

Gow's Bridge



Linking the Old University Neighbourhood to the City of Guelph since 1897

Old University Neighbourhood Residents' Association Inc.

25 November 26, 2025

To whom it may concern,

We are the Old University Neighbourhood Residents Association (OUNRA) and are writing in support of the proposals for the redevelopment of 81 College Ave. W. Our neighbourhood Association includes the proposed development area.

Rabbi Raphi Steiner came to our Executive Meeting on October 28, 2025 and shared, not only the ministry of his Chabad community, but also detailed plans of what they were envisioning to better accommodate the needs of that ministry. We learned that Chabad is very active with the Jewish community at the University of Guelph and is well supported by students as well as others within the community. We have noted that on a number of occasions they have had to rent a tent to accommodate their congregation.

We were very impressed by the thoughtfulness of the design – fitting in generally with the frontage along College Avenue. We were also impressed by the proactive engagement with neighbours directly adjacent to the property. It seems that they have gone out of their way to have good neighbourly relations.

We queried one of the concerns that we might anticipate from nearby neighbours – the lack of parking in the area. That is not possible on College Avenue which leaves an overflow onto University Avenue. Rabbi Raphi stated that many of the people who attend are from the University and walk, as well as others walking for religious reasons rather than driving a car. We did suggest, however, that because his ministry focused on students that there might be an arrangement to use nearby parking lots at the University to ameliorate any problems in regard to parking.

In sum, we are generally supportive of the proposed plans that were shared with us. Further, we think that a rezoning to institutional would be appropriate along that particular stretch of College Avenue.

Thanks for the opportunity to share our perspective on this proposed development.

Respectfully,

John Lawson
Secretary – OUNRA