

“I mean, I’m not going to touch my house and I’m not going to touch whatever other investments that we have to try to support this. We’ve just drew a line on the sand and said if we reach this point, then it’s done,” said Graz. “And I can’t affect my children’s education ... it’s already affected to a certain degree.”

The restaurant, which opened its doors in 2019, has been losing staff, Graz said.

“We’ve lost employees because if they need the hours, they’re going to go into a field that they can get the hours. When it comes to restaurants, we’re open and then we’re closed,” he said. “It’s already difficult to find people in these areas and now things are going to make it much, much worse.”

Adam Matthews, owner of 72 Bolton Sports Cafe, said the current lockdown is devastating.

“Retail stores can buy a T-shirt for \$7 and put it on the rack for \$40, offer 50 per cent off, and then they’re still making a 300 per cent profit on that item. We buy a hamburger for \$3, turn around and sell it for \$15, trying to make a dollar. And also, it’s a perishable item, so if we don’t sell it, it goes in the garbage. Nothing in retail ever gets thrown away,” said Matthews.

Whenever the government’s decided to enforce a lockdown, it’s unfair their decision has been made so last-minute, Matthews said.

“It takes tens of thousands of dollars for us to prepare for just a weekend. You’re ordering 10 to 12 thousand dollars' worth of food, 10 thousand dollars' worth of draft beer, then at the last minute get told, ‘Oh, we’re going to close down for a month,’ then all of that’s garbage,” he said.

Although people mean well when purchasing a gift certificate to help support local restaurants, Matthews said they won’t help.

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