



REPORT

TO: Mayor Lawlor and Members of Council

FROM: Jason Blackmere, Fire Prevention Officer

DATE: April 9, 2024

REPORT NO.: FIRE-2024-003

SUBJECT: Response to Council Referred Matter - Fireworks

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. FIRE-2024-003 dated April 9, 2024 regarding Response to Council Referred Matter – Fireworks, be received;

AND FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to retain a consultant to conduct a statistically valid survey to determine the community's thoughts on whether or not to implement a ban on the sale and/or discharge of fireworks (given the results of the impacts on the wildlife and environment report);

AND FURTHER THAT Council directs staff to present the results of the survey along with recommendations based on community input, associated by-law changes (if applicable) and communications to the public about the survey results and Council direction.

KEY POINTS:

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

- In May 2023, Council directed staff to hire a consultant (Dillon Consulting), to develop a report for the Town of Halton Hills that addressed the potential effects of fireworks on pets, wildlife, livestock and the environment. Additionally, the report would address the effects of fireworks related to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).
- The consultant's findings were presented at a workshop on April 8, 2024 to educate Council on the impacts of fireworks. Council directed staff to bring forward a recommendation report, leaving the current fireworks by-law status quo until a public survey can be conducted.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

Staff brought forward a report with proposed changes to the Fireworks By-law 2004-0122 to Council on April 17, 2023, recommending a ban on the sale of fireworks in Halton Hills, limiting the hours of discharge, and a few other housekeeping amendments. By-law 2004-0122 was repealed in its entirety and replaced with a new Fireworks By-law 2023-0032.

The new by-law had the addition of allowing fireworks on Diwali, Lunar New Year and New Year's Eve. Through discussions at the meeting Council then directed staff to consult with other municipalities on the impacts of banning the sale of fireworks, the impact fireworks have on wildlife and the potential for safe spaces for the discharge of fireworks. Council further directed staff to research the impacts fireworks have on livestock, the environment and noise with or without the ban of sale, to seek input on the dates and times fireworks may be discharged, and for staff to research an outright ban and other options or models other municipalities may be using in place of the discharge of fireworks.

Staff retained Dillon Consulting to conduct a review of the effects of fireworks to animals and the environment. The results of the consultant's literature review categorically identified negative impacts to all animals and the environment.

At a Council Workshop on April 8th, staff presented this information along with research regarding an outright ban of fireworks and options employed by other municipalities (i.e. drone light shows) in place of fireworks and provided the results of a fireworks scan of 21 surrounding municipalities.

Adjoining Municipal Fireworks By-Law

Fireworks Prohibited

Municipality	By-Laws Enactment Date	Ban Details	Enforcement	Additional Information
City of Brampton	December 14, 2022	Ban the sale and discharge of fireworks and increased penalties	By-Law, Parks, Fire	Display Fireworks (High Hazard) permitted through permit process
Town of Caledon	April 26, 2022	Ban the sale and discharge of fireworks and increased penalties	By-Law, Fire	Display Fireworks (High Hazard) permitted through permit process
Town of Milton	November 13, 2023	Ban the sale and discharge of fireworks and increased penalties	By-Law	Display Fireworks (High Hazard) permitted through permit process

Adjoining Municipal Fireworks By-Law

Fireworks Permitted

Municipality	By-Law Enactment Date	Permitted Days	Enforcement	Additional Information
Town of Halton Hills	May 8, 2023	Victoria Day, Canada Day, Lunar New Year, Diwali and New Year's Eve	By-Law and Police	
Town of Erin	December 17, 2019	Victoria Day, Canada Day, and New Year's Eve	By-Law and Police	Designated Period - Day of and 7 calendar days immediately preceding Victoria Day, Canada Day, and New Year's Eve
City of Mississauga	November 10, 2023	Victoria Day, Canada Day, Lunar New Year, Diwali and New Year's Eve	By-Law	Increased penalties - Min. fine of \$500. Max fine \$100,000.00
Town of Oakville	April 6, 2009 - Amended March 28, 2022	Victoria Day, Canada Day, New Year's Eve, and any religious/cultural event	By-Law	Increased penalties - 1st offense \$300, 2nd offense \$400, 3rd or subsequent offense \$500
Township of Guelph / Eramosa	No Fireworks By-Law	-	-	-

