



ACCESSIBLE HAMILTON PRESENTATION FOR HAMILTON DISABILITY ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE

**This presentation is about 'Porch Patios/Outdoor Dining Issues for
those with Disabilities'
(These were started before the pandemic.)**

Chair of Accessible Hamilton, S. Creer,
Board Accessible Hamilton (David Galvin), members.
(accessiblehamilton@cogeco.ca)

www.accessiblehamilton.ca

DO NOT HOLD US BACK!

PORCH PATIOS ARE A DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICE. THEY ALLOW RESTAURANTS TO USE METERED PARKING SPACES or CITY LOTS.

Greetings to the ACPD as it is known! I am pleased to meet with you all.

Accessible Hamilton is frustrated with the 'porch patios/outdoor dining' which was started in at least 2018.

- We feel this practice discriminates against those citizens with disabled parking permits for they remove needed metered parking spaces. The City also allows BIA (Business Improvement areas) to take away half of some local City parking lots for use by restaurants.
 - Residents with disabilities have trouble accessing services such as banks and pharmacies.
- ACCESSIBLE HAMILTON IS RESPECTFULLY ASKING THE ACPD COMMITTEE to ask the City to disallow the program.**



PORCH PATIOS CAN DAMAGE VEHICLES

-Porch patios actually take away more than just one parking space.

- Other vehicles may be damaged by trying to 'squeeze' into the remaining space.
 - Council and City staff may not realize that residents with disabled parking permits are not able to walk more than a block or two.

-
Patio's have sharp edges and the one at the Subway in Westdale may let you park a bike next to it but not a car.

-Patio's block needed parking spaces from residents trying to get to appointments.



**Why are restaurants allowed to
use half a City parking lot in
Westdale?**



CITY AND THE BIAS ARE NOT DOING US FAVOURS.

The City and the various BIA's are making problems for residents with disabilities by taking away needed parking spaces in City lots.

Ms. Creer owns her Theatre Arts and Event Planning company. She only rents venues which met her technical requirements and parking needs. I would never assume I could take over a public space.

The patios in Westdale blocked the bank as well. Why is that considered acceptable?



CLOSED KING WILLIAM. 2020 HARD TO NAVIGATE FOR THE DISABLED.

- This photo is from King William St. where the City wrongly allows restaurants to close off two busy blocks . There are seven porch patios on James North as well so now parking in that area is more challenging.
- These restaurants are also part of the local BIA and are blocking the public washroom in the Lister Block.
- To re-iterate, someone with a disabled permit had the permit issued due to a medical condition and the inability to walk far.
- Many City staff I have met with do not care how they may inconvenience residents with disabilities which is distressing.
- DISH SENIORS GROUP. Oct. 2018 Ms. Creer met with this group and they commented on porch patios taking away spaces near their doctor's offices.

• King William s.



WESTDALE RESTAURANT BLOCKING SIDEWALK AND PORCH PATIO

-A few business owners I know in Westdale are annoyed with BIA companies removing parking spaces which has a knock-on effect for other business customers.

- The sentiment seemed to be that if a business does not have the space then move or change your plans but do not inconvenience the disabled and others.



ACCESSIBLE HAMILTON

My thanks to the ACPD committee.

