

October 14, 2020

City of Barrie
City Hall, 70 Collier Street
P.O. Box 400, Barrie, ON L4M 4T5



RE: Extension of Patio Season

To: Mayor Jeff Leman and Members of Barrie City Council:

On behalf of the restaurant stakeholders in the Downtown BIA, **we are requesting an extension of the patio season through November 30th, 2020.** This extension is wholly supported by the BIA and provides many benefits to the City of Barrie, its residents, and its family-owned businesses and their employees. Moreover, this initiative specifically supports the foot-traffic and vitality necessary to keep the downtown a vibrant and engaged heart of our city. In support of small businesses and their hospitality industries, progressive Ontario cities --London, Waterloo, Guelph, Collingwood, and Hamilton, to name a few -- have extended their patio seasons through November 1st with many extensions through December 31st, 2020. Downtown Barrie belongs on this list.

Without question, this year has been difficult for everyone. Since the Dunlop Street Construction commenced last September 2019, operating a business in the downtown has been a financial struggle. While we fully comprehend the concept of short-term pain for long term gain, the burden of construction was still unfortunate for downtown businesses. Then, in March of this year, the catastrophic shutdown of the hospitality industry due to COVID-19 one day before St. Patrick's Day further deepened the wounds to already bleeding businesses. We feel for our neighbours who are closing their doors forever after operating for generations. All of the businesses in the Downtown invested already scarce capital, spent many hours, and rehired and repurposed work forces to re-tool our facilities and retro-fit our patios for a shortened summer season still affected by downtown road closures and construction. Businesses took every action in protecting the safety of our staff and patrons. Slowly but absolutely surely, people have recognized the safeguards in place at our businesses and are making the effort to support our local economy. Many patrons prefer the safety of open-air experiences on patios, and Barrie businesses have all made considerable investments in furniture, outdoor heaters, and plexiglass dividers to support our city's health.

With two-thirds of Dunlop Street construction now complete and people starting to feel confident returning to the downtown, we are requesting the extension of the patio season through November 30th, 2020. Keeping our downtown sidewalks transformed into open patios provides visitors a streetscape that is spirited, accessible and safe --and it offers businesses much needed capacity to serve patrons. The 9 inches of average snow fall in November can be easily removed by businesses. Plus, early-season Ontario flurries provide a wonderful backdrop when dining outdoors accompanied by patio heaters, further extending the excitement of our downtown.

ALL restaurants we have contacted in the downtown BIA fully support extending the patio season through November 30th, 2020.

Yours in brewing,

Peter Chiodo
President & Founder
Flying Monkeys Craft Brewery
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