

“Those are just Band-Aids. The only thing that can help us is giving us the green light to be able to open. I can sell 100 gift cards, but that money’s going to go instantly to bills and then people come in to collect on their gift cards and you’re giving out product for free now basically. Normally when you pay them, you have income coming in to offset them,” he said.

“It’s all appreciated in good will, but it’s not going to help a restaurant at all. You pay more money to turn on the lights and all of the equipment and open up the doors then you do just to remain closed. And that’s why a lot of places have chosen to remain closed until we can open.”

While there’s been some relief for small businesses, area Coun. Kathleen Seymour-Fagan said only certain businesses have been able to access some of these funds; Matthews said he isn’t one of those businesses.

Seymour-Fagan said she hopes small businesses in Kawartha Lakes can make it through this lockdown.

“People move to the area looking for this quaint, quintessential cottage town life, but that also means supporting our commercial and our tourism,” she said.

“I don't know where we're going from here. I hope in a month from now that we can open the businesses again because if we don't, we are going to see shuttered main streets.”

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