

Mayor Guthrie and Members of Council:

Please approve the expenditure of the additional \$17.1 million required to expedite the infrastructure work and upgrades along Wyndham Street.

Although the infrastructure upgrades are absolutely necessary and the streetscaping is long overdue, downtown merchants are about to live through a "reno from hell". Legally, options are limited for municipal governments to offset the impact of this kind of work on businesses. Two years will be challenging enough for merchants without dragging it out for 4 years!

Please remember that downtown is the "golden goose" when it comes to generating municipal tax revenue. These investments will pay dividends over the long term.

As part of streetscaping planning, please bring in an aesthetic alternative to the unsightly Yodock barriers. It would be a waste to make all the downtown upgrades and then leave these in place.

Other cities, such as Kitchener and Toronto have safely extended patios into parking areas without the use of these unsightly barriers.

Sincerely,

Susan Watson