



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Save the Date: Spirit of the Season event to run in Downtown Guelph from December 1 to December 2, 2023**

**Guelph, Ontario – Wednesday, August 2, 2023** – The Guelph Community Foundation and the Downtown Guelph Business Association will be hosting a community event this winter.

Taking place on Friday December 1st and Saturday December 2nd in historic Downtown Guelph, Spirit of the Season will be an inclusive two-day festival combining the Guelph Community Santa Claus Parade and the Mayor's Tree Lighting. In addition, there will be two new holiday markets for a weekend of entertainment, lights, and holiday cheer, where we can learn about the many ways we celebrate the season as a diverse community.

### Market Details

#### **An Outdoor Market in St. George's Square will run from:**

Friday, December 1st from 11am to 8pm

Saturday, December 2nd from 10am to 10pm

#### **An Indoor Market, located inside the Old Quebec Street Mall, will run from:**

Friday, December 1st from 11am to 10pm

Saturday, December 2nd from 10am to 5pm

#### **The Guelph Community Santa Parade and Santa Run**

Saturday December 2nd. Santa Run ([register now!](#)) starts at 4:55pm, the Guelph Food Bank at 5:15pm, and the parade at 5:30pm.

"As the nights get longer in December, we are excited to build a festival that will bring together the residents of Guelph and surrounding community to celebrate the winter holidays with some added sparkle in Downtown Guelph," says Chris Willard, Executive Director of The Guelph Community Foundation.

"The Foundation strives to bring people and causes together and we are pleased that the funds raised from this year's festival will support The Home for Good Campaign."





The Home for Good Campaign is a partnership between The Guelph Community Foundation and United Way of Guelph Wellington Dufferin. The Campaign will raise \$5 million to invest in permanent supportive housing projects to help people experiencing homelessness in Guelph and Wellington.

“The DGBA is looking forward to working together with the Guelph Community Foundation during this year’s Spirit of the Season festival,” says Heather LeBar, Project Manager of the Downtown Guelph Business Association (DGBA).

“We are thrilled to be working together to create an experience that will include a two-day market in St. George Square that ties into the Santa Claus Parade and Mayor’s Tree Lighting Ceremony. The DGBA and Board of Directors is hopeful to continue building onto this annual event as the years go on to bring together our community during the holiday season.”

All interested in more information on Spirit of the Season are asked to stay tuned for its official website launch [www.spiritoftheseason.ca](http://www.spiritoftheseason.ca), coming later this summer.

Spirit of the Season Premier Festival Sponsor 

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### About Downtown Guelph Business Association



The Downtown Guelph Business Association (DGBA) is a BIA governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. Created in 1972, the DGBA is one of the oldest BIAs in Ontario and recently expanded its borders. There are three full time permanent staff and one seasonal staff member (from May to September) that work for the 500+ members that reside within the boundary.





## About The Guelph Community Foundation



The Guelph Community Foundation is a charitable public foundation whose purpose is to provide leadership in community philanthropy and enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Guelph and surrounding areas through endowments, stewardship, and granting programs. The Foundation pools the charitable gifts of donors into permanent, interest earning endowments. The income from the endowments supports a range of charitable programs and activities. The Guelph Community Foundation is located at 55 Wyndham St. N., Suite 4A, in the Old Quebec Street Shoppes in downtown Guelph. To learn more please visit [guelphcf.ca](http://guelphcf.ca).

**For additional information about this release or to schedule an interview, please contact:**

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