



NEWS

Kawartha Lakes business owner starts online petition in hopes of having restaurant patios reopened

Bobcaygeon restaurant owner Adam Matthews started the petition last week and has been signed by about 1,500 people.

By [Marissa Lentz](#) Kawartha Lakes This Week
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A petition established by a local restaurant owner is pleading with the provincial government to allow restaurants to open their patios.

Adam Matthews, owner of 72 Bolton Sports Cafe in Bobcaygeon, started the petition – which has been [signed by more than 1,600 people](#).

“During this time, I have thought a lot about what’s been posted online; the hate, the bullying, the blatant blindness of people as to what’s going on here, and the ramifications it’s going to cause for years to come if this continues,” Matthews said.

According to Matthews, a woman who works for a retail store in the same town as his business criticised him because [she felt as though he targeted their business in an interview](#).

“She felt I meant restaurants are hurt more with lockdowns than retail. People like this need to wake up and understand that we are in a crisis here. Now is not the time to have your petty comments on Facebook and see how many likes you get,” he said. “It’s time we all fight together and open Bobcaygeon in a safe manner.”

If any individual feels as strongly as Matthews does about the businesses in Bobcaygeon, he said he encourages them to start their own petition.

“Why do you think kids could play on the playground 24-hours after they banned it? Did Coronavirus all of a sudden leave the playground? No. People got together and spoke up and said they can open in a safe manner. The same way we can open Bobcaygeon and all other businesses in all other towns and cities in a safe manner,” he said.

“Instead of spending your time with negative comments and hoping businesses fail, and laughing on Facebook at their expense, get out of your mom’s basement and actually do something for society.”

A loss of any business in a town is a loss for every business, Matthews said.

“People like this girl that bash businesses and business owners in their own town — especially when they work at one — are the lowest of low. How many people do you think will come to a town with no restaurants and only retail stores? This isn’t a competition. It’s not one business against another. We need to stand together in a small town,” he said.