

Sound Outlook – Part 6: It's Patio Season!

They say there are only two seasons in Canada: winter and patio season. Well, it sure isn't winter right now as temps are soaring to 30 degrees. But the warm weather doesn't last long 'round these parts, so it's best to get outside at any opportunity.

With the recent Ontario announcement that patios are allowed to open, local businesses are quickly readying for a busy season. Anyone with an outdoor dining area is already off to a hot June start, but even those without a traditional patio are able to turn parking spots into eating spots and give people a safe way to spend summer in typical Owen Sound fashion.

We're taking a look at some of Owen Sound's notable patios and outdoor spaces. And with a new motion recently passed allowing the City Manager to approve sidewalk patios downtown, you're likely going to notice a few pop up along 2nd Ave E, notably outside the Georgian Bay Centre for the Arts and Birgit's Pastry Café. The following is a list of patios that have already opened and is by no means a full list.

No winner will be declared here because the winner is you... enjoying the sunshine and beautiful weather.

Downtown Owen Sound

Sizzlin'

Two words: rooftop patio. A few more words: you know what comes with a rooftop patio – an excellent view of the theatre district in Owen Sound. To match the view, you've got a menu that can please just about anyone and a selection of beverages that will do the same. They opened as soon as they were given the go-ahead and it's been a favourite spot since.

Casero Kitchen Table

Casero is a cozy mexican restaurant in downtown Owen Sound. They sling some of the best burritos this reporter has ever tasted. Everything on the menu is an instant favourite, from the appetizers to the desserts. And they only get better when eaten outside. There's a neat thing where the whole front of the building rolls up like a big garage door and changes the vibe of the entire restaurant in the summer. To maximize their patio space this summer, they will dedicate their parking spaces to increase outdoor capacity.



Jazzmyn's

An old favourite, Jazzmyn's has been open for nearly two decades. It's a great place to grab lunch or a quick dinner before your concert (back when we had concerts). Their secluded patio is one of the nicest places to be on a hot summer night. Everything from the vine-covered pergola to the dim mood lighting makes Jazzmyn's patio one of the best places to spend an evening.



The Gazebo across from the Library

I know. "Gazebos are different from patios. This one's not attached to a restaurant. That's cheating... Et cetera, et cetera." But it sure is a nice, free-to-use public space! Bring along some takeout from the Bavarian Hut, Sabitri's, Europa's, Mr Kahn's, or a restaurant of your choice. Alternately, pack yourself a nice picnic lunch, grab a friend -- and enjoy the fresh air! Take your pick - there are three or four picnic tables in the immediate area, as well as a few nice trees to sit up against! And the river sure is nice to look at, too.

Along the water

Mudtown Station

Mudtown Station is entering their third summer as one of Owen Sound's go-to hangouts. Their menu changes seasonally, and their daily specials are something to look forward to! And do I even need to mention their beer? But more importantly, they have a wonderful and large patio. Mudtown Station is on the harbour on the east side of town. The view is spectacular and the atmosphere is awesome.



Bishop's Landing

This a gem of a patio with a beautiful view of sprawling green leading to the harbour. Open everyday from 11:30 to 8pm, this is a great spot to bring the family for lunch or dinner. Take a stroll along the waterfront path that leads from the Harry Lumley Bayshore Centre before or after dinner. You could even paddle up to this patio.



East Side of Town

East Side Mario's

This popular eastside joint has turned its parking lot into a patio area so you can have your salad, bread, pasta combo while socially distancing. Each table is spaced out by 50 meatballs! They've been steadily delivering takeout during the quarantine, but once the call was made, they shifted into patio season seamlessly.

Kelsey's

Right beside the Heritage Mall, Kelsey's boasts the opportune patio experience that might be best coupled with a shopping trip to The Mall or any of the East side stores that are all open for business again. They've removed some parking spots and added a few tables along the walkway to eat socially and safely.

Boston Pizza

With their massive parking lot that has even been used for road hockey tournaments in the past, BP's had no problem extending their patio beyond their usual spot. Open 11am to 10pm, this popular joint is a great spot to grab a pizza and beverage on your way out of town, or on your return home.

Montana's

If you've been to Montana's, you know they've got a unique outdoor patio setting that's also closed in to the elements. Regardless of rain or snow (better not be!), you can dine in comfort. They've even added a few tables around the perimeter of the restaurant if you'd like to change up your view.

I know there are a few we missed on here, and maybe we didn't mention your favourite restaurant. But I think that's what makes Owen Sound so special. Even in a small town like ours, there's so much to offer that one couldn't reasonably do a fun little article such as this one and have it be a comprehensive guide.

From Victoria Day to Labour Day, there are only 17 weeks of patio season. Go out and make the most of it!

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