

**General Correspondence:  
March 29<sup>th</sup> Council – 2021-2023 Seasonal Patio Program**

Good Morning

I woke this morning to hear that at the Committee of the Whole last night the expansion of the downtown dining district did not pass. As my councillors and those that support downtown, I expect you to speak up against this decision to not only support the businesses in the downtown area but also to support the physical and mental wellbeing of the people of Guelph.

This was an innovative and groundbreaking program that saw the community have some relief from the weight of covid, and supported so many businesses to stay open. In fact, I know it drew many residents from other wards to the downtown, strengthening our local economy in a time that many suffered so much.

Not only should patios be allowed, the program **MUST** be expanded. It should be a larger area, include options for dancefloors, create live music venues. Allow shops to move merchandise outside to bring more customers to them. Be bold. Be innovative!

I can only assume that this decision was made to allow for the ongoing support of the car culture in Guelph. As a city that has committed to carbon neutrality, this is a step in exactly the wrong direction.

As one of your constituents, I deplore you to talk to your other councilors to turn this decision around when it is ratified at council. I have included the Clerk's office on this message and request that my email be sent to **EVERY** councilor in the city of Guelph.

City of Guelph Council, trust me. I am not alone in this. Your community needs this. And it is a critical way to support our local economy.

If we want to be a strong, thriving community, supporting the local downtown businesses is a loadstone to that future! It is not too late to change this direction!

Please contact me directly if you would like to talk about this more

Tova Davidson

\*\*\*

To whomever this may concern,  
I have become aware that the option to keep the dining district with closed streets open this summer has been dropped, and I would love the opportunity to express my distraught. I strongly believe that the closed off dining district was a wonderful idea and brought the community together extremely effectively through these difficult times. As well as keeping many businesses afloat and keeping money circulating throughout our local economy, the outdoor and socially distanced dining

district this summer was something that gave my friends and I something to look forward to, in a time where we would be otherwise directionless.  
Thankyou for your consideration,

Colin Glover

\*\*\*

I believe I am not alone in reading through social media that the majority of citizens of Guelph (and surrounding areas) want out local small businesses to survive the Covid pandemic. Giving them an opportunity to again have a downtown dining and patio district is an obvious choice and I am appalled that our council voted AGAINST this last night! Put this to a citizens vote - the outcome would be different. For the few vocal people complaining about parking and they don't want a busy downtown - they need to realize they will be signing the bankruptcy paperwork for many mom and pop restaurants who will NOT survive.

Enough is enough - stand up for businesses and support them instead of taking the easy road.

Melanie Teed-Murch

\*\*\*