

General Correspondence:  
2021-2023 Seasonal Patio Program

Loved the outdoor dining district but would rather see it occasionally and/or increase accessible parking spots. My dad couldn't access downtown at all last summer and he would normally go on a regular weekly basis. It's easy for people to say just walk when they don't understand limitations others limitations. He can't walk in great distances and this won't allow him to access downtown.

He's isolated enough as is with his disability and I'd hate to see this happen again without being inclusive to everyone.

Take care,  
Jackie Merkley  
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I am writing to be a part of voice who currently business in downtown Guelph. Please kindly to leave the spot for delivery and pick up food for customers and customers can drive though to at the restaurant like as last year .it better will help more business for restaurant and grocery stores. May I leave my voice for this time.

Thank you  
Eat Thai restaurant  
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Hello,

My name is Jarod Dalley and I would like to comment on the idea of the extended patio's going before the Committee of the Whole on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

I am the General manager of the Beertown in Guelph.

We opened our doors of this brand-new location 10 days before the initial shutdown due to Covid 19.

Once we were able to re open, the value of being able to take advantage of an extended patio area during that patio season cannot be overstated.

Besides the benefit of more sales than would have been possible under the restrictions, we were able to bring back all of our staff, instead of having some remain on leave.

As a team we have now persevered through the second shut down and are ready to get back to what we all truly love to provide, and that is our Beertown brand of Hospitality from the heart.

Although we are a ways away from the down town area and the patio Market area, the patio extensions will allow us to not only bring back all of our current Team members as in the initial shutdown, but hopefully hire new faces as we grow as a team.

I would like to personally thank the City of Guelph for all of the hard work and quick actions that went into making the past patio extensions a success, and hope that together we can help the restaurants in Guelph recover and get all of our teams back to work.

The patio extension program is, in my opinion, is a vital step in this recovery and I hope that you agree.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Yours in Hospitality,  
Jarod Dalley, General Manager, Beertown Guelph

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I'm not sure who gets these emails, but when it comes to making a decision about the downtown dining district this spring, it would be nice to hear councillors says "the majority of residents in my ward are for/against this". We are tired of hearing them say "I don't think" and "I don't like the idea of". We are tired of hearing about what YOU want. You were elected to represent what WE want and I must say, most of you are letting the citizens of Guelph down.

Since there is an election next year, is this not a question we can put on the ballot?

Thanks and have a great day!!

Stephanie McCrone

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Please bring back the downtown district in the summer of 2021.

It increases the pedestrian flow.

Most of the population will be observing restrictions.

I believe with a bit of negotiation and creative thinking the bus routes could be more cohesive with district.

As a cyclist, I enjoyed the security of cycling the downtown district provided.

Thank you.  
Jane Cotter  
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I am a resident of Ward Six. I am writing to express my support and potential concerns pertaining to the 2021-2023 Seasonal Patio Report. Overall, the Report outlines what appear to be the most sustainable and practical options for promoting the businesses and vibrancy of the downtown core. I understand that the recommendation to limit street closures to special events is considered contentious by some. This is why I am writing to implore Council to reject any amendment to the Report's recommendations that would require any form of partial or total road closures.

I patronize many of the independent business, service providers, and restaurants in the downtown area. I am also a regular transit user. (I should note, by choice rather than necessity.) Personally, the street festival atmosphere of the pilot project had no appeal for me. However, my personal experience and taste is beside the point. Clearly, it was popular with a certain demographic of voters and some small business owners. I trust that you will base your vote on what the Report recommends in the interest of all residents.

Downtown Guelph it is not just a place to eat and shop. It is the heart of a public transportation system that connects thousands to vital services across the City, including the Guelph General Hospital, the University of Guelph, Homewood Health, and many other service providers. All residents and visitors should feel included and welcomed. None should expect to be regularly physically separated and inconvenienced, for months at a time, for the benefit of a few businesses and those who have the means and mobility to enjoy the luxury of a restaurant meal. Last year's dining district may have been fun, but nothing in the Report convinces me that it was equitable or fair. Particularly with respect to mobility. When you shut part of the City down, you shut people out. Sure, dining in the street is fun, but it isn't a human right.

In any event, holding weekly street festivals does not and will never equal a vibrant, people focussed downtown. In that respect, I understand that the

City has many long-term plans in the works. Please, resist the quick fix and take the long view. We can do better. This Report proves it.

Keep the streets open.

Thank you,  
David Gibson

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I am unable to attend the meeting of the Committee of the Whole on Monday Mar 1 but would like to respectfully submit my comments regarding the 2021-23 Seasonal Patio Program.

As a small business owner, I am fully aware of the various effects of Covid-19 on small businesses and how we have had to repeatedly pivot our practices in such an uncertain environment. I have also witnessed its unprecedented negative impact on the restaurant industry through direct family contacts employed in that industry.

After reviewing the recommended plan of maintaining car traffic in the downtown core, I can recognize the logic and overall benefit to city services. However, with the persistent uncertainty of Covid-19 and a potential third wave and associated shutdown, I would expect City Council to adopt a more short-term game plan.

If the summer of 2021 allows for an opening up the economy, then the effect of a pedestrian only zone similar to the summer of 2020 could allow for the downtown core businesses to recoup from their catastrophic year under Covid-19. One more summer like 2020 for them could mean survival and allow them to then re-tool for the new normal that follows.

