



Patrick Brown 
@patrickbrownont



We still see thousands of infractions despite the by laws. There seems to be a real interest in celebrating Diwali with fireworks. The same old approach of banning them isn't working. Police and by law can't keep up with the number infractions all happening at the same time.

12:11 PM · 2022-10-27 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

