

From: Phyllis  
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2023 8:18 PM  
To: Mayors Office <[Mayor@guelph.ca](mailto:Mayor@guelph.ca)>  
Subject: CBC radio

Hello Mayor Guthrie,

By chance I heard you being interviewed at noon today regarding homelessness, encampments and the impact on the downtown core. I wanted to thank you for addressing the impact this has had on the other Guelph residents.

As an older senior who just moved here eight years ago I am shocked at the deterioration of downtown. I rarely go downtown now because I no longer feel comfortable there. I hate being approached for money and then being called vulgar names because I refuse.

My friend lives at Royal Flats on Yarmouth where she regularly sees people shooting up in broad daylight. St Georges Square is no longer a place where we can enjoy a noon hour concert. And do I want to go to the cinema or a downtown restaurant in the evening? Absolutely not!

Something major needs to be done. Businesses downtown that have been hanging on by a thread since Covid are on the verge of collapse. They have to deal with frequent thefts and assaults. These folks work hard and pay taxes as do all the hardworking residents in Guelph. So yes, there is something terribly wrong with this scenario.

I am not oblivious to the plight of many of these folks. I regularly donate both money and clothing to Hope House and I have friends that donate time but indeed it is a complicated problem. Some folks are there because of very bad luck, some are mentally ill, many because of addictions, some didn't like the rules at home, and quite frankly some simply don't want to work. When the province closed all the mental institutions in Ontario they didn't provide a backup plan; that was the beginning of the problem.

I wish I had a solution but it heartens me to hear that mayors like you are collaborating for one. I hope it comes soon. Guelph's 200th anniversary is just around the corner. Please make the city centre an inviting place where we feel safe celebrating.

Thank you again for addressing the 'other side of the story'.

Respectfully yours,

Phyllis