Finally, as a born and bred Guelphite, I have observed what seems like a perpetual plan of City Hall to re-vitalize the downtown core. The Dining District brought me to downtown Guelph more often in approximately three months than it had in the previous three years.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Jamie Hobson

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I'd like to simply state that:

- a) I support expanded, seven days/week, full road closures/pedestrianization in the downtown, and
- b) The more downtown is pedestrianized and closed to vehicle traffic, the more time and money I will spend there. It's as simple as that for me.

Thank you,  
Jordan Richard

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My name is Derek Boudreau and I am writing to you on behalf of my businesses Royal Electric and Jimmy Jazz. This has undoubtedly been the most challenging year for my businesses, my staff, and personally in recent history. I would like to thank The Mayor, Council, The DGBA, and of course our customers for the support of last years dining district. Without the 2020 Dining District, our businesses would not have survived. We have been closed or modified now for about 50 weeks. Have had EXTREME drops in revenue and taken on both corporate and personal debts to keep things afloat. This year has certainly opened our eyes of our strengths and weaknesses related to our business. We have had to approach things differently, get more creative, be ready to change on a moments notice to keep pace with the everchanging times.

That being said, things have changed Downtown. Businesses are operating remotely, the streets are quiet, and there is vacant storefronts thought the downtown core. The current model is not working. We all must adapt. Over the past few years, I have heard many say that we need to revitalize the Downtown Core or make Downtown a destination again. This opportunity is right in front of us with the 2021 Dining District proposal. There was an overwhelming amount of support last year for the DDD, especially from the citizens and visitors alike. The "amazing atmosphere" created last year, was the most common feedback from customers, or "I haven't been Downtown in years, this is great". I do understand that there is also negative feedback or two sides to every coin. But as I see it, getting bodies downtown should be priority 1#. Surely, no business owner could debate that. It is time to seize this opportunity and build on it to create a thriving core where people want to live, work, and play. I don't know if you recall but they also raised the rates on my car significantly this year.

Thank you for your time,  
Derek Boudreau

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I am writing this email today to encourage the city of Guelph to close the streets downtown for spring and summer. Our community has been isolated with Covid and Winter and this is the perfect solution to encourage people to get outside and support local businesses. If the streets are closed restaurants will be able to expand their outdoor patios. With covid rates continuing to rise I'm still not comfortable eating indoors. Outdoor dining is

another solution to help bring covid rates down in our city. Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

Christine Drumm

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Yes please no cars!!

Regards,  
Khalil Khamis

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The atmosphere downtown when the streets were closed were fantastic! Patio space is so incredibly limited in Guelph to begin with and it allowed businesses to continue throughout the pandemic. We owe it to them to let them use the equipment they invested in for 2020 dining district again!!!!!!

PLEASE PLEASE KEEP THE DINING DISTRICT! My vote would be thurs - sun  
Kim Passmore

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Councillors, amid the pandemic I felt as though the downtown operation, keeping roads closed so the restaurant and downtown scene could spill out into the streets was a fantastic idea that should continue into 2021. It was a beautiful way to socialize responsibly and a great way to bring the community of Guelph together in achieving a common goal.

Kindest Regards,  
Jade Smith

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I had to write to express my support and enthusiasm to continue the downtown dining program as it began last summer. This is what a downtown should look - vibrant and a meeting place. Having the area closed to traffic increased the ability to safely distance while moving through the dining area. I won't be dining inside anytime soon and if the sidewalks are full, with no way to safely pass, I won't be quick to head downtown either.

Diana Mooij

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If it's good for business, I love it!!!! Permanently!! Designated street!! 🍷 😊

Annie Margeson

My name is Anna Huschka and I am writing to you today to urge you to maintain the closure of streets in downtown Guelph.

Closing the streets makes downtown safer, by looking for people to spread further apart while simultaneously making it easier for people to access stores and restaurants. Restaurants are also able to expand their seating outdoors which allows for citizens to enjoy restaurants safely, as well as increasing the income to the restaurant.

The closure of downtown streets is also better for the environment as it limits the cars and other forms of transportation that maybe be emitting CO2 into our atmosphere. If Guelph chooses to maintain the closed streets in our downtown sector, it will not only make us a leading city in Ontario, but a leading city in Canada when it comes to environmental action. By keeping our downtown streets closed we will hopefully inspire other cities to do the same, generating an even larger positive environmental impact.

Ultimately the choice is yours, but I am urging you to make the right choice for the people and the planet by allowing for the streets of downtown Guelph to continue to be closed.

Thanks,  
Anna Huschka (she/her)

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Moved here in August. Definitely a nice feature that aided the decision to move here.

Really makes you want to be downtown experiencing the city.

Please keep doing this

Thanks,  
Matt Dough

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I'm writing today to ask that the downtown core be pedestrian- focussed again this summer! It is an excellent opportunity for our small business to continue serving Guelph, in light of social distancing regulations. Supporting our small businesses and creating space for people to come together are essential to healthy and vibrant communities.

I hope you will vote today to make this happen! Thank you for serving our community do well!

Sincerely,  
Christelle Amaya

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I would like to voice my support for the downtown dining district all spring/summer/fall.

I took advantage of it so many times last year.  
I often walk and drive downtown and didn't notice any inconvenience with driving and parking.

I also find it hard to believe that any downtown business suffered as a result of the increased foot traffic.

It doesn't make sense to me to only set up the dining district on weekends considering the cost.

There's a beautiful new parkade so there's no need for on street parking.

The argument that patrons are unable to get parking near the business they want to go to is not valid as that has never been the case.

Also - I thought this debate already happened last year so I'm not sure why time is being spent redebating this issue?

Thank you,  
Patrick Stiles

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Hello, this email is addressed to the councillors of Guelph to express my vote to close down the downtown area to car traffic and bring back the dining district in 2021.

