



REPORT

Council

Meeting Date: November 20, 2023

FROM: Municipal Enforcement Services Department

DATE: November 7, 2023

SUBJECT: Sale and Discharge of Consumer Fireworks – Response to Staff Direction

LOCATION: Town-wide

WARD: Town-wide

Page 1

RECOMMENDATION:

That staff continue to monitor the discharge and sale of fireworks in Oakville and report back to Council in Q4 2025 on the progress of fireworks regulations in other municipalities.

KEY FACTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- This report responds to a direction from Council to report back on lessons learned from the experiences of Brampton, Caledon and any other municipality that has adopted a firework use and/or sale prohibition, and, in consultation with the Legal Department, provide options to reduce the use of personal fireworks in the community
- The Town of Oakville regulates the sale of fireworks under Licensing By-law 2015-075, as amended. The discharge of fireworks is regulated under Discharge of Fireworks By-law 2009-056, as amended
- Section 121 of the Municipal Act, 2001 authorizes a local municipality to prohibit and regulate the sale of fireworks and the setting off of fireworks; and prohibit these activities unless a permit is obtained from the municipality
- Subsection 21.1(1) of the Fire Protection and Prevention Act provides that a municipality may pass by-laws to regulate fire prevention, including the prevention of the spreading of fires
- Consumer fireworks are low hazard fireworks designed for recreational use by the public as set out in the *Explosives Act*, R.S.C., 1985, c. E-17 and include roman candles, sparklers, fountains, wheels, volcanoes, mines, and snakes

- “Family fireworks” is the term used in the Discharge of Fireworks By-law. It has the same meaning as “consumer fireworks”; the term used in the Licensing By-law and the Explosives Act
- Part 16 – Consumer Fireworks under Explosives Regulation, 2013 sets out requirements for sellers (acquisition for sale, sales establishment, storage, sale) and users of consumer fireworks (acquisition and storage, use)
- A motion declaring a climate emergency in Oakville was passed by Council on June 24, 2019
- The Town of Oakville Council Strategic Plan and 2023-2026 Action Plan includes the following strategic priorities:
 - Community Belonging – enhancing community belonging to ensure all residents are invited to engage in a fulfilling community life that is built to support wellbeing; and
 - Environmental Sustainability – ensuring environmental sustainability to meet future needs related to greenspaces, natural areas and act on climate change mitigation and adaptation

BACKGROUND:

At the Council meeting of June 19, 2023, Council directed that staff report back on lessons learned from the experiences of Brampton, Caledon and any other municipality that has adopted a firework use and/or sale prohibition, and in consultation with the Legal Department, provide options to reduce the use of personal fireworks in the community.

The Town of Oakville regulates the sale of fireworks under Licensing By-law 2015-075, as amended and the discharge of fireworks under Discharge of Fireworks By-law 2009-056, as amended.

There are four types of fireworks regulated by the Licensing By-law and the Discharge of Fireworks By-law:

1. Consumer (family) Fireworks – low hazard fireworks generally used for recreation; includes roman candles, sparklers, fountains, wheels, volcanoes, mines, and snakes;
2. Display Fireworks - high-hazard fireworks generally used for public displays and designed for use by professionals; includes rockets, serpents, bombshells, and maroons;
3. Special Effect Pyrotechnics – high hazard pyrotechnics used to produce a special effect in connection with a motion picture, theater or television production, or in performances before a live audience; and

4. Prohibited Fireworks – as published under the Explosives Act; includes cigarette loads or plugs, exploding matches, party poppers, cherry bombs, M-80s, smoke bombs, table rockets, and other trick devices or practical joke devices.

Persons discharging display fireworks and special effect pyrotechnics require certification from Natural Resources Canada. There are various classes of certification, including Fireworks Supervisor and Pyrotechnician.