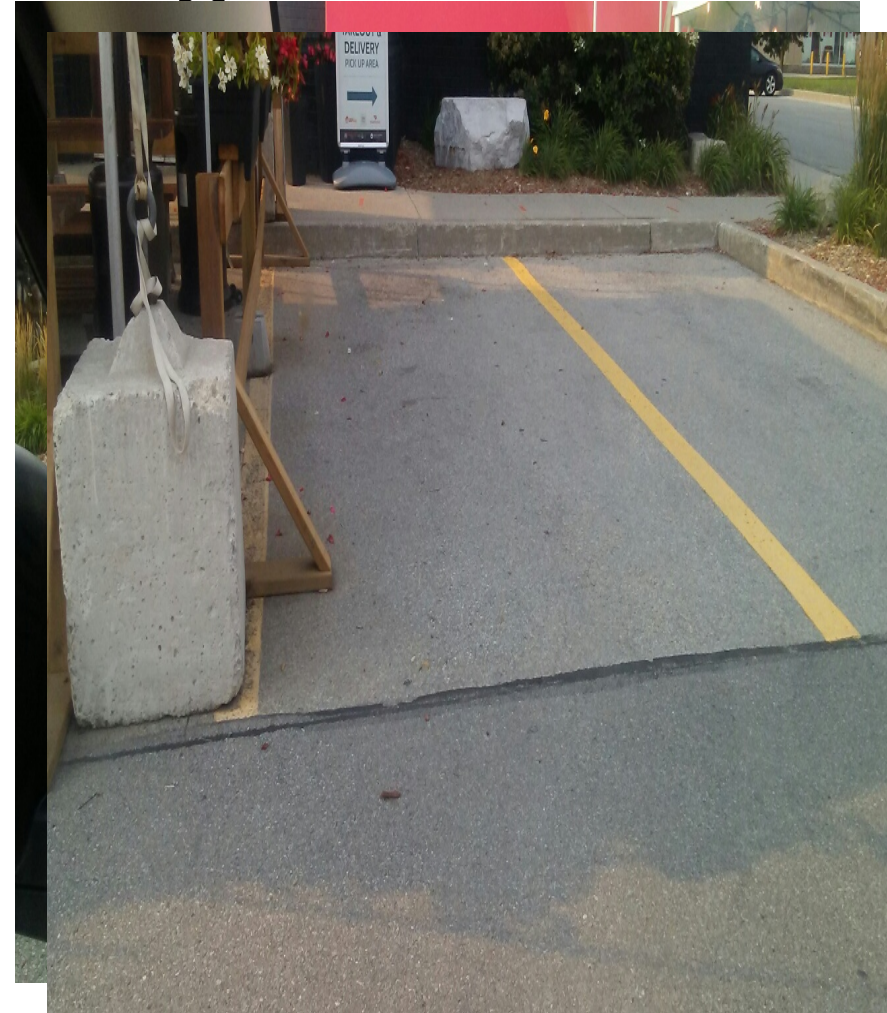
“Porch Patios and Outdoor dining” allows restaurants to make money off the backs of the disabled which we completely disagree with!

I am respectfully asking the ACPD to advise the City to disallow porch patios and outdoor dining as well as blocking access to the parking lots. The reduction in parking spaces is an issue for other businesses as well



Porch Patio/Dining issues

- Jack Astors parking lot in Ancaster, ON.
-
- Patio blocks disabled parking spot.
- Heavy concrete support bolsters limit ability to get wheelchair van into spot.
- I could not get passenger door open to get cane.



OTHER ISSUES OF BLOCKED CITY PARKING LOTS AND STREETS

- The patio program has been in place before the pandemic started.
 - Other businesses have issues with patios and closed roads. Mark and his business partner at Cabinet of Curiosities deliver props and set pieces to different City sites and found the King William blocked roads an issue for them.
 - Ryan of City Skate has problems getting parked on James N. as well.
 - I spoke to the Hambrgr owners who had a patio but came to understand my concerns.
 - Westdale BIA only includes 'old' village of Westdale so those restaurants in 'old' Westdale cause parking concerns for other types of businesses as well as the disabled.
 - I had trouble finding a parking space for a specialist appointment on June 28, 2021 on Concession St. Three restaurants near the clinic and also close to the hospital had porch patios. Specialist appointments are stressful enough, never mind restaurant owners feeling they deserve special treatment.
- I have been advised that some ACOPD members cannot 'see' well so I will try to explain as best I can. The issue with Jack Astor's patio is that there are heavy, concrete bollards which are placed so they block the patios next to them and endanger tires as well as blocking those who need to extend their wheelchair device.

Blocked City parking lots



- This photo shows my vehicle in the City parking lot in front of my bank. This shows half the City parking lot with tables/chairs for the restaurants.
- The City parking lot in front of the Westdale Theatre also has half of the parking lot blocked for restaurants.
- The whole practice of porch patios and blocked City lots is really unfair. (submitted August 3 for August 10 meeting. J. Creer Chair Accessible Hamilton) and the Board. (5 mins talk.)

THANK YOU TO THE ACPD.

- I really appreciate your time today.
- I have been advised I can only speak for five minutes.
- Another photo of the Jack Astor's restaurant blocking the parking spaces in their lot. There is one restaurant on Parkdale Ave. N with an outdoor patio I cannot pass safely to get into the shop next door.
- There is another outdoor space on Upper James St. just before Fennel Ave.

