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For Immediate Release

Success Has Its Price! Kerr Village BIA Hires New Executive Director.

Oakville, ON— A fledgling organization just two years ago, the Kerr Village Business Improvement Area (BIA) has hired an Executive Director to manage the needs of its growing membership.

In his new role, Richard Messer, President of ConnectUs Canada, will work with a volunteer Board of Directors to increase the prominence and visibility of Kerr Village. One of its original founders and previous Chair of the BIA, in a volunteer capacity, Richard is passionate about the revitalization and growth of this community. “I am energized with this opportunity,” said Messer, “and I look forward to leaving a permanent footprint on Kerr Street.”

Prior to joining the BIA, Richard Messer worked in relationship management in both the corporate world and with all levels of government. He brings more than 10 years of consistent success in maximizing performance in both corporate and not for profit organizations. Messer is a skilled facilitator and relationship builder with over 10 years experience in community business development.

His community involvement includes: Chairing the Halton Regional Community Policing and Co-chairing the Town of Oakville Task Force on Tools and Mechanism for Revitalization Intensification.

Currently, Messer is on the Board of Oakville's Tourism Partnership and is working with stakeholders within Halton Region on destination marketing programs for Oakville and Kerr Village.

Says John Marlatt, current Board Member and owner of the Moonshine Café, "We are really pleased Richard has accepted this position. He brings a wealth of information and an entrepreneurial spirit to Kerr Village."

Members approved the budget and voted to hire a part-time Executive Director at the Annual General Meeting, in November of 2007. A search committee was established and advertisements were subsequently placed in local newspapers in December. Thirteen applications were received and three candidates were interviewed. The Board of Directors approved the recommendation of the search committee at their meeting on January 10, 2008.

Allan Kowall, of DK Consulting, has been appointed as Acting Chairman until a new Chair is chosen.

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