Thank you,  
Alex Fasken

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I am voting for the patio districts.. Why I am Dutch and have been here only 12 years and back home this gives sense of community. People can hang out but at the same time going down town and walking by all other businesses they might say he let's go in and check it out. This will not only help the restaurant and businesses but as well help you receive more tax dollars as more and more businesses want to open downtown. This will flourish the core of Guelph and you will see us become a tighter and more attractive city to the surrounding towns.



Thanks for the consideration

Cees van Arendonk

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The road closure for restaurants in downtown was the best time my kids enjoyed the downtown tension free. I did not need to worry how my kids walk or if the cars will hit them. We could enjoy our food outside pollution free.

The downtown dining district must remain.

Thank you.

Niva Shrestha

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I am in Ward 1 and would like the downtown dining district to return please.

It was a life line for struggling businesses and a good model for the future post pandemic. Please help keep downtown vibrant!

Giuliana Giancotta

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Yes!!! For weekends from May to December using parking spaces!

But I would also suggest closing down front end of Macdonell - Gordon to Wyndham - to traffic to create one pocket of pedestrian friendliness - only on the weekend. This area is also very very close to the parking garage. Forces the habit of parking there.

It's all about gradually building new habits for people to build more consensus for a more pedestrian friendly downtown in the near future.

Marcella Jager

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Please keep the streets closed for outdoor dining during the summer. I absolutely loved that Guelph did this and it sets our city apart from the others in a great way!

Thank you,

Kimberley Battaglia

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Love seeing so many people enjoying our beautiful city.

Would love to be able to enjoy again this summer.

Leasa Peters

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I am a downtown resident who lives on XXXX Street and wanted to express my support for the downtown dining district.

I think the program was a huge success last year and brought people from all over the city to downtown. I think there are ways to improve but that the project should be repeated in 2021.

It would be great to have it all summer and not just on weekends. By having it all summer, restaurants won't have to worry about take down every week and can really beautify their patios.

I'm afraid that take down every week would increase costs and reduce the appearance of the patios.

As I mentioned, I live downtown and having one intersection closed was a minor inconvenience, we'll worth it.

Thank you!  
Fabro Enriquez  
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I am putting in my vote to open up the streets like we did last year! I think it should be the way moving forward! Covid or no Covid. It's such a wonderful vibe in the warmer months, a great way to enjoy the downtown core and summer!

Kyla Dunn  
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Yes! I would love to see the core open to foot traffic only and dining on the streets it was so refreshing and honestly a long time coming in forward thinking for downtown

Penny Overbaugh  
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I would like to provide comments regarding the dining district street closure. Please confirm if I am required to attend the March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting as well? As a person living downtown, Dufferin Street, I would like to continue the street closures allowing the pedestrian traffic downtown and having tables set out the same as last summer. Beautification of our downtown is critical to gain more interest and promote the shops and restaurants. I see no benefit to vehicle traffic returning. It creates a different atmosphere that i and others believe would just continue to bring more interest if allowed to develop and flourish.

Regards,  
Carleen Paterson

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Cars have their place in a parking garage. Set all parking closer to locations for delivery/accessible parking. Let pedestrians use the space!

Thank you!  
Vanin Farrell

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I am sending this email in support of closing downtown streets to accommodate extending patios for outdoor dining.

Thank you,

Britney Rodgers

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Really enjoyed the closing of downtown and maintaining the restaurant/bars... let's do it again this year ASAP!

Regards,  
Darin Bryce

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I loved the downtown district this past summer! It made Guelph feel like a lovely community and encouraged downtown dining!! Please bring it backkkk!

Mackenzie Bernhardt

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Please allow the downtown dining district to operate again this spring/summer. This really has brought the community together, helped local businesses and was enjoyed by so many people. As outdoor shopping malls are being built and the business slowly leaves downtown I think it would be great to bring the business back to downtown by expanding and making it a permanent fixture as downtown was the first outdoor shopping mall to exist in the city. Thanks for your consideration.

Ride on,  
Clayton, Backpeddling Bike Shop

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This email is regarding keeping the downtown area of Guelph closed to cars over the summer. I live in Guelph and found it was much needed after

months of lockdown. It gave people an opportunity to be social within our community in a environment that's not a enclosed space. That may not sound like a big deal but after months of lockdown, the common consensus is that it was welcomed.

K. Grossi

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No cars in dinning district !!  
We have to move forward !!

Thanks

Omar Khamis

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Please use this opportunity to make our city different and better by bringing back the dining district! Help our local businesses thrive and give us something fun and social to do at the same time.

Thanks

Pascal Perrier

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Living and working dt Guelph for 20 years I have never seen the Vive Dt as we had last summer! One silver lining for Covid was the new appreciation for enjoying outdoor spaces. The Dt Guelph core felt very European and became a destination for gatherings and shopping experience.

Let's take this gift and not fall backwards. Dt Guelph should be a destination for all to enjoy! Please increase human space and decrease traffic. Let's allow our restaurants, pubs and shops to flourish and for the public to enjoy

Thank you

Jay Elinesky

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In response to Mayor Cam Guthrie's Instagram post, I would like to show my support for the rebirth of the outdoor experience we were given last summer.

It gave my friends, family and I a way to socialize and gather safely. Something I would love to have again.

Please make this happen.

Thanks for everything,

Scott Fraser

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Hey there city councilors!

Just sending a quick message to say I'd love to see the downtown dining district return each year!

Tara Reinink

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Please, please keep the summer patios going! I understand it can be hard in some businesses, so I think the fri-sat-sun street closure is a great compromise.