The Licensing By-law regulates the licensing of fireworks vendors, including:

- limiting the sale of consumer fireworks to Victoria Day, Canada Day, New Year's Day and any religious or cultural celebrations where fireworks are used to celebrate the religious or cultural event and the seven days immediately preceding these days;
- prohibiting the sale of consumer fireworks from a mobile premise (e.g. a tent, trailer, roadside stand or a motor vehicle), or selling consumer fireworks to a person under 18 years of age;
- the display of consumer fireworks that are for sale, and that the manufacturer's brochure outlining the safe handling of fireworks be made available to purchasers;
- that licensees instruct their employees on the by-law's regulations and ensure that employees comply with the by-law;
- the return of unsold consumer fireworks to the manufacturer within seven days immediately following Victoria Day, Canada Day, New Year's Day and any religious or cultural celebrations where fireworks are used to celebrate the religious or cultural event; and
- that licensees notify the Licensing Commissioner of their intention to sell consumer fireworks at least ten days prior to any religious or cultural celebrations where fireworks are used to celebrate the religious or cultural event.

The Licensing By-law also requires that a fireworks vendor's premises pass an inspection by the Fire Department before a licence will be issued to the vendor. Five fireworks vendor licences were issued by Municipal Enforcement Services in each of 2021, 2022 and 2023.

The Discharge of Fireworks By-law regulates the following:

- consumer fireworks may only be discharged between dusk and 11:00 p.m. on the day of, the day before or the day after Victoria Day, Canada Day, New Year's Day or any religious or cultural celebrations where fireworks are used

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- to celebrate the religious or cultural event, or pursuant to a Special Occasion Permit issued by the Fire Department for a street party or festival;
- consumer fireworks may not be discharged in a manner that creates or may create:
 - a nuisance;
 - an unsafe condition;
 - danger from fire;
 - risk from accident, injury; or
 - damage at or in respect of any place, location or site, or to or in respect of any person, property or thing;
 - consumer fireworks may not be discharged:
 - on streets or in a park unless a permit has been issued for such purpose;
 - by a person under 18 years of age;
 - on land without the consent of the owner; or
 - into, inside of, or on any building, accessory building, structure or motor vehicle;
 - fire extinguishing equipment must be ready for immediate use at the location where consumer fireworks are discharged;
 - consumer fireworks must be extinguished prior to their disposal;
 - no person, other than a fireworks vendor, may possess more than 10 kg of consumer fireworks; and
 - persons must permit enforcement officers to inspect any site where consumer fireworks may be stored or discharged.

An administrative penalty of \$300 may be issued to persons who fail to comply with the Licensing By-law or the Discharge of Fireworks By-law. Further action may be taken for subsequent violations including escalated penalties of \$400 for a second offence and \$500 for a third offence.

Other Town By-laws

Persons are prohibited from bringing fireworks into a park by Parks By-law 2013-013, except with the written approval of the Director, Parks and Open Space.

Noise By-law 2008-098 prohibits the detonation of fireworks or explosive devices not used for construction at all times, other than those permitted by another Town By-law (ie. the Discharge of Fireworks By-law).

Municipal Right-of-Way By-law 2009-072 prohibits the placement of equipment or materials of any kind upon a municipal right-of-way, activities that negatively impact the use and function of a municipal right-of-way, and damage to a municipal right-of-way by any means.

An administrative penalty of \$300 may be issued to persons who fail to comply with

the Parks By-law, the Noise By-law or the Municipal Right-of-Way By-law. Further action may be taken for subsequent violations including escalated penalties of \$400 for a second offence and \$500 for a third offence.

COMMENT/OPTIONS:Concerns with Fireworks

Fireworks are the result of chemical reactions involving a fuel source (often charcoal-based black powder), an oxidizer (compounds like nitrates and chlorates that produce oxygen) and a chemical mixture that produces colours. Upon discharge, fireworks generate sound, light and heat and release a number of contaminants that affect air quality and can contribute to climate change, including carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen, sulphur dioxide, and particulate matter. The bangs and flashes created when fireworks are discharged may cause panic and anxiety in people, pets and wildlife. Debris left behind after discharge can also cause issues for wildlife if they become entangled in or consume the debris.

