

# 2022 Michael Comstock Award Nomination

The Broadview Danforth BIA would like to nominate our Board Chair

# **Albert Stortchak**

For this year's Michael Comstock Lifetime Achievement Award

# **Albert Stortchak**

- In researching Michael Comstock we found that he was a person who embodied the qualities and traits of compassion, dedication, hard work, and a seemingly endless passion for his community. The Michael Comstock Award for Lifetime Achievement is such an amazing tribute to him and an important recognition for those who follow in his footsteps.
- We believe Albert Stortchak is someone who has and continues to follow in Mr. Comstock's footsteps.

## **A Little Background on Albert**

- Albert was born and raised in the Danforth neighbourhood.
- He still lives in the neighbourhood and runs a thriving lighting design/restoration business on Broadview.
- Among the people who live and work in the Broadview Danforth area, Albert is known as the unofficial "mayor with the moustache" of the neighbourhood. Never try to walk with Albert in the area if you need to be somewhere quickly it's impossible! He seems to know everyone and everyone seems to know him and they all want to stop to chat. Albert is one of our greatest information resources people tell him how they're doing, what they like in the neighbourhood and what they don't like. Albert always takes the time to listen and engage in the conversations.



## **Albert's Board Work**

- Albert has been a Board member for 26 years
- He has served as Board Chair for the past 8 years and is about to start his 3<sup>rd</sup> term as Board Chair
- In his 26 years of service to the Broadview Danforth area, Albert has contributed to the growth and vibrancy of the BIA. Over the years he has worked with numerous Board members, supported previous Board Chairs, seen business members come and go and has never waivered in his commitment and passion for "his" neighbourhood.
- In the past 13 years we've seen Albert push himself to keep in step with the times and the technology! 13 years ago Albert was NOT a fan of email if you wanted to speak with him you had to go to his store and catch him there. Fast forward 13 years and our Albert is fluent with email, text messaging, Whats App, using a cell phone, Zoom meetings and social media. We've never known him to shy away from something new that will help him in his work for the BIA.
- As a Board Member and Board Chair, Albert has provided a stability balanced with a passion to achieve the best for our business members and our community through the good times and the challenging times.
- Albert has provided that steadfast leadership and compassion through some very challenging times the horrific shooting that took place on the Danforth in 2018; and, through the past 3 years of the pandemic.
- And his leadership, energy and passion have shone brightly through many wonderful times in the Broadview Danforth BIA: the Bloor-Viaduct lighting project, renaming the BIA to better reflect the community; new lighting and landscaping projects for the area; guiding the successful Thrill of The Grill event for 10 years; helping business and community members adapt as bike lanes and curb lane patios were introduced – just a small sample.



## **Testimonials**

### Philip Kocev

### **BIA Board Treasurer**

• When I think of honoring someone with a lifetime achievement award for their contribution to a Toronto BIA, I couldn't think of someone more fitting than Albert Stortchak. Albert has been a staple of the Broadview Danforth BIA for 26 years both as a business owner and having served on our BIA Board for numerous terms including moving into his 3<sup>rd</sup> term as our Board Chair. Throughout the 6+ years I have had the pleasure of working with Albert he has worked tirelessly to represent the interests of all our members and has a way of working in a collaborate and inclusive manner to take into account varying member needs that commands the respect and appreciation of everyone around him. I especially saw this during the pandemic where Albert placed concern over other business members needs over his own and was constantly engaging in activities to advocate for and help our members get the support needed to make it through those difficult years – all while maintaining a positive uplifting attitude. This award would be a great way to recognize Albert's many years of commitment to our BIA and neighbouring community.

Philip Kocev, Broker & Managing Partner iPro Realty Ltd. Brokerage



### **Testimonials**

### Paula Fletcher

### Councillor Ward 14

As Councillor for Ward 14, I am on the Boards of seven BIAs and work with many different business owners. I have worked with Albert Stortchak for several years as a member of the Broadview-Danforth BIA Board. He is one of the most committed and caring Board Chairs I have had the pleasure to work with and I feel he is very deserving of this special award. Albert has deep roots in the Broadview-Danforth community and has served on the BIA's Board for 26 years. During the pandemic he stood up for small businesses and fought for the supports they needed. He is always willing to help his community and fellow business owners. I hope you will consider him for this award to recognize his years of service and dedication.

Councillor Paula Fletcher City of Toronto, Ward 14