Thank you,  
Lindsey Fogliato

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My family and I really enjoyed the opportunity to eat out safely at the restaurants outdoors last summer in downtown Guelph. By closing down the streets, there was ample room for distanced dining outside. I loved how the local merchants made the spaces lovely with plants and flowers and there was music from local buskers. It had such a fabulous European vibe and was a huge attraction for people to downtown. This really illustrated innovation and flexibility during a challenging time.

I really hope we can make this happen again in 2021.

Sincerely,  
Lisa McCormack

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I am writing to you to express how much my Fiancé and I LOVED the outdoor dining district last year downtown in the heart of Guelph!

I truly believe that this is something we should keep around even after COVID 19.

These days we spend a lot of time in doors including before COVID 19. Its refreshing to enjoy drinks and great food from our local restaurants outside while enjoying the nice weather even when it does get a little chilly.

I'm really hoping this is brought back!

Thanks,  
Kayla Kenny

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I am writing this morning to voice my support for the downtown dining district, with street closures and restaurant seating on expanded patios. I feel that providing extra outdoor seating for restaurants is a much-needed relief valve that allows people to dine out during these difficult times in a way that is safer than indoor dining, as well as being an important source of revenue for restaurants, which have been badly hit by the economic fallout of the pandemic. I sincerely hope that you will consider reinstating the downtown dining district this summer!

Sincerely,  
Matthew Kayahara

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The dining district was a fantastic idea. I think we should do this again. I think it should be available all summer. Victoria Day Weekend to at least Labour Day if not Thanksgiving weekend.

Maybe figure out a way to include the other business so that they get some exposure as well.

It would be great if the food trucks could be included on weekends.

Bus routes can adapt. People can walk a little further.

I drive downtown but didn't find the street closures to be too cumbersome. It just meant I had to walk a little further to get where I wanted to go.

Shellie McDonald

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Just a quick wish being sent to hopefully continue the dining district on the streets in Guelph.

Being someone who rarely makes my way out on weekends and much prefer my couch, having this truly made me spend every weekend of the summer on different patios downtown.

It was refreshing to be spaced out and not to mention have the ability to ACTUALLY get a seat outside.

It is a known problem of trying and failing to get patio seating on any day through previous summers.

Hopefully this helps all local restaurants financially with the influx of customers coming for the soul purpose of "hitting a patio."

Warm regards,

Jill Gillard

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I would like to say I am in favor of downtown dining district in this Spring and Summer! For evenings and weekends!

Thank you!

Joelma Cristina Costa Oliveira

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I just want to say I thought the dining district without cars was amazing and it's something that should be continued every summer.

Jared Farrell

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We just want to say I thought the dining district without cars was amazing and it's something that should be continued every summer.

Crafty Crew

\*\*\*

I just want to say I thought the dining district without cars was amazing and it's something that should be continued every summer.

Jared Ferrall, Chef/Owner, Crafty Ramen

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We were outside of the dining district last year and loved it without cars. We would love to see it without cars again this year!

Slurps up,

Crafty Crew

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I am writing to support the continuation of the outdoor dining district in 2021 just like it was set up in 2020. Not only do I think this is good to expand outdoor dining capacity for those who do not feel comfortable in close dining inside but it is greatly beneficial to our local businesses. Last year Guelph set an example taking the lead before a lot of other city's to close down the streets to allow for the expansion of outdoor dining. It would be awesome to see Guelph do this again to do their part in supporting local businesses helping them make an honest dollar when our provincial and federal government is not.

I hope this can help make a difference.

Thanks,  
Nick Minigan

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Dining outdoors last summer was one of the only fun activities we got to do due to Covid.

We ate at 4 different restaurants downtown and enjoyed it every time we went.

As most of us under 50 won't get vaccines until August it would be great if we could continue this patio dining this summer and ongoing for that matter. For the 5% of people complaining let's make sure they have some 15min only parking (for food delivery services) and have a plan for transit. Continued police presence will also be important.

Thanks  
Tracey Rowe

\*\*\*

Hello, I am a resident in Guelph and I am writing to show my support of closing downtown streets to traffic in favour of outside dining and pedestrian traffic. It was an awesome experience last year that I hope we can continue.

Thank you.  
Jennifer Hannam

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I am in support of closing the downtown streets for dining. It is reviving downtown Guelph and a welcomed feature for all our new out of town metropolis inhabitants. It is returning Guelph back to its essence and moving away from the faceless GTA towns all painted with the same brush and encased in big box stores. A permanent pedestrian area where the dining district can be made look more aesthetically pleasing and permanent should also be a consideration and proper repair of existing damaged sidewalks and roads (rather than filling missing cobble stones with a shovel full of asphalt.).

Anne Trzcinski

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After living abroad and experiencing pedestrian centred downtown cores I believe that it would elevate our current downtown business/arts and cultural activities.

Pedestrian centered cores make spaces family friendly and will also help our business expand to work within our new pandemic 'norms'.

I hope this is considered,



Sincerely,  
Talia Yeo

A Guelph resident and lover of a cocktail on well spaced patio.

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Keep the outdoor patio downtown Guelph

Troy Amos

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I think that the dining district was an amazing idea. Growing up in the Guelph my whole life, downtown Guelph was beautiful but it also felt incomplete.

The idea of having closed streets with patios was great! I personally felt it made our community stronger by supporting small businesses and having that free open area to safely interact with friends.

Downtown Guelph can also get a little bit sketchy on the weekends, and by having this closed off area with a bunch of community members and police officers, it really made the atmosphere more positive and enjoyable.

