

Hello I'm writing to you in support of the creation of tiny Homes within the Guelph community.

There are many reasons why a creation of a tiny home community would be beneficial, especially for a city like Guelph.

First there is a major housing affordability crisis within Guelph and Ontario as a whole. Guelph's housing has increased exponentially throughout the time since we have moved here (over 7 years). Not only has buying houses become unattainable for most, but also renting has become remarkably difficult, expensive, and competitive. Many people have had to resort to leaving the area as they have not been able to afford to live here any longer due to the increases in rent and or buying.

Many like myself, a disabled wheelchair user, cannot even hope to buy a home let alone find a rental apartment or house that would suit my needs. There are very few accessible options within this city.

Let it be noted that there is an increase within this disabled community of those facing housing insecurity, not only due to pricing, availability but also having the necessary adaptations to the property to make the space usable. A disabled person is also typically discriminated against when putting in applications for rentals, as landlords know how little ODSP gives to individuals and how there is a great disparity between the amount that is allotted for housing compared to the actual housing price.

I believe that many more needs for the disabled community and those deep in poverty can be met through the creation of a tiny home community. Services can be utilized on site, actual accessible and attainable housing can be created, and a community can come together to support each other with any of their difficulties. Let it be known however, that I believe that pets and service animals of all types emotional and otherwise should be allowed within this community if it was to go through. Animals serve an important connection to people who are often cast aside or for those needing emotional or physical supports that an animal can assist with.

Proper supports for mental health, physical health, addiction support services should also be readily available on site. The construction of these units also should go above and beyond ADOA guidelines especially with door widths, and communal facilities as there are varying sizes for physical mobility devices.

This is a stop gap at best to help the overloaded shelter system, as a more permanent solution can be sourced and developed. If a tiny home community is successful it can work towards becoming that more permanent solution. These communities have been created with the purpose of giving safe respite to those experiencing housing instability and can ultimately help to give them the hand up that they need.

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