the Downtown Development Authority.

Visit andersonmedia906.com for more information on his company.

VOLUNTEERS PREP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

BY LINDSAY ELLIS

A recommendation to refresh downtown Christmas decorations turned into a two day, volunteer driven operation back in November, making Ashmun Street and Portage Avenue garland brighter than ever!

It had been twenty years since the decorations had a total reset. This extensive project was put into motion by downtown business owner Danna Sanderson, community members, Youth Advisory Council students, Great Lakes Recover Centers-Women's New Hope House, and students from Malcolm High School. The garland received "fluffing" and brand new LED lighting, compliments of The Sault Ste. Marie Convention and Visitors Bureau. Without their contributions , these decorations would not have seen a breath of new light.

In addition to brighter garland, be sure to discover the beautiful 12 foot live tree embellishing the sidewalk in front of Barish's and Gym 906, adding holiday cheer to downtown this season!



"Many hands make light work." - John Heywood
 Over the course of two days, over forty volunteers
 organized and fluffed hundreds of strands of garlands!



BRIDGING TWO DOWNTOWNS

BY LINDSAY ELLIS

After thoughtful discussions and consideration, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan and Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario aligned forces to mutually promote business on both sides of the borders, through a joint Facebook page named *Downtown Sault Ste. Marie Squared*.

This page is designated to collaboratively highlight "Twin Businesses" as well as activities and events in downtown Soo, Michigan and Soo, Canada. With only a few short miles separating our twin cities, it is critical to work together to create a culture on both sides of the river that believes in supporting our local economies.

Be sure to follow <https://www.facebook.com/downtownsaultsquared/> for updates from both sides of the border.



Pictured left to right:

Lindsay Ellis- Downtown Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan Main Street Coordinator

Josh Ingram- Downtown Association Executive Director, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

Emma Neish- Digital Tourism & Special Projects Intern , Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

Ashlyn McMillan-Events & Communications Coordinator, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

Justin Knepper- Downtown Development Authority Director, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

USHER IN 2020 DOWNTOWN!



**DOWNTOWN
Sault Ste. Marie**

Welcome 2020 in
Downtown Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan
during the
Soo Co-Op Credit Union
New Years Eve Celebration!
Live Entertainment, Party Favors, Dinner Specials,
Champagne Toasts and a Ball Drop!
Kids Ball Drop, 7PM - Farmers Market Pavilion
Main Drop, Midnight - Intersection of Ashmun
Street and Portage Avenue

**SOO
CO-OP
CREDIT UNION**



DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Downtown Development Authority General Purpose:

Our board is responsible for providing leadership, direction and support to the DDA, including any related entities established to implement downtown projects. These responsibilities include, but are not limited to, overseeing and coordinating the implementation of the Downtown Development Plans and Tax Increment Financing Plans, organizing marketing, promotion, recruitment and retention strategies for businesses within the downtown, and leading efforts in design and place making.

For additional details visit:

<http://downtownsault.org/about/about-the-dda/>

Downtown Manager, Justin Knepper

Staff / Main Street Coordinator, Lindsay Ellis

Board President, Larry Jacques - Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians Director of Strategic Planning

Treasurer, Debbie Jones - Executive Director Chippewa County Community Foundation

Secretary/Downtown Business Owner, Scott Parker -Parker ACE Hardware

City Manager , Brian Chapman

Secretary , Sue Goetz

Downtown Resident/Volunteer/ Vice Chair - Allison Youngs

Downtown Business Owner, Tara Kelgar - Phat Boutique

Downtown Business Owner, Les Townsend - Island Books & Crafts

Downtown Business Owner, Tom Fornicola - Subway

City Commission Liaison , Abby Baker

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

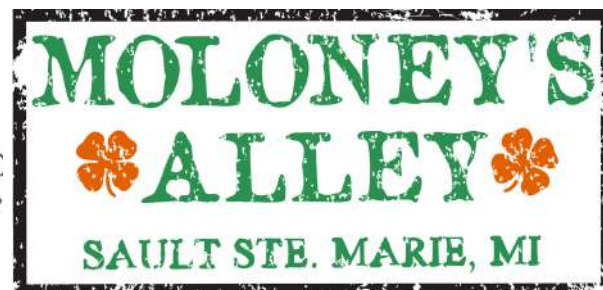
MEET ON THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

8 AM

CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS

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