The Government of Canada reported the following statistics highlighting injuries associated with fireworks and other related products such as sparklers and firecrackers. These statistics were reported between April 1, 2011 and April 13, 2023 in the Canadian Hospitals Injury Reporting and Prevention Program (CHIRPP) database:

- between April 1, 2011 and April 13, 2023 there were 210 reported cases of injuries related to fireworks and other similar products;
- persons between the ages of 20 and 29 represented the largest proportion of cases and were closely followed by those 30 to 39 years of age;
- 67.1% of the patients injured were male;
- 57.1% of the injuries occurred on a Saturday, Sunday or Monday;
- 66.2% of all injuries occurred between May and August. 29% of all injuries occurred on days surrounding Victoria Day and Canada Day;
- the most common injuries were burns and eye injuries;
- 73.8% of all cases required medical treatment in an emergency department and 11.4% of patients were admitted to a hospital.

Enforcement of Fireworks By-laws

Enforcing by-laws respecting the discharge of fireworks presents many challenges to municipalities due to the nature of the activity; the discharge is usually of a short duration and may occur anywhere in the municipality, seemingly at any time. Mobile Compliance Officers enforce the Town's Discharge of Fireworks By-law 24/7 on a reactive basis, but unless the Officer is at the location where fireworks are being discharged, it is difficult to take action in time. Further, it is not always possible to rely on witnesses as they may be unable to identify the address/location where fireworks are being discharged or the persons involved.

The following is a breakdown of complaints regarding the discharge of consumer fireworks received by Municipal Enforcement Services in 2021, 2022 and 2023 (percentages have been rounded).

- A total of 155 complaints were received in 2021 for the discharge of consumer fireworks;
 - 76 (50%) of the complaints in 2021 were received on dates permitting the discharge of consumer fireworks under the Discharge of Fireworks By-law;
 - 79 (51%) of the complaints in 2021 were received on dates prohibiting the discharge of consumer fireworks under the Discharge of Fireworks By-law;
 - 51 (33%) of the total complaints in 2021 reported fireworks being discharged in parks.
- A total of 85 complaints were received in 2022 for the discharge of consumer fireworks;
 - 41 (48%) of the complaints in 2022 were received on dates permitting the discharge of consumer fireworks under the Discharge of Fireworks By-law;
 - 44 (52%) of the complaints in 2022 were received on dates prohibiting the discharge of consumer fireworks under the Discharge of Fireworks By-law;
 - 31 (36%) of the total complaints in 2022 reported fireworks being discharged in parks.
- A total of 38 complaints for the discharge of consumer fireworks have been received as of September 12, 2023;
 - 12 (32%) of the complaints as of September 12, 2023 were received on dates permitting the discharge of consumer fireworks under the Discharge of Fireworks By-law;
 - 26 (68%) of the complaints as of September 12, 2023 were received on dates prohibiting the discharge of consumer fireworks under the Discharge of Fireworks By-law;
 - 5 (13%) of the total complaints as of September 12, 2023 reported fireworks being discharged in parks.

Alternatives to Fireworks – Drone Shows and Silent Fireworks

Drone shows and silent fireworks are gaining popularity worldwide as an alternative to traditional fireworks for community displays.

There are a number of companies in Canada that provide fleets of drones for synchronized light shows. Recent events in Picton, Streetsville and Toronto have

used drone shows. Drones were also used as part of the celebrations at the Olympics held in Pyeongchang in 2018 and at King Charles' coronation in 2023.

Transport Canada regulates drone operations across the country and certifies drone pilots. The cost of a drone show depends on the number of drones involved as well as the location and complexity of the show.

Silent fireworks, while not entirely silent, are significantly quieter than traditional fireworks. The noise generated by silent fireworks is usually described as whistles and cracks. The City of London has stated that the cost of a silent fireworks show is approximately \$35,000 for 20 minutes. In comparison, the cost of an average display fireworks show is approximately \$23,000 for 20 minutes. Both prices provided are as of May 2023.