I hope you this email helped in any decision towards the summer plans!

Thank you,  
Noah Van Dam

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I am in favour of continuing outdoor dining in downtown Guelph.

Tom Bartlett

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Downtown dining district - I think this is a great idea! Very European, very relaxed, such a great atmosphere. Brings the city to life and maybe keeps trouble at bay....

I fully support this!

Rochelle Rickard

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Please support the local small business in the downtown area and re-establish the Dining District again for spring and summer 2021. As a born and raised Guelph-ite, I've never seen the community in such collaborative efforts!


Please and thank you,  
Adrian Varilla

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Bringing people downtown is never a bad idea.  
Restaurants and small businesses need our support.

The parking complaint makes no sense with the parking garage that was built.

I loved it last summer.

I  would love to see it back especially after the year we have had. It's a great community initiative.

Sarah Hawthorn

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Contributing a vote here for the all day, all week dining district set up downtown Guelph.

This was such a win for our community and our downtown restaurants last year and we would love to see this return to downtown this summer season.

The set up and tear down proposed option is far too cumbersome for so many. The ability to peruse the streets without traffic made for such a family friendly environment, and we would love for this to be the new normal each summer season here in Guelph.

Please count my vote in for the all week, all day set up!!!

Thanks for your consideration,

Take care,  
Holly Fischer

\*\*\*

I love, love, LOVE the downtown dining district. Please keep it going this year!

Mikayla Hooper

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I'd like to express my support and interest in keeping the downtown dining district year after year. It was so lovely to see all of the patios be able to extend into the streets of downtown thus creating a fun and lively atmosphere for downtown Guelph. The restaurants thrived and took advantage of the opportunity with the amazing set-ups they had which in turn drew crowds to support locally.

I would be very disappointed if we didn't have the dining district every year going forward. I certainly was proud of our city for allowing this to happen during such uncertain times.

Thank you and have a great weekend!

Alyssa Vanderhyden

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My name is Brittany and I'm a fellow Guelphite! I'd like to express my thoughts on the encouragement of a car-free downtown Guelph! Last summer was a great new experience that allowed everyone to continue to feel safe, keep each other safe, all while still supporting local businesses and serving our communities. In the midst of everything going on globally, the opening of the car-free downtown Guelph continued to provided a great sense of community, which we Guelphites take pride in. Please continue with this trend coming summer 2021 as we all still hold onto the hope that this pandemic will come to an end.

Sincerely your local friend

Brittany Stairs

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Writing to show my support of the Downtown Outdoor Seating / European Beer Garden model of food and drink.

This is the Downtown Guelph that people want to see and be proud of. Due to the lack of action taken by the federal government when it comes to vaccination, a lot of these restaurants will require additional seating for the 2nd summer in a row.

Our household at XX Walman Drive strongly encourages the outdoor seating model mentioned above.

Best,

Devin Lalani

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Please please please shut down the downtown streets for more outdoor dining! It's such a vibe!!!

Thanks,

Marianne Thompson

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I saw Mayor Cam Guthrie's post on Instagram this morning asking residents of Guelph to share their thoughts on the time period where downtown

streets were closed to accommodate for more outdoor dining. I'd like to voice an opinion that this was a fantastic experience all summer.

I think it adds to the overall downtown experience to make that intersection dining only, not only because it's beautiful downtown, but it also provides support for some of these businesses. As a friend of one of the owners (La Reina) I know they were heavily impacted by this. As a lifelong Guelph resident and UofG alumni with a large circle of friends, I can speak for every single one of them when I say we all enjoyed this and would be frequenting downtown 10 times more often this summer with this outdoor experience.

Thanks for your time and I hope we get to see more of the same this summer.

Much appreciated.  
Shane Thomas-Lovric  
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Last year, Guelph piloted the Downtown Dining District to bring life and energy to the downtown area. The atmosphere was alive and gave people a multitude of shopping and dining options.

The DDD reinforces a Green initiative Guelph has been striving for. There are so many health benefits to becoming pedestrian focused. Not only does it foster better health, it strengthens the community, it helps the local businesses downtown, it promotes Guelph as a "walkable" city which boosts tourism and therefore boosts the economy. On top of it all, this pandemic has taken a toll on people's mental health. By providing a walkable space outdoors, we are in turn supporting the mental wellbeing of our community.

Our world is evolving and what a better way to embrace this change. The DDD is progressive, forward thinking, and innovative. Guelph has been talking about renewing the downtown for years, and it seems as though finally we have something that is doing just that! It's been done all over the world. It can be done here, as proven last summer!

We are for this tenfold!

Thanks for your time and we look forward to patio season and utilizing the DDD this summer!

Jan and Aaron Douma  
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I am a XX year old Mom of a one year old, my partner and I really enjoyed being able to walk through the dining district last summer and enjoy meals on the patios.

We would really love to have that to look forward to again this summer! It really brought us downtown a lot more to support our local businesses.

Thank you,  
Christine Arget

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In response to Mayor Guthrie's post on social media, I would be excited and hopeful that Guelph would close the downtown streets again to allow for more patios. I thoroughly enjoyed that during the summer of 2020, especially living in walking distance of it.

Thank you,  
Natasha DeGroot

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The downtown dining district should remain car-free. With the excess amount of foot traffic and people wandering the downtown area, it is too risky to leave one-way traffic open.

Although some businesses may agree that it blocks parking spaces for their building- I think the downtown dining district brought WAY more foot traffic than has ever been downtown.

I have lived in Guelph for the last 3 summers, and this was the busiest one yet.

