

**From:** La Ivsins  
**Sent:** September 7, 2025 4:42 PM  
**To:** cityclerks <cityclerks@barrie.ca>  
**Subject:** Midway Diner

Good day.

We ask that this correspondence please be added to the Circulation List for Council to read prior to meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2025.

Regards,

Cathy Colebatch  
Bill Scott  
Arnie Ivsins

Dear Mayor Nuttall and Council Members.

We are writing to you today, to share a petition that was launched to save the Midway Diner from being demolished, in order to facilitate an expansion on the Wastewater Treatment facility.

Located at 151 Bradford Street, the building that houses the Midway Diner was originally known as the "J.R. Guest Grocer" store (\*date approximately 1895). It then became known as "McGowan's Grocery Store" in 1939 to c.1950, then changing to the "Midway Variety-Restaurant & Confectionary" in the 1950s. In 1962, it became The Midway Diner, and is Barrie's longest serving restaurant.

When we heard of the plans to not only demolish this historical building but vacate the Midway's owner Mr. Matthew Jones from his residence above the diner, we felt the need to reach out to fellow citizens, to see if they also felt the same way.

And respond they did- 2,327 signed the online petition here:

<https://www.change.org/p/save-barrie-s-historic-midway-diner-from-demolition>

and another approximately 260 people signed the hard copies that were placed in the diner (see attached photo) for a total of approximately **2,600 signatures**.

It seems that the City of Barrie has had a habit of allowing its older, historical buildings and businesses to go by the wayside. I ask that you take a moment to read the preamble to the petition, to understand the importance of this decision the City has made.

When we originally met at City Hall, we were under the impression after our meeting, that there would be some sort of building constructed on the site of the Midway Diner. After looking at the rendering posted on the City's website:



*Proposed rendering of the Wastewater Innovation Centre pending Site Plan Approval*

it would appear that instead of a facility building, the plan is for a parking lot in the space of the Diner. Surely one would think that this design could have been mitigated and situate the parking lot around the Midway Diner.

In speaking with the Midway's owner Mr. Jones, the uncertainty surrounding not only his business but also his residence led him to the difficult decision to close the Midway Diner at the end of November, 2025.

Therefore, based on that decision it was determined that there was no point in pursuing this matter further, but we felt the need that Council should know that many residents of Barrie are not pleased that the City has chosen to close what has been an institution and a landmark in Barrie for 130 years.

Respectfully,

Cathy Colebatch  
Bill Scott  
Arnie Ivsins

Barrie, ON - J.R. Guest Grocer \*Interior View  
c.1900/10



Vintage Barrie ON \*Photographs, Moments & Memories

\*Digital Low-Resolution Photo: "midwaydiner.com" Photo Archive

\*Location: SE Corner of Bradford & John Streets

J.R. Guest's "Grocery Store" became "Midway Variety & Diner" in the 1950's and then the "Midway Diner" in the 21st Century

### "McGowan's Grocery Store"

Barrie/Allandale, ON - "Midway Variety-Restaurant & Confectionary" c.1950s originally "J.R.Guest Grocer" c.1900  
c.1945/50

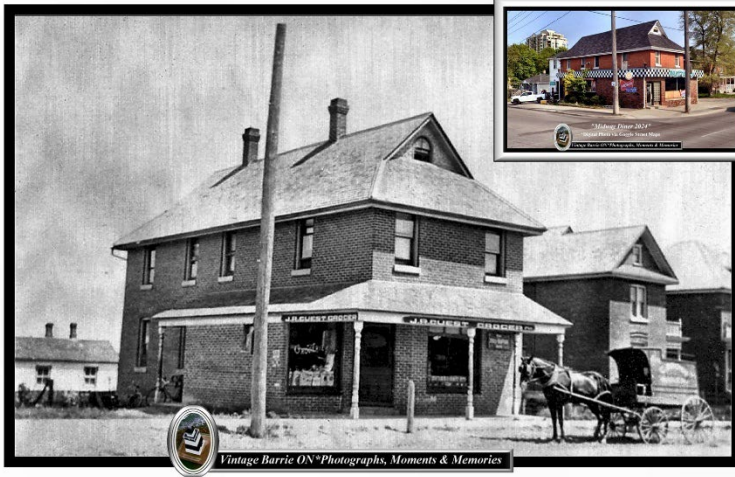


Vintage Barrie ON \*Photographs, Moments & Memories

Digital Photo Credit: midwaydinerbarrie.com

\*Location: SE Corner of Bradford & John Streets

Barrie, ON - J.R. Guest Grocery Store becomes "Midway Diner 2024"  
c.1900/10



*Vintage Barrie ON® Photographs, Moments & Memories*

Digital Photo Credit: [midwaydinerbarrie.com](http://midwaydinerbarrie.com)

**Location: SE Corner of Bradford & John Streets**

*Notice the "Hitching Post" and the Horse-Drawn "Grocer Delivery Van"*