Councils for the Town of Collingwood, Town of Wasaga Beach and the City of St. Catharines have all directed staff to report back on alternatives to fireworks display events.

PROHIBITION ON THE SALE/DISCHARGE OF CONSUMER FIREWORKS

City of Brampton

Brampton's fireworks by-law was approved on December 14, 2022 and bans the sale and discharge of fireworks, however, persons who hold a Fireworks Display Supervisor Certification or a Pyrotechnician Certification from a film production company may apply for a permit to discharge fireworks. Further, the City of Brampton may discharge fireworks in accordance with the provisions of the by-law for events hosted or sponsored by the City. The City celebrates Canada Day, Diwali and New Year's Eve with pyrotechnics at City-led events.

The fireworks ban was issued for safety reasons, as it:

- mitigates the risk of fires, injury and property damage;
- reduces air pollution and debris;
- reduces excessive noise; and
- protects animal habitats.

Enforcement by the City of Brampton

Municipal by-law enforcement officers enforce the City's fireworks by-law. Investigations are generally complaint driven; however some proactive investigations do occur; especially in areas that have received previous complaints. The municipal by-law enforcement unit has four platoons, consisting of a supervisor and 11 officers who work a 12 hour shift. Brampton has not hired additional staff to enforce the fireworks ban and did not request additional staff when the fireworks by-law was brought forward for approval. However, Brampton generally brings in three

to five additional officers for problematic by-law issues (such as fireworks and parking) around holidays.

Since Brampton's fireworks by-law has been in place for less than one year, it is difficult to ascertain whether the prohibition has been successful, though staff have noticed an increase in complaints on Victoria Day, Canada Day and the Civic Holiday compared to previous years. Celebrations for Diwali will be held in November, 2023.

Penalty notices and written warnings were issued in 2023 for fireworks violations on New Year's Eve, Victoria Day, Canada Day and Civic Holiday.

Brampton's fireworks by-law provides for administrative penalties in the amount of \$500 for discharging/being in possession of fireworks without a permit or for a person allowing fireworks to be discharged on their property. A \$1,000 administrative penalty may be issued for selling/displaying fireworks or failing to comply with an order. The by-law may also be enforced under the Provincial Offences Act.

Brampton staff expect that it will take a few years to determine the success of the ban on fireworks discharge and sales.

Town of Caledon

On April 26, 2022, the Town of Caledon passed a by-law to ban the sale and discharge of fireworks, however, persons who hold a Fireworks Display Supervisor Certification or a Pyrotechnician Certification may apply for a permit to discharge display fireworks or pyrotechnics.

The fireworks ban was issued due to an increase in the number of complaints from residents regarding nuisance activity and behaviour, including:

- noise
- debris
- property damage
- illegal discharge of fireworks
- impact to the enjoyment of area residents
- concerns with pets and livestock

Enforcement by the Town of Caledon

Non-compliance with Caledon's fireworks by-law is enforced under the Provincial Offences Act by municipal law enforcement officers, with assistance from fire prevention inspectors.

Caledon has not hired additional staff to enforce their fireworks by-law as most by-law officers are scheduled to work the nights of holidays such as Victoria Day and fire prevention inspectors do assist. There are typically eight to ten by-law officers

working on holidays where a higher number of violations are expected; with the potential addition of four to five fire prevention inspectors.

Complaints are investigated and recorded, and the property that is the subject of the complaint will be visited within 30 days of the next expected fireworks date (e.g. Canada Day). Patrols have been used on busy nights and a call-in line set up for complaints.

Caledon has found that some residents are upset with the fireworks ban and that fireworks still continue to be discharged, however, the number of complaints and illegal firework displays have been reduced. Caledon also noted that the fireworks industry is upset with the ban.

Caledon measures the ban's success by the reduction in the number of complaints and the number of illegal fireworks displays.

Town of Kapuskasing

The Town of Kapuskasing's By-law 2871 passed on April 17, 2006 prohibits the discharge of fireworks within the limits of the Town. Display fireworks are permitted with a permit from the Fire Department.