To also note, people do not want to be eating as a bus passes fumes by...

This will tremendously help downtown businesses and local restaurants stay busy due to the overwhelming cause lockdowns have had. It was such a great summer last year and the only positive thing that came out of Covid-19 to be honest.

The downtown dining district should remain a pedestrian only zone- the positives out-weigh the negatives in this one.

Sarah Milando

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Please bring back pedestrian (car free) downtown and allow patio extensions for businesses this spring/summer.

Guelph did a great job last year and businesses need this survive, help them stay afloat by doing what you can.

Thank you,  
Those Pizza Guys

\*\*\*

I am writing you to express my love and enjoyment of the summer extended patio set up in downtown Guelph this past year.

The restaurants within walking distance of the large pedestrian space, definitely benefited. I think the whole downtown can be seasonally changed to benefit all businesses. If there are sitting areas scattered throughout the area, I think all will benefit.

Have a wonderful weekend,  
Jane Addeo

\*\*\*

I'm very much in support of keeping the streets closed for restaurants to have patios and to close off the four corners for pedestrians. It makes downtown a nicer and safer place to go and it promotes small business being able to socially distance while hosting outdoor tables for their guests.

Thanks!  
Hajnal Kovacs

\*\*\*

My family would like to show our support for a vehicle free downtown. Residents of Ward 1.

Thanks  
Josh Addeo

\*\*\*

I'm sending an email regarding the downtown street dining!! It was the most wonderful environment last summer and fall, and felt like we were in Europe! It felt a lot safer, there was people of all ages out and was honestly such a wonderful experience. I'm really hoping this will annually so we can continue to enjoy it! I also really like the idea of only having it Friday-sundays, so that the streets can be open weekdays.

Nicole Prince

\*\*\*

I know there is a debate of whether to bring back the dining district or not. As an affluent member of our community, I believe that the dining district added so much potential to our town.

One of the things I love most about Guelph is the community aspect and feel. I love walking through the farmers market and seeing people I know, supporting small businesses, and seeing our City flourish. I felt all of this when the dining district was opened. I saw our friends who are restaurant and business owners have their best years, saw people smiling during a very unprecedented time, and watched as our City became the talk of every town.

Our community needs this. Our businesses need this. Our people need this.

From one community member to another, please consider the positive impact the dining district has in our City and please move forward with allowing it!

Thank you for your time.

Ariana Christie

\*\*\*

I know there is a debate of whether to bring back the dining district or not. As a member of our community, I believe that the dining district added so much potential to our town.

One of the things I love most about Guelph is the community aspect and feel. I love walking through the farmers market and seeing people I know, supporting small businesses, and seeing our City flourish. I felt all of this when the dining district was opened. I saw our friends who are restaurant and business owners have their best years, saw people smiling during a very unprecedented time, and watched as our City became the talk of every town.

Our community needs this. Our businesses need this. Our people need this.

From one community member to another, please consider the positive impact the dining district has in our City and please move forward with allowing it!

Thank you for your time.

Mike Christie

\*\*\*

Just wanted to send along our thoughts regarding the positive impact we felt due to the downtown dining district and street closure in 2020.

We would love to see this happen again moving forward this year and in the future. We saw an increase of community support and foot traffic to our business. There were plenty of people using public transit and also the

parking garage downtown with ample parking. Overall it beneficial to us and surrounding businesses.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Jules and Dee, Pressedfortime Paninis

\*\*\*

Please keep the downtown patio program car-free, the experience last year was perfect, I had no safety concerns. I would question going this year with traffic stopping or speeding beside me while I eat. Let's be honest, there are too many bad drivers out there, it's not safe, but the patio program is so important!

Thanks,  
Nick Mewett

\*\*\*

The best experience for downtown Guelph during the summers. Even during a pandemic is helped with the COVID blues, imagine the day we don't need to worry about COVID and get to truly experience the beautiful scene of downtown on the patios and being able to safely walkabout.

I personally think it brings life to the downtown that has been struggling for sometime (pre-Covid).

Andrew (Lou) Glassier

\*\*\*

Please keep the downtown patio program car-free again this summer. The experience last year was perfect and I had no safety concerns. It would be a lot different if cars were motoring by and stopping beside us.

Thanks,  
Landon Arndt

\*\*\*

I really hope that Guelph will support the all week pedestrianized dining district (Option 2). At the very least, I hope the City chooses the weekend pedestrianized zones (Option 3). I truly believe that the all week pedestrian dining district is an important and wonderful improvement to our city that will benefit all businesses downtown and our city in general.

I have read the City report and below I give some thoughts about the report.

Honestly, I think that Option 1 (full road closures just for special events. patios allowed on pavements and parking spots) should essentially not be considered. This summer may still be as difficult as last summer because we are facing new and stronger variants and not enough people will be



vaccinated by the summer. Thus, we will still need to be socially distanced and inside activities should be discouraged.

Just allowing parking spaces and pavements to be converted to patios will not add enough space to the restaurant/pubs etc.

Option 3 should be the default decision. However, I am worried that this option will be the worst of both worlds and satisfy no one. There will still be road closures, thus "impacting" non-dining district's businesses (more on that below). But now the dining district businesses and the City will need to put up and take down the patio once a week.

That is a lot of people's time and money that could be used in much more useful ways. For example the City could plow that money into better transit and pedestrian/cycle infrastructure.

Option 2 (full week pedestrian dining district) is by far and away the best option. I understand that some non-dining district businesses felt that their income was negatively impacted due to the road closures.

