

# QUEEN STREET PATIOS

Removing the barriers to a  
vibrant Queen street.  
September 2024



# Insights

During the COVID years of 2020/2021 Queen Street hospitality businesses and the Kincardine community embraced seasonal patios on Queen Street. The results included:

- Businesses experienced increased seating, generating increased revenue during summer.
- Businesses hired more people.
- Queen Street appeared more vibrant with enhanced, unplanned social interactions.
- Downtown residents found opportunities to meet, spend more time, and interact on Queen Street for prolonged time periods.



# 2024 Observations

The BIA observed that there was a dramatic drop away of seasonal patios on Queen Street during the summer of 2024. So we interviewed eight Queen street restaurants, pubs and cafes to find out why. For 2025, all but one of the cafes and restaurants interviewed indicated that they would consider having a seasonal patio if some of the financial barriers could be removed.

Historically, events have been used to create vibrancy on Queen street. This is very expensive to run and usually requires the street to be closed to car traffic.

With events having a questionable financial impact for businesses, its the intention of the BIA for 2025, to create fewer Queen street events during summer.



# What do Queen Street Restaurants & Cafes Want?

Jersey barriers for seasonal patios is a bylaw enforced requirement for having a seasonal patio on Queen Street (for a fixed period from summer to October). The jersey barrier rental cost is the number one barrier preventing businesses from having a seasonal patio.

**RECOMMENDATION: Remove the cost of renting jersey barriers or the need for them by changing the bylaw.**

The cost and process of acquiring a seasonal space on the road is considered time consuming and unnecessary.

**RECOMMENDATION: Remove the cost of acquiring a space and shift the application process to an abbreviated renewal format.**

# What do Queen Street Restaurants & Cafes Want?

The recent changes to the height of roadside car parking and gutters was a major cost barrier to Queen Street cafes, pubs and restaurants who owned a seasonal patio. The majority of businesses interviewed owned a seasonal patio. Only one business paid to modify and use it for summer 2024.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Assuming there aren't any further changes to Queen Street gutters, sidewalks or parking spaces, provide financial support to modify patios for businesses wishing to have a seasonal patio for summer 2025.

**NOTE:** A greater understanding is required by the MOK of the planning timelines of businesses. Acquiring and training staff takes time. Planning menus and acquiring product takes time.