Non-compliance with Kapuskasing's By-law is enforced under the Provincial Offences Act and provides for a set fine of \$300 for discharging fireworks, for not having a permit for display fireworks or for selling fireworks contrary to the By-law.

Lagoon City – Settlement Area within the Township of Ramara

The Township of Ramara was formed in 1994 after the amalgamation of the Townships of Rama and Mara. The Township is located along the northeastern shores of Lake Simcoe and Lake Couchiching. Lagoon City is one of nine existing settlement areas within the Township. On May 29, 2023, the Township's fireworks by-law was amended to ban the discharge of fireworks within the boundaries of Lagoon City.

Enforcement by Lagoon City

Lagoon City has three full-time by-law enforcement officers and an additional four seasonal officers from May to September. These officers respond to complaints for all by-laws on a reactive basis. They take the lead on the enforcement of the fireworks ban as they work evenings and weekends during the summer. The Fire Department also assists with enforcement of the ban.

Lagoon City received 15 to 20 fireworks complaints on the Canada Day long weekend in 2023, but did not receive any complaints on the Civic Holiday long weekend.

City of Orillia

The City of Orillia prohibits the discharge of any fireworks within a residential area or quiet zone or from a location where sound will travel to these areas under Chapter 938 -Noise of their Municipal Code.

At the City's June 5, 2023 Council meeting, staff were directed to report back by January 31, 2024 on the efficacy and logistical challenges with Chapter 938 as well as an investigation of safety concerns with the detonation of fireworks.

City of Woodstock

At its meeting of August 10, 2023, City of Woodstock Council voted to ban the sale and discharge of consumer fireworks, effective January 1, 2024. Display fireworks events will be permitted with approval from the Fire Department and under the direction of a Fireworks Supervisor.

The implementation date of January 1, 2024 was intentionally selected to take effect after Diwali on November 12, 2023, which is the last approved day for the discharge of consumer fireworks under Woodstock's current by-law. The implementation date will give local retailers the opportunity to sell their remaining stock of fireworks for 2023 and ensure that enforcement for Diwali will be consistent with Victoria Day and Canada Day. Woodstock Council determined that a complete ban would address frequent complaints of non-compliance with the current by-law and allow for easier enforcement.

City of London

At its meeting of August 15, 2023, the City of London's Community and Protective Services Committee held a lengthy public meeting regarding two options for consumer fireworks:

- Option A would allow for consumer fireworks to be discharged on Canada Day, Victoria Day and Diwali only. Option A would decrease the number of days for the sale fireworks from seven to five and would increase fines for non-compliance.
- Option B would ban the discharge and sale of consumer fireworks and increase current fines. Display fireworks with a permit would be allowed and traditionally include Canada Day, Victoria Day, Diwali, and New Year's Eve.

The Committee voted in favour of Option A. After a long debate, London Council upheld the Committee's decision, with amendments to add Chinese Lunar New Year to the list of approved discharge dates, and a staff direction to review London's business licensing by-law with respect to the sale of fireworks. Staff will prepare the necessary by-laws for future consideration by Council.

City of Mississauga

The City of Mississauga is currently undertaking a review of their fireworks by-law. They expect to present recommendations to their General Committee in the Fall of 2023.

City of Oshawa

The City of Oshawa will be proceeding with public consultation, likely this Fall, regarding options presented to Council respecting fireworks. The options include: enhanced enforcement of their fireworks by-law, permitting fireworks discharge in designated parks only, and a ban on the sale/discharge of fireworks.

City of Cambridge

On August 29, 2023, City of Cambridge Council approved an amendment to the City's fireworks by-law to only permit fireworks on Victoria Day, Canada Day, and Diwali, removing the two additional days following these dates in the event firework displays are cancelled due to inclement weather. The by-law will also be amended to specify that fireworks will only be permitted between dusk and 11 p.m.

