as a Guelph resident for over 40 years, and a supporter of the downtown. I have mixed feelings

>One thing that has always attracted me to Guelph is its positive stances towards, the environment, and its social attitudes in terms of what it supports or advocates

>I live within throwing distance of the downtown core out of choice.

>I do not have an answer for the problem but I would like to help refine the definition of the problem.

> The downtown core helps define a city,A vibrant and attractive core brings people to the city, increases prosperity, and is good for all.

>right now we have changed a number of churches into group centers or residences, along with the other buildings that serve those needs.

> Off the top of my head I can think of 9 buildings in the downtown area for these services.

This was done with the best of intentions, and I generally support it
However, it has had undesired consequences   My wife and a lot of other women I know avoid downtown choosing to shop elsewhere..That might be wrong but it is a reality.

I personally have while walking my dog had to phone for an ambulance twice for people unconscious due to I assume drug overdoses

One solution may be to let them camp on the outskirts of town, give them free bus passes, and bring the services to them in lieu of concentrating them in the core.

Again I do not know the perfect solution, if there even is one, but a sad side-effect of what we are doing is killing the business downtown. To the detriment of all the citizens.

We have a moral responsibility to care for others, but we also need to keep the downtown healthy.

>I
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rodger crane