

Hello

This situation is not unique to Guelph and it seems there is no answer - or is there? I would be interested to know if there is any community in North America which is successful in handling this issue - is there a way of learning about solutions from elsewhere?

I understand that encampments are not appropriate in public spaces - for example I no longer use the downtown post office. However, I shudder when I hear about restrictions as I'm afraid that more people will move into residential areas and the forests along the river trail.

We cannot walk the trails in the forests along the river any more - for safety reasons. I believe that tax paying, law abiding citizens have a right to use the facilities, the trails, and parks without fear of homeless people who need some form of institutionalized care.

Some years ago I read about a large house in Toronto where a number of people lived successfully under supervision and with some house rules:

- no drugs, alcohol, etc
- no fighting
- residents must hold down a job of some sort
- the city subsidized their income
- they operated as a family with respect and care for each other
- people who feel loved and respected are more likely to function in society

I would be interested to know if there are any houses or buildings in Guelph where this could work?

Obviously this would not work for everyone, but those that cannot handle groups are not fit to be fending for themselves anyway.

Good luck - this is a major issue which needs attention!

--

Lynn Roodbol, BA Psych, BASC,CC,CWC

Certified Wellbeing Coach

www.starthereandgoforward.com