These changes were made due to an increase in fireworks complaints during the COVID-19 pandemic. Complaint calls increased with more people home during the shutdown, and an increase in unsanctioned fireworks displays was reported largely due to the cancellation of public fireworks to comply with provincial gathering limits at the time.

Cambridge will conduct a full review of their fireworks by-law, with a report back to Council planned for the second quarter of 2024.

Other Municipalities that Prohibit the Sale/Discharge of Fireworks

A list of out of province and U.S.A. municipalities that prohibit the sale and/or discharge of fireworks is included in Appendix A.

ALTERNATE OPTIONS TO REDUCE THE USE OF CONSUMER FIREWORKS

Although staff are recommending continued monitoring to determine the effectiveness of changes made to fireworks regulations in other municipalities prior to setting a direction, the following options have been included as possible methods of addressing the issue.

Option #1 – Prohibit the Sale and Discharge of Consumer Fireworks

This option proposes to prohibit the sale and discharge of consumer fireworks, even when the fireworks are obtained from another source such as on-line or from another municipality. The Licensing By-law would require an amendment to prohibit the sale of consumer fireworks. The Discharge of Fireworks By-law would require an amendment to prohibit the discharge of consumer fireworks. Persons selling display fireworks and special effect pyrotechnics would still require a business

licence. The discharge of display fireworks and special effect pyrotechnics would continue to be permitted with a permit from the Fire Department.

Celebrations of holidays, religious or cultural events would not be permitted by residents, however, a community could apply for a permit from the Fire Department for a display fireworks event conducted by a certified professional.

This option is proposed for health and safety reasons, and to address concerns with noise, property damage, risk of fires, effects on the environment, and effects on people, pets and wildlife.

Option #1 would require that additional officers be deployed during the evening hours of holidays such as Victoria Day and Canada Day, as well as on a number of days before and after the holiday, to enforce the prohibition. Additional officers would increase geographic coverage, licensing enforcement and improve response time to complaints.

Option #1 would also require the development and implementation of a public education campaign to ensure that all residents are aware of and abide by the prohibition on the discharge of consumer fireworks. As well, firework vendors would be notified of the prohibition on the sale of consumer fireworks.

Should Council wish to proceed with Option #1, the following recommendation may be substituted for the recommendation contained in this report:

1. That staff prepare the necessary by-laws to implement a prohibition on the discharge and sale of consumer fireworks, to be brought to Council for consideration by Q2 2024.
2. That proactive and reactive enforcement be provided by Municipal Enforcement Services staff, and the required operating budget of \$72,700 be considered as part of the 2025 Budget.
3. That staff be directed to develop a public education campaign to advise residents and firework vendors of the prohibition on the discharge and sale of consumer fireworks, and that the required operating budget of \$2,000 be considered as part of the 2025 Budget.

Option #2 – Require a Permit to Discharge Consumer Fireworks

Residents wanting to discharge consumer fireworks on any of the days permitted in the Discharge of Fireworks By-law would have to obtain a permit from Municipal Enforcement Services.

The Town of Milton requires a permit for the discharge of consumer fireworks, other than sparklers. Permit terms and conditions include a minimum clearance for aerial

consumer fireworks of 30m x 30m and for ground based consumer fireworks of 20m x 20m, readily available fire extinguishing equipment, a means to bury aerial consumer fireworks to half their length in the ground or ability to bury them by other means, and that spectators be at least 20m away from the fireworks. The City of Edmonton also requires a permit to discharge consumer fireworks.

Option #2 would require an amendment to the Discharge of Fireworks By-law to set out parameters for the permit. A public education campaign would also be required to advise residents of the need to obtain a permit to discharge consumer fireworks.

