

Executive Director & Chief Staff Officer

Leger Xavier, Chair of the Downtown Yonge B.I.A. is pleased to announce that effective January 2013, Mark Garner, will be taking on leadership of the B.I.A. as Executive Director & Chief Staff Officer. Mark will be taking over from James Robinson, founding Executive Director of the organization, who has moved on to a new position in London, England.



Mark brings a wealth of experience to the B.I.A. with a corporate background in business development, strategic planning and operations in the public and private sectors. As Director of Business Development, Economic Development for the City of Waterloo he encouraged foreign investment in local companies as well as partnerships with other organizations in the region.

During his five-year tenure as Executive Director of the Downtown Kitchener B.I.A. he was instrumental in launching and engaging in many city-building initiatives including the downtown streetscape revitalization project and the joint City and B.I.A. retail attraction and retention programs.

Mark is a member of the International Downtown Association (IDA), Canadian Issues Task Force, Economic Developers Council of Ontario, Retail Council of Canada and International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) as well as a past board member of the Ontario Business Improvement Area Association (OBIAA).

“As the Downtown Yonge B.I.A. continues to build credibility, diversity and leadership within the community, the Board of Management is very pleased that Mark will be taking on this position, leading strategic planning for 2013 and beyond,” says Leger Xavier.