However, I am skeptical that this was due to dining district and was actually more to do with the pandemic in general and wider trends of people shopping online. To really counteract people shopping online, slow and sticky streets (fully pedestrianized streets that are enjoyable to stay on) are required.

To finish, disabled access should be a major consideration in the decision and design of the pedestrianized area.

Furthermore, transit and pedestrian/cycling infrastructure needs to be improved. Without improvements here, the dining district will flounder.

Thank you,  
Christopher Greyson-Gaito

\*\*\*

It was my pleasure last year to work in the heart of downtown Guelph and experience the joy and pleasure our guests received from an uninterrupted dining experience. As a seasoned hospitality professional, closing the streets for the downtown dining district was one of the best choices I have ever seen a city make to help small businesses. After the exhausting year we've had, we owe our citizens the best patio season we have to offer. Eating a meal and enjoying a margarita isn't the same experience with the hissing hydraulics of a city bus just feet away from you. By closing the downtown it aloud for people to walk, enjoy the music and the ambiance of a beautiful summer day and good company. This also encouraged them to slow down and shop downtown at local clothing and jewellery stores. The city of Guelph owes it to its citizens and to the small

businesses owners, who adhere to all of the bylaws, to close the streets for the most successful summer patio season.

Kind Regards,  
Holly de Vaal  
\*\*\*

This email is to request the return of the outdoor dining for Guelph. I attended every week and found it to be the highlight of my summer. The DT landscape is beautiful and should be admired by all. Please keep the outdoor dining indefinitely.

Thanks  
Brett Smith  
\*\*\*

Just a comment regarding closing off the downtown streets.

Would love to see this continue !  
Such a great opportunity to get to know downtown better, shop small stores and utilize the businesses and restaurants.

Great for tourism as well.

A fun opportunity to help the downtown economy and enjoy Guelph especially after the difficult times they and all of us have dealt with through this pandemic.

Thanks!  
Karen White  
\*\*\*

I am a lifetime citizen of Guelph.

I am in favour of keeping the downtown dining district open full time all summer.

Please consider this as it makes for a fantastic covid safe activity to look forward to in our city.

Sam Scott  
\*\*\*

I would love to see the continuation of the traffic-free downtown this summer.

Please count my vote!

Thanks,  
Heather Unwin

\*\*\*

I have lived in Guelph for my entire adult life and have lived in or close to downtown for most of it. I have been to mostly all of the events it has had to offer. (art on the street, car shows, craft shows, jazzfest, etc.) Out of all the events the dining district has brought more people downtown daily than any other event I have seen. I frequent downtown regularly to shop and to spend time with friends. It's wonderful having a place to go downtown that has a great atmosphere and that others are enjoying. I have found myself stopping in at places I wouldn't normally go into as I am drawn to the atmosphere the downtown dining district has created and thus, see more downtown has to offer.

This initiative needs to be taken further so businesses involved can plan safer and more secure spaces for their guests. If the businesses knew this would be a seasonal event they would invest more money in their patios, including creating more jobs. Other businesses would slowly follow suit. Clothing stores would bring product out on the streets, take out restaurants would have later hours due to increased traffic after the restaurants have closed. Businesses would flock to downtown in search of a piece of the downtown dining district pie.

Change is hard, but this is change for the better. This change helps businesses who can't sell their products online or through take out. This initiative should have been already happening for years, it only took a global pandemic for it to be finally realised.

A proud citizen of Guelph,

Josh Smith

\*\*\*

I'm writing in support of the Downtown Dining district. I absolutely loved having pedestrian access to the streets last summer and felt it motivated me to visit downtown businesses more often. Creating a pedestrian-first area of downtown increases business, community involvement, and strengthens our identity! I would love it if this initiative is continued in 2021.

Thank,  
Ellen Piazza

\*\*\*

I would love the city to continue with the road closures downtown to allow for street dining in the summer months.

My family immigrated to Canada and settled in Guelph in 1988. I was just shy of 2. Although I went to Toronto for my post-secondary education and stayed in the GTA for a few years after, I came back to Guelph to begin my married life and to raise my family here.

Growing up in the ward, I grew up with a deep sense of community and I haven't experienced that anywhere else. Even though Guelph has grown so much in the past 33 years I have called it home, it is things like the dining district that set us apart and allow us to maintain the smaller city charm and community connectedness that I love.

I hope you will agree that the benefits the dining district provides our community greatly outweighs any inconvenience from redirecting traffic around the downtown core for a few months a year. Thank you for your consideration,

Monika Klein-Marshall

\*\*\*

Shutting down the streets downtown allowed restaurants and businesses to keep staff and employ more people. Without this, I don't think I would have found a job last summer. Shutting down the streets not only helped put food on people's tables by providing more jobs, but it created a happy atmosphere during troubling times. I think you should consider shutting down more streets downtown, allowing more restaurants and businesses to flourish. Maybe restaurants shouldn't be the only businesses with access to the street. The other shops could set up little outside boutiques creating an even more inclusive downtown district scene. If you do bring back this amazing idea, please consider including more shops and restaurants!

Thank you,  
Krystal Furlani

\*\*\*

I understand you are accepting feedback on the proposed downtown dining district for this summer.

I am disappointed in the way in which the Mayor has engaged on this issue. He has heavily pushed the dining district instead of seeking meaningful feedback from all citizens who it impacts. Even today, he posted in his Instagram to email this email with SUPPORT for the dining district as opposed to "input" on the dining district. This is incredibly frustrating.

I love our restaurants and I love the idea of the dining district for myself. However, the needs of all citizens need to be considered. Those will accessibility issues, transit riders, other downtown businesses etc. We

cannot make essential workers late for work or miss shifts due to transit delays so other people can brunch.

During the pandemic as a society we have praised our essential workers - many of which are using transit to get to work while others (like myself) have the privilege of working from home. People who rely on transit and those with accessibility issues should not be left behind so others can have a cocktail on patio. These interests must be balanced and solutions to their issues adequately addressed.

Additionally - I love the ideal of a pedestrian only downtown and designing for people/bikes/strollers etc. But the city needs to put its money where it's mouth is. Snow removal for active transportation in this city is embarrassing. There are countless days this winter where I have stayed home because I can't get my stroller through the sidewalks.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide input.

Katharine Morris

\*\*\*

Would love to experience a summer dining in the streets of Downtown Guelph again! Truly enjoyed that unique feeling and can't wait to do it again, in my hometown no less. Just as long as it doesn't hurt the other businesses in the downtown core!

Nicole Cross

\*\*\*

In regards to the Downtown Guelph dining experience: Our household feels that this is a very important experience to continue for 2021 and for years to come. My Husband and I visited different locations throughout the weeks and every weekend during the Summer/Fall of 2020. Most of our friends from Guelph did the same. It enabled us to meet safely outside and help support our favourite local restaurants and bars. Without this program, we feel that most local restaurants and bars would have suffered a great deal during that time. We certainly hope that we will be able to partake in this experience going forward!

Thank you.

Sarah Kinnunen

\*\*\*

Bring back the downtown dining! such a great way to socialize at a distance. Felt like a festival downtown every week. Excellent for city morale!

Loved the downtown dining district!! Bring it back! Closing that intersection makes the downtown core so much more walkable and pedestrian friendly. Love it!

Lauren Martin

\*\*\*

I think this is very important for our citizens and businesses. Being able to safely enjoy life is desperately needed for some of us. I would like the city to support this initiative.

Thank you

Rachel Chatman

\*\*\*

I am writing to express my support for the Downtown Dining District.

As a downtown resident and frequenter of the DDD, I think the traffic-closed intersection is great for small businesses, particularly restaurants, and it was so great to experience a pedestrian-friendly downtown. I didn't find the street closures an inconvenience for driving at all. I understand there are concerns that have been expressed about public transit and parking for non-restaurant businesses – I think that's a conversation that should be had with invested parties. Of course there are many factors to consider, but overall I think the project was a success and we should continue to improve it.

The Downtown Dining District is great for small business and community morale, and I wholly support the project again for 2021.

Thank you for your time,

Danielle Kuepfer

\*\*\*

I would appreciate it if we were, Keep the downtown patio program car-free, the experience last year was perfect, i think this was one of the best things for Guelph during these difficult times. I had no safety concerns. I would question going this year with traffic stopping beside or speeding by me while I dine.

Appreciate the consideration

Eric Arnold

\*\*\*

This is probably late, but I saw the announcement from the mayor about informing you about the street closures for patio.

I would like to say that I found this truly amazing as a pedestrian and a patron at restaurants on the patio. I could walk across downtown to all of the stores I needed, which did not take any longer than driving, and I felt

more included in the community as I could say hello to friends that were passing by. On the patio I felt much safer as there was no cars passing within feet of my seat at decent speeds, I could hear the music and the people I sat with and could truly experience the atmosphere the restaurant, and what I believe Guelph conveys: Happiness, health and community.

I would love to see this happen again as I truly believe it was an incredible experience for all parties involved.

Thank you and best wishes,  
Dawson Deck  
\*\*\*

I would like to see it back again, it brought people downtown even in covid times.

I had not gone downtown in years but came out for this.

Mo Mora  
\*\*\*

Completely in favour of having the downtown dining district. Incredible for our businesses and for the culture of our city.

Cheers,  
Ged Smyth  
\*\*\*

I may be late emailing this in but I really loved the downtown environment last summer and I think it's important to continue this for our local businesses as well as for the community.

Thank you  
Shauna Patmore  
\*\*\*

Amazing idea

Andrea West  
\*\*\*

Last year Guelph felt like it was alive! This should happen every year no questions asked.

Elena Di Leonardo  
\*\*\*

I am a Guelph citizen emailing you today to ask you to please consider allowing the dining district to be open again this summer. As a resident downtown I did not notice any inconvenience whatsoever having those two streets closed and found that it was a big attraction for people to come to Guelph. It gave the allure of being in a European city and in my opinion actually set Guelph apart from other cities. At a time when small businesses such as the restaurants downtown have truly suffered it would be one way in which the city of Guelph could help these businesses to recoup some of the money they have lost this past year. In my opinion it only benefits the city and the small business owners that make this city what it is.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sarah Croft

\*\*\*

I think it is great that there's an opportunity to keep the downtown core and no traffic zone and promote our restaurants as these businesses are the ones that have been hit so hard during this pandemic. The whole atmosphere downtown was completely great and I hope that this can stay this way moving forward. It is good for our community and people need to be social as this pandemic hopefully comes to an end.

Aidan Naus

\*\*\*

I moved to the east end of Guelph last year prior to COVID hitting and I've been exploring the city since. The downtown closure has provided me with a sense of belonging, community and strength through this pandemic. I couldn't imagine my life in this new city without the downtown core. I haven't been to the area since my university days nearly 10 years ago, I was happy to see that the community hasn't changed much. Please do your best to keep this alive, it is a positive initiative to keep the city of Guelph moving forward. This initiative has assisted with resident's and visitor's mental health, and keeping the local businesses thriving.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Alvin Paliuanan

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