Should Council wish to proceed with Option #2, the following recommendation may be substituted for the recommendation contained in this report:

1. That staff prepare the necessary by-law(s) to institute a permit program for the discharge of consumer fireworks, to be brought to Council for consideration by Q2 2024.
2. That proactive and reactive enforcement be provided by Municipal Enforcement Services staff, and the required operating budget of \$72,700 be considered as part of the 2025 Budget.
3. That staff be directed to develop a public education campaign to advise residents of the requirement to obtain a permit prior to the discharge of consumer fireworks, and that the required operating budget of \$2,000 be considered as part of the 2025 Budget.
4. That staff be directed to develop a permit program including online portal enhancements, and that the required capital budget of \$50,000 be considered as part to the 2025 Budget.

Option #3 – Limit the Days that Consumer Fireworks May be Discharged

The Discharge of Fireworks By-law provides that consumer fireworks may only be discharged between dusk and 11:00 p.m. on the day of, the day before or the day after Victoria Day, Canada Day, New Year's Day or any religious or cultural celebrations where fireworks are used to celebrate the religious or cultural event.

The By-law could be amended to further restrict days when fireworks are permitted like the following:

- permit the discharge of consumer fireworks only on the day, day before and day after Victoria Day and Canada Day; deleting New Year's Day; or
- permit the discharge of consumer fireworks only the actual day of Victoria Day, Canada Day and New Year's Day; deleting the day before and the day after these holidays (this is the practice of the City of Mississauga and the City of Oshawa).

The amendments proposed above would not change the regulations for the discharge of consumer fireworks used to celebrate religious or cultural events.

The Licensing By-law could also be amended to reduce the number of days consumer fireworks may be sold prior to permitted firework days (the By-law currently states that consumer fireworks may be sold up to seven days before the holiday or the religious or cultural celebration).

Changes to permitted days and/or the requirement of a permit would necessitate an amendment to the Discharge of Fireworks By-law. A public and vendor education campaign would also be required to advise residents of any changes to the By-law.

Should Council wish to proceed with Option #3, the following recommendation may be substituted for the recommendation contained in this report:

1. That staff prepare the necessary by-law(s) to amend Discharge of Fireworks By-law 2009-056 (and/or Licensing By-law 2015-075) to _____, to be brought to Council for consideration by Q2 2024.
2. That proactive and reactive enforcement be provided by Municipal Enforcement Services staff, and the required operating budget of \$72,700 be considered as part of the 2025 Budget.
3. That staff be directed to develop a public education campaign to advise residents (and/or firework vendors) of the amendments to the Discharge of Fireworks By-law (and/or Licensing By-law), and that the required operating budget of \$2,000 be considered as part of the 2025 Budget.

Option #4 – Public Consultation

Staff to consult with the public for feedback on the use and sale of consumer fireworks and report back to Council with the results of the consultation and recommended next steps.

Should Council wish to proceed with Option #4, the following recommendation may be substituted for the recommendation contained in this report:

1. That Council direct staff to consult with the public on the use and sale of consumer fireworks in 2025 and report back to Council in the fall of 2025 with the results of the consultation.
2. That the capital cost of \$ 45,300 for consultation be considered as part of the 2025 budget.

CONSIDERATIONS:

(A) PUBLIC

Public education or public consultation will be conducted if directed by Council.

(B) FINANCIAL

Options #1, #2 and #3 will all require the development and implementation of a public education campaign and will require additional enforcement resources, totalling \$74,700, which would need to be considered, along with other new operating requests, as part of the 2025 operating budget.

Option #2 will also require technology upgrades and upgrades to the on-line portal to process and issue permits to discharge consumer fireworks and this would need to be considered as part of the 2025 capital budget, likely funded from the town's capital reserve.

Option #4 will require undertaking public consultation and reporting to Council, which would need to be considered as part of the 2025 capital budget, likely funded from the town's capital reserve.

(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS

Municipal Enforcement Services, Legal, Parks and the Fire Department have been involved in the review process.

(D) CORPORATE STRATEGIC GOALS

This report addresses the corporate strategic goal(s) to:

- Continuously improve our programs and services
- Provide outstanding service to our residents and businesses

(E) CLIMATE CHANGE/ACTION

N/A

APPENDICES:

Appendix A – Municipalities prohibiting sale/discharge of fireworks

Prepared by:

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