

# Christmas in the Valley returns to Downtown Bolton

By **Riley Murphy**

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The Downtown Bolton BIA invites the Town of Caledon to join them for another year of Christmas in the Valley in Downtown Bolton.

This year's event, held on December 5 from 6 pm to 10 pm, will feature a vendor and artisan market, food trucks, and a Christmas tree lighting.

At Christmas in the Valley, there will also be free photos with Santa, and in exchange, the Humberview Huskies Football team is asking for unwrapped toys and non-perishable food donations to their food and toy drive.

The team's goal is to fill their coach's truck, and, in classic team-effort fashion, Caledon OPP will collect those items on their behalf and drop them off where they need to go in the community.

The football team will also be volunteering at the event, helping vendors with setup and teardown.

"It takes a lot of hands, but you know what? It doesn't feel like work. We all have a lot of fun doing it," says Sarah Leslie, Downtown Bolton BIA's event coordinator.

She shares that what began as the Bolton tree lighting ceremony many years ago has since grown into Christmas in the Valley, "a whole night of fun for families."

It truly will be a night of fun, with guest appearances from Christmas carolers, a marching band, and even the Grinch.

Leslie encourages all families to come out and enjoy the event.

The BIA is very hands-on with the event, and Leslie notes that they make a great team.

"I've personally had my hand in planning this event for several years," she says. "And together we just bring this whole thing to life for the community every year."

A local business will be giving away hot chocolate and gingerbread cookies for attendees to enjoy while they shop and support local vendors.

One of the businesses at the market will be Coldwell Banker Select Real Estate Bolton; they have taken part in the event for numerous years now.

Bryan Gnida, General Manager/Broker at Coldwell Banker Select Real Estate, says that, as a local business and local real estate brokerage in the Downtown core, they feel an "affinity" with the community and enjoy meeting and greeting all of their clients attending the event.

Their business will feature a photobooth, numerous draws and games, and some much-needed information on the real estate market.

"For us, the biggest thing is meeting everybody in the community," says Gnida.

Coldwell Banker Select Real Estate Bolton will be one of many vendors and businesses at Christmas in the Valley, looking forward to bringing Christmas cheer to Downtown Bolton.

An important part of the event, Leslie says, noting today's economic atmosphere, is that it's completely free to attend.

?No matter what the circumstances, you can come out and enjoy the evening with your family and friends. Bring your neighbors, bring your pets and just enjoy the beginning of the holiday season.?