Surrounding Municipal Fireworks By-Laws

Fireworks Prohibited

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City of Brampton	December 14, 2022	Ban the sale and discharge of fireworks and increased penalties	By-Law, Parks, Fire	Display Fireworks (High Hazard) permitted through permit process
Town of Caledon	April 26, 2022	Ban the sale and discharge of fireworks and increased penalties	By-Law, Fire	Display Fireworks (High Hazard) permitted through permit process
Town of Milton	November 13, 2023	Ban the sale and discharge of fireworks and increased penalties	By-Law	Display Fireworks (High Hazard) permitted through permit process

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Town of Halton Hills	May 8, 2023	Victoria Day, Canada Day, Lunar New Year, Diwali and New Year's Eve	By-Law and Police	
Town of Erin	December 17, 2019	Victoria Day, Canada Day, and New Year's Eve	By-Law and Police	Designated Period - Day of and 7 calendar days immediately preceding Victoria Day, Canada Day, and New Year's Eve
City of Mississauga	November 10, 2023	Victoria Day, Canada Day, Lunar New Year, Diwali and New Year's Eve	By-Law	Increased Penalties - Min. fine of \$500, Max fine \$100,000.00
Town of Oakville	April 6, 2009 - Amended March 28, 2022	Victoria Day, Canada Day, New Year's Eve, and any religious/cultural event	By-Law	Increased Penalties - 1st offense \$300, 2nd offense \$400, 3rd or subsequent offense \$500
City of Burlington	November 23, 2020	Victoria Day, Canada Day, Lunar New Year, Diwali and New Year's Eve	By-Law	Increased Penalties - Fine of not less than \$300 and not more than \$5,000 for a first offence and not more than \$10,000 for a subsequent offence.
City of Hamilton	October 9, 2002 - Amended April 27, 2022	Victoria Day and Canada Day	By-Law and Police	Designated Period - Day of and day immediately following either of those days if precluded by inclement weather on Victoria Day or Canada Day
Township of Puslicich	June 3, 2014	Victoria Day, Canada Day, Lunar New Year, Diwali and New Year's Eve	No Information	
City of Guelph	May 4, 1999 - Amended 2013	Victoria Day, Canada Day, Diwali, and any religious event approved by Fire	No Information	Designated Period - Day of and the day before Canada Day and Victoria Day
City of Toronto	June 14, 2022	Victoria Day and Canada Day	By-Law	
City of Vaughan	May 17, 2022	Victoria Day and Canada Day	By-Law	
Township of King	May 9, 2022	Victoria Day, Canada Day, and Diwali	No Information	
Township of Centre Wellington	July 15, 2002	Victoria Day and Canada Day	No Information	
Town of Orangeville	December 6, 2004 - Amended Nov. 16, 2009	Victoria Day and Canada Day	No Information	
Town of Mono	November 8, 2022	Victoria Day and Canada Day	No Information	Permitted to discharge only
Township of Adjala-Tosorontio	July 18, 2005	Victoria Day and Canada Day	No Information	Permitted to discharge only
Town of New Tecumseth	May 9, 2022	Victoria Day and Canada Day	No Information	Permitted to discharge only - Designated Period - Day of and one(1) day prior and after each holiday only
Township of East Garafraxa	No Fireworks By-Law	-	-	
Township of Amaranth	No Fireworks By-Law	-	-	
Township of Guelph / Eramosa	No Fireworks By-Law	-	-	

Stemming from the workshop, Council provided a direction to staff to bring forward a recommendation report, leaving the current fireworks by-law status quo until a public survey can be conducted.

Staff are seeking Council approval to retain a consultant to conduct a statistically valid survey to determine the community's thoughts on whether or not to implement a ban on the sale and/or discharge of fireworks.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This report is administrative in nature and does not have an impact on the Town's Strategic Plan.

RELATIONSHIP TO CLIMATE CHANGE:

This report is administrative in nature and does not directly impact or address climate change and the Town's Net Zero target.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Public engagement will be required. Communications staff is involved.

INTERNAL CONSULTATION:

Valerie Petryniak, Town Clerk and Director of Legislative Services was consulted on the revenue generated from the sale of fireworks, which was \$2,160 in 2023, for a total of 9 permits.

Alex Fuller, Director of Communications, created the draft Residents Fireworks Survey and prepared/issued the scope of work to solicit vendor quotes for the survey.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

This report has an immediate financial impact and requires a funding source.

Reviewed and approved by,

Jon Rehill, Commissioner & Chief of Fire Services

Laura Lancaster, Commissioner of Corporate Services and Acting Chief Administrative Officer