



Town of Newmarket
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Newmarket Patio Program - 2020

Information Report to Council

Report Number: INFO-2020-37

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In accordance with the Procedure By-law, any member of Council may make a request to the Town Clerk that this Report be placed on an upcoming Committee of the Whole agenda for discussion.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the Town of Newmarket's temporary expanded patio program for 2020.

Background

The COVID 19 pandemic caused restaurants to close (except takeout/delivery) from March 24, 2020 until June 19, 2020 when The Province of Ontario announced that York Region was able to move into Stage 2 of their 3 stage reopening plan.

Stage 2 allowed restaurants to offer outdoor in-person dining as long as they followed all public health guidelines (physical distancing, contact tracing, reservations only, etc.)

Many local restaurants expressed interest in gaining additional outdoor space in order to accommodate the new rules and have a better chance at success. These requests came from restaurants in the BIA area seeking permission to use public land in the downtown area, as well as from restaurants on private property throughout town.

Discussion

Here are a few steps the town took to help restaurants respond and adapt to challenges created by COVID-19:

- Patio licensing fees were waived for 2020.

- The Town's patio program guidelines and regulations were updated to include more flexibility around hours of operation, encroachment on town lands and any other considerations necessary to accommodate temporary outdoor patios.
- Infrastructure, set up and tear down of pedestrian zones/expanded patios on Town property adjacent to interested businesses were funded by the Town for the 2020 season.
- Logistics of expanded dining zones on Town property were coordinated by the Town to ensure ease of implementation. This included:
 - Sourcing and securing all relevant rental equipment, materials, and contractors
 - Liaising with restaurant owners and contractors, multiple Town departments, Central York Fire Services, Public Health, etc. to ensure a timely and efficient process that did not hinder the ability for restaurants to open as early as possible

The Province of Ontario amended the Liquor Licence Act to make it easier for licensed bars and restaurants to temporarily add a patio or expand existing patios to accommodate physical distancing. This included being more generous in their definition of 'adjacent' which created opportunities for restaurants to use public land such as sidewalks, street side parking spaces, and laneways.

In early June 2020, Economic Development conducted a survey to determine which businesses would be interested in participating in an extended patio program. Here are the highlights of that survey:

- 33 businesses responded to the survey
- 25/33 businesses indicated they were in favour of the program
 - 93.3% of those in favour were still in favour even if it meant removing parking spaces
 - 13 of the 25 businesses in favour were interested in participating themselves
- Survey comments included:
 - Ensure 30 minute parking remains
 - Consider additional 30 minute parking on side streets
 - Town should consider closing the street
 - Town should definitely not close the street

The following restaurants in the BIA area took part in the expanded patio program (public land):

Made in Mexico:

- Permitted to use one extra parking space on Main St. (3 total)
- Town constructed wooden railings around the extension and covered costs
- Town agreed to cover costs associated with installing their sidewalk detour
- Patio closed on October 30

Chip and Malt:

- No option for sidewalk or curbside patio
- Laneway (Doug Duncan Drive) closed from Main St. to Cedar St.
- Town constructed a 28' x 13' deck in laneway and covered costs
- Deck was built in sections that could be easily dismantled, moved, and stored for future use

- Wood is currently in storage and can be reconstructed for this patio or repurposed for another project

Olde Village Free House:

- Permitted to use of the east side of Market Square parking lot
- Town provided rental fencing and covered costs
- Permit has been extended to November 30 as per their request

Goulash House:

- Permitted to use 3 street parking spaces on Botsford St.
- Town provided rental fencing and covered costs

Neon Flamingo:

- Permitted to use one public parking space plus additional space in front of Old Town Hall
- Town provided rental fencing and covered costs
- Permit has been extended to November 30 as per their request

Hungry Brew Hops:

- Town agreed to cover costs associated with installing sidewalk detour for their Main St. patio
- Permitted to use 5 parking spaces on Cedar St. behind their restaurant for a temporary extension
- Accessible spaces from Cedar St. were relocated to Doug Duncan Drive on the north side of Community Centre
- Cedar St. extension closed on Oct. 5
- Main St. patio permit extended until November 16 as per their request

Aubergine Kitchen and Bar:

- Permitted to use 2 parking spaces on Main St.
- Town constructed wood railings, accessible ramp, and concrete vehicle mitigation barrier and covered associated costs
- Patio closed on October 5

The George Brew House and Eatery:

- Permitted to use sidewalk space in front of their restaurant
- Town covered costs associated with installing wood railings and dividers
- Patio closed on October 30

Cachet Supper Club:

- Permitted to use rear parking lot for patio extension
- Town provided rental fencing and covered costs
- Patio closed October 5

Ground Burger Bar:

- Permitted to use 7 parking spaces in Timothy St. parking lot

- Town covered associated costs for installing wooden barriers
- Patio extension closed October 30
- Regular patio (private property) will remain open until end of 2020

Joia on Main:

- Permitted to use space in Riverwalk Commons adjacent to their permanent patio.
- Town provided rental fencing and covered costs
- Patio extension closed October 5
- Permanent patio will remain open until end of 2020

Café Hased:

- Permitted to use the sidewalk in front of their store for 2 small tables

Hop Bop Noodle Shop:

- Permitted to use a small section of the sidewalk in front of their store for a licensed patio

The following private restaurants were approved for new patios or temporary extensions on private property:

- Coops Smokin' Wing House
- Metropolis Mercantile Café
- Cora's
- Sunset Grill
- Fionn MacCool's
- Lion Pub and Grill
- Tom and Jerry's
- Sun Star Bar and Grill
- Lobo Iberico
- Crow's Nest
- Market Brewing Company
- Wing House
- Sociable Pub
- Union Chicken
- Ten Gallon Bar and Grill
- Castle John's
- The Works
- Daybreak
- Wimpy's Diner
- Donnelly's
- St. Louis Bar and Grill
- A Taste of the Island
- Arthurs Landing
- Montana's

Conclusion

The 2020 patio program has been a tremendous success. It allowed restaurants, particularly those in the downtown core, to reopen and have a realistic chance at recovery by providing additional outdoor dining space that would normally not be available for use.

Supporting the restaurant industry in the downtown core has a ripple effect for the other businesses on Main Street. Restaurants are a major driver of economic activity downtown. If the restaurants are open and operational they attract customers to the area who will stay for longer periods of time and potentially spend money at other businesses while in the area.

Downtown Newmarket, and Main St. specifically, has seen an impressive revitalization over the last few years with restaurants playing a huge role in that accomplishment. This is why their success is critical for the continued enhancement of our downtown and our local economy.

Business Plan and Strategic Plan Linkages

The Patio Program is aligned with Newmarket's Strategic Vision, Mission and Core Values. This initiative promoted outside the box thinking, creativity, and courage to try and find solutions to unprecedented challenges facing our community. We learned many valuable lessons along the way which will help us shape the future of downtown Newmarket for years to come and continue to make our community well beyond the ordinary. With continued guidance from Council and resident feedback, Town staff will work on both short term and long term strategic plans to ensure our downtown thrives in every way and reaches its ultimate potential.

Consultation

Several Town of Newmarket departments contributed to the content of this report including Recreation & Culture, Economic Development, Public Works, and Legislative Services.

We will be conducting another survey as we seek feedback from the Main Street BIA, participating restaurants, and the general public. The survey will focus on the patio experiences from the summer 2020 while also looking ahead to 2021 and beyond as we gather data that can be used toward framing the potential future pedestrianization of Main Street which is a Strategic Priority of Council.

Human Resource Considerations

The patio program involved a coordinated effort from the following Town departments along with support from Mayor and Council and Main Street BIA:

- Economic Development
- Recreation and Culture
- Legislative Services
- Building
- Public Works
- CAO

- Communications
- Central York Fire Services

Budget Impact

Services, Rentals, and Materials	
Fencing Rental	\$ 6,390.68
Woodwork	\$ 13,786.00
Signage	\$ 488.16
Cost reimbursement	\$ 5,497.15
Removal of woodwork	\$ 736.76
Total	<u>\$ 26,898.75</u>

Attachments

Newmarket Temporary Patio Program Photos (PDF)

Temporary Outdoor Patio Program – Application

Contact

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Approval

Dave Lowes – Events & Sponsorship Programmer – Recreation & Culture