



THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF KINCARDINE

Subject: Pedestrian Summer Access Area Review

Report Number: Economic Development-2020-06

Meeting Date: Monday, September 21, 2020

Recommendation: THAT, as outlined in Economic Development-2020-06, Queen Street be closed from North of Durham Market Street North to Lambton Street, from Friday 5 PM to Sunday 9 PM, commencing June 25th weekly through September 5th, 2021;

AND FURTHER THAT examination of start date be reconsidered should weather permit;
AND FURTHER THAT should larger events be permitted by the Province under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, the addition of Mondays to include Market in the Park be approved subject to agreement of the Kincardine BIA and Kincardine Chamber of Commerce and the Municipality of Kincardine , with the CAO delegated the authority to agree;

AND FURTHER THAT the Parking and Traffic By-law be amended to include the addition of four accessible parking spaces to the municipal lots or side streets during the closure;

AND FURTHER THAT all appropriate items under administration be sent to the Accessibility Advisory Committee for review;

AND FURTHER THAT the road closure be administered by Staff through guiding documents;

AND FURTHER THAT the Chief Administrative Officer be given authority to make any changes needed, provided it is within the guideline set out above.

Date to be considered by Council: Monday, September 21, 2020

Report Summary:

As a result of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act from the Provincial Government due to the Covid-19 Pandemic in the spring of 2020, many businesses across our Municipality suffered incredible financial loss. In order to support economic development, physical distancing and public health restrictions, Queen Street was closed to vehicles from North of Durham Market Street North, to Lambton Street, from Friday 5 PM to Sunday 9 PM, from the beginning of July 4th to September 7th, 2020. After further survey of stakeholders, public consultation and additional support received via resolution from the Kincardine BIA Board, it is further recommended that Queen Street be closed from Friday 5 PM to Sunday 9 PM, from the beginning of June 25th to

September 5th, 2021, from North of Durham Market Street North, to Lambton Street. Resolution #09/15/20-02 Moved by: Darrel Perry Seconded by: Marie Wilson THAT the Kincardine BIA Board support the closure of Queen Street, from north of Durham Market North through to Lambton Street, weekly, for the recommended time period of June 25 – September 7, 2021; AND FURTHER that any additional details pertaining to the street closure be examined during the fall/winter season as provincial regulations allow. Carried.

Origin: COVID-19 Impacts

Existing Policy: N/A

Background/Analysis: The Kincardine Business Pandemic Survey presented on April 27th, 2020 indicated on page 4 that 58% of businesses who responded were at risk of closure by year end. On May 27th, 2020 the Kincardine BIA passed a motion recommending the closure of Queen Street to vehicular traffic from July through Labour Day to encourage and promote physical distancing and public safety during the COVID-19 pandemic for patrons of local retailers, businesses and restaurants. The June 2nd, 2020 Summer Access Survey provided clear direction from stakeholders that the Access Area should be created from Durham Market North to Lambton Street, with very strong support from business owners within the geography. The Economic Development-2020-06 delivered to council on June 15th, 2020 detailed the results of the Access Survey which informed decision making by Municipality of Kincardine Council.

In order to ensure that all options of a street closure were considered, Municipal staff worked with affected municipal departments and committees, the Kincardine BIA and the Kincardine Chamber. A second survey was circulated on August 6th, 2020 to gauge feedback regarding the Summer Access Area. This survey closed on August 19, 2020. The Review Survey results are included below. Results from the Access Review Survey and public consultation has been overwhelmingly positive. Letters to the BIA and Chamber of Commerce, and comments left in the Access Review Survey, are in the attachments.

BIA Recommendation passed on September 15th, 2020 recommended the Summer Access Area to continue in 2021.

An article titled *Kincardine's Road to Recovery*, applauding the Municipality of Kincardine's quick action with the Access Area (aka the Promenade on Queen) ran in the Toronto Sun, the Winnipeg Sun, the Calgary Sun, the Ottawa Citizen, the Cochrane Times Post, the Goderich Signal Star, the Paris Star and online at five separate news outlets. A copy of the article and bookings made because of the article, are in the attachments.

BC Hughes Consulting, currently working with the City of Owen Sound, has been in consultation with Municipality of Kincardine Tourism Coordinator and is now using the Summer Access Area as Best Practice in their planning.

Summer Access Review Survey Results

72% of responding businesses were in the Lambton block, aka the Summer Access Area. 10% were in the Durham block. 6% were in the Broadway block. 12% were on side streets.

Support for Summer 2021 Access Area Businesses inside the Summer Access Area: 95% of respondents were unopposed.
All BIA Businesses: 94% respondents were unopposed.

Preference for Summer 2021 Access Area Geography

All BIA Respondents: 50% of respondents preferred closure to Durham, and 39% wished for the closure to remain Lambton, 11% indicated they would like to see the closure stretch to Broadway.

Note that in the Access Review Survey, 72% of respondents are in the Lambton Block, with the remaining 28% outside of Access Area.

Support in the initial Access Survey indicated that 97% of the Respondents in the Lambton block were in favour of the closure of their block. Support dipped severely from there, with approximately 50% support in the few Respondents from within the Durham block supporting closure of their block, and in the Broadway block, 83% were opposed and 17% were in favour of closure of their block.

Therefore, the recommendation stands that the Summer Access Area stretch from North of Durham Market Street North to Lambton Street.

Impact on Sales Respondents inside the Summer Access Area: 73% reported positive impacts to sales; 18% experienced no impact. 9% felt there was a somewhat negative impact and 0% felt there was a very negative impact. (Note: Some respondents who experienced no impact included businesses not open to the public. Additionally, if the business indicated they experienced no impact to sales during the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic compared to sales in 2019, this should be considered success).

All BIA Respondents: 67% reported a positive impact to sales, 20% reported no impact, 11% felt there was a somewhat negative impact, and 2% felt there was a strong negative impact. (Note: Some respondents who experienced no impact included businesses not open to the public. Additionally, if the business indicated they experienced no impact to sales during the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic compared to sales in 2019, this should be considered success).

Impact on Deliveries All BIA Respondents: 0% reported an impact on deliveries.

Adequate Accessible Parking

All BIA Respondents: 90% reported adequate accessible parking.
10% reported inadequate accessible parking in downtown Kincardine.
(Note: any accessible parking spaces lost during the weekend closure were relocated outside of the Access Area).

Impact on Parking All BIA Respondents: 63% reported they felt the Access Area made no impact to parking. 27% indicated it made little impact on parking. 10% felt the Access Area made a strong impact on parking.

Additional Concerns amongst all respondents in the BIA:

Concern Regarding Tenant Access

No concern – 88%

Little concern – 10%

Moderate concern – 2%

Extreme concern – 0%

Concern Regarding Customer Access

No concern – 80%

Little concern – 10%

Moderate concern – 6%

Extreme concern – 4%

Concern Regarding Accessibility

No concern – 73%

Little concern – 17%

Moderate concern – 6%

Extreme concern – 2%

Concern Regarding Parking Access for Employees

No concern – 88%

Little concern – 8%

Moderate concern – 4%

Department Consultation and Information

TourismAccommodations will be needed in 2021 should events occur such as Cruise Night, Scottish Festival, or BIA Events. There are no foreseeable issues with the inclusion of these events to the Access Area, as there is direct communication between tourism department, vendors and event stakeholders. Plans will be made to accommodate all parties, as the season progresses.

Concern was brought forward regarding the origin of Vendors present in the Access Area. The concern was unfounded, as the vast majority (60-70%) of vendors are regional vendors. In response to feedback, preference will be given to local artisan vendors.

Concern was brought forward regarding the spacing of vendors. Vendors are assigned a designated space. All vendors are a minimum of 2 meters apart, set up on the roadway apart from the sidewalk abutting businesses, and are placed strategically in non-conflicting locations. All food vendors are required to be in compliance with the Grey Bruce Public Health Unit.

Vendors reported high sales and favourable experiences. They will be given a survey to complete in fall of 2020 to gauge their satisfaction with participation in 2020 and their preferences for 2021.

Public WorksNo major concerns were brought forward regarding the Queen Street Closure to Vehicular Traffic. Public Works requires a width of 14ft in the middle of the road for any needed work that may have to be completed, which is unproblematic with the recommendations in this report and proved unproblematic during the Closure of 2020. Access will be maintained for required patrols and work. Garbage cans will continue to be strategically placed and located away from any food service. With the elimination of 4 accessible parking spaces, it is recommended that these continue to be created within the abutting Municipal spaces during the times of the closure.**Parks and Recreation**

Parks concurred with Works that garbage cans and horticultural installations must be accessible to staff for maintenance purposes. Watering of planters occurs normally in early mornings to avoid traffic and public interaction, and it is appropriate for this to

continue during the recommended closure of Queen from Durham Market North to Lambton Street.

Building and PlanningNo concerns were brought forward from Building and Planning.**Emergency Services**Fire and Emergency require 14' of clearance for vehicles which is unproblematic with the recommendation for road closure.**Treasury** The Municipality of Kincardine's insurer raised a concern regarding emergency service accessibility. Fire and Emergency has stated they require 14' of clearance, which will be accommodated.**Accessibility Advisory Committee**4 additional accessible spaces were added to the abutting Municipal lots and/or sides streets during the 2020 Closure to Vehicular Traffic, and it is recommended that this continue in 2021.Restaurant and retail displays were placed to accommodate mobility devices such as scooters in 2020, and the same methods will be applied in 2021.

Adequate Accessible Parking - Survey Results

All BIA Respondents: 90% reported adequate accessible parking.
10% reported inadequate accessible parking.

Police Services Board

OPP have been contacted and are in support of any variation of a road closure.**Other Considerations:**Tiverton Agricultural Society and Kincardine Rotary Club were both provided honorariums as part of a contractual agreement with both groups, as volunteers from each respective group maintained barricades weekly. We will continue this working relationship with similar groups in 2021.Feedback received from these groups alleviated any issue that may have arisen (ie. Wind knocking barricades down, resulting in sand bag installation), and we thank them for their quick feedback and implementation of solutions as it affected different departments.Temporary Accessible Parking Signage will be addressed for 2021, as several volunteers indicated difficulty with the height of the signage to cover/uncover.

Event-type fencing was utilised in conjunction with pylons to close the street but provide wide enough access for emergency vehicles and/or municipal vehicles needing to enter this area while in place. **Parking**Concerns regarding parking were minimal in both the Summer Access Area Survey and the Access Review Survey.

*Impact on Parking - Survey Results*All BIA Respondents: 63% reported they felt the Access Area made no impact to parking. 27% indicated it made little impact on parking. 10% indicated the Access Area made a strong impact on parking.With closure only being recommended to Lambton Street, Municipal lots and all side streets remain open, parking opportunities are adequate. In total there are approximately 520 parking spaces (including the 10 accessible spaces) between Durham Market Square and Lambton street. The proposed street closure will affect 40 parking spaces, 4 of them accessible. Some tenant parking changes will occur; staff will work with tenants/owners to provide accommodations.

*Downtown resident parking*There was little to no concern voiced regarding resident parking. Tenant access to the units on the West side of Queen immediately North of Durham Market were addressed and select individuals could gain safe access to their spaces. This will continue in 2021.*Deliveries - Survey Results.*All BIA Respondents:

0% reported an impact on deliveries.

Public HealthRegular consultation with the Grey Bruce Public Health Unity occurred for the 2020 Summer Access Area initiative. The GBPHU had no objection to the Queen Street Closure to Vehicular Traffic. GBPHU would be consulted with during the 2021 initiative as regulations are likely to change.**Administration of the Program**The

program is recommended to be administered by staff and guiding documents will be created. Since all of the regulations are subject to change in response to Provincial regulations, this guiding document may change on a regular basis, but will include the following:

- BIA Chairs, responsibility and safety
- Barricade deployment and responsibility, use of event fence
- Flower Watering/garbage removal
- Physical distancing marketing if applicable
- Entertainment & Busking
- Electricity and Water Access
- Sandwich boards
- Refreshment vehicles as permitted by the Municipality
- Tents in keeping with procedures
- All items installed on roadway to accessibility requirements
- Road Closure signage for communicating the summer closure

Corporate Strategic Plan 2020-2025:Economic Development Strategy
Strategic Objective #4: Support business expansion and retention with focus on small business

Financial Implications: Some staff time required

Attachments: - Individual Responses from Summer Access Review Survey -
Positive Feedback from Public- Positive Feedback Received by local accommodator- Post Media Article featured in various media outlets