

Friday, August 26th, 12:36 am

We would like to encourage the Guelph City Council to adopt and enforce Public Space By-law – 2024-359. My wife and I moved to Guelph several years ago and purchased a house at [REDACTED] Oxford Street. Since Norfolk Manor opened earlier this summer, we have witnessed and seen three satchels or bags filled with drug paraphernalia and possibly drugs abandoned on our neighbourhood sidewalks. Two of these bags were scattered across the road from our house and needles were found by the sidewalk. We have witnessed many families with young children and dogs walking over the very areas where this paraphernalia was scattered. We have witnessed drug deals occurring on the sidewalk out front of our home. We have witnessed some of the guests spending time between the dumpster at Norfolk Manor and our backyard fence. We have even seen someone from Norfolk Manor urinating on our backyard fence. We are frequently disturbed by the loud sirens emanating from the many visits emergency vehicles pay to Norfolk Manor. Our peaceful neighbourhood has been transformed. We weren't even notified or given an opportunity to understand or discuss this change to the peaceful and safe nature of our neighbourhood. We have even been told if we see a disturbance we should call By-Law enforcement rather than the police since the police don't have any ability or tools to provide effective enforcement. With the passing of the Public Space By-law – 2024-359, we understand some of the contents may not be easily enforced. We understand some of the by-laws may need to be clarified, improved, and even dropped with others added. This process begins with passing this Public Space By-law – 2024-359 and provides the tools needed for a rules based society that believes in law and order. Police will have rules and laws that they can enforce. Of course we understand that homelessness needs government support at all levels. Places for the homeless to live and receive services are in great need but need to be organized and built very carefully. Placing homeless communities in the middle of existing neighbourhoods or commercial centers is having many harmful consequences. Mobile service providers can access newly organized and built homeless communities in city areas that remain separate from neighbourhoods, commercial centers, parks and other sensitive areas that rely on undisturbed peace and lawful order. Carefully crafting an effective homeless community or neighbourhood of their own, that serves the many needs of the homeless, benefits the homeless far more than shuttling them off to the next vacant building. We believe the passing of the Public Space By-law – 2024-359 starts the process of providing rules and order that will enable the city to start to gain control of Guelph neighbourhoods, the downtown, and even eventually in the building of a proper homeless community.

Neil and Mary Perrett

[REDACTED] Oxford Street
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[REDACTED]