

To Whom It May Concern (THAT's YOU)

I've lived in this beautiful city since I was 5, 32 years. Graduated from St. James HS, graduated from U of Guelph. I live less than 900m from the home I grew up in (and my parents still live in since 1990).

Growing up we always ate near the mall (East Side Marios, Montanas, etc). As parents we went to Symposium with our young children every Friday night for dinner, and Sunday for Brunch (for the past 5+ years). As a young adult the only time I'd go downtown was after 11pm, and sufficiently intoxicated so I didn't spend more than \$20 at the bar.

I never saw downtown as a daytime destination until this summer. But this summer was different. The outdoor dining brought our family downtown every weekend - by Bike (on the amazing Trail system). We'd grab breakfast at the market, play at RC Park, lunch was a picnic with take out from Market Fresh, then head to the splash pad, followed by an early dinner at one of the patios downtown. We were easily spending upwards of \$250 each visit downtown. And guess what? we left nothing to clean up! The city didn't have to sweep the streets after we were there. We would not have spent money downtown if it weren't for the patio dining. We would have gone back to our staple patio of Symposium or The Marina. I never would have bought beer mugs from Brother's Brewing, or even heard of Crazy Carrot. I wouldn't have wandered into any of the local shops, or struggled to bike home with a hanging plant from Sweet Violets.

My father is 68 years old, a retired Air Canada Captain who's travelled the world. He's never dined out downtown Guelph. But was so excited to see Guelph taking such a progressive approach like so many of the destinations he's travelled do. He had really hoped to be able to participate in the Guelph dining district this summer.

Please reconsider the proposal for the dining district. I've included a couple pictures of friends and my family enjoying what was a beautiful summer downtown Guelph.

Lisa Obermeyer







PASTOR TACOS
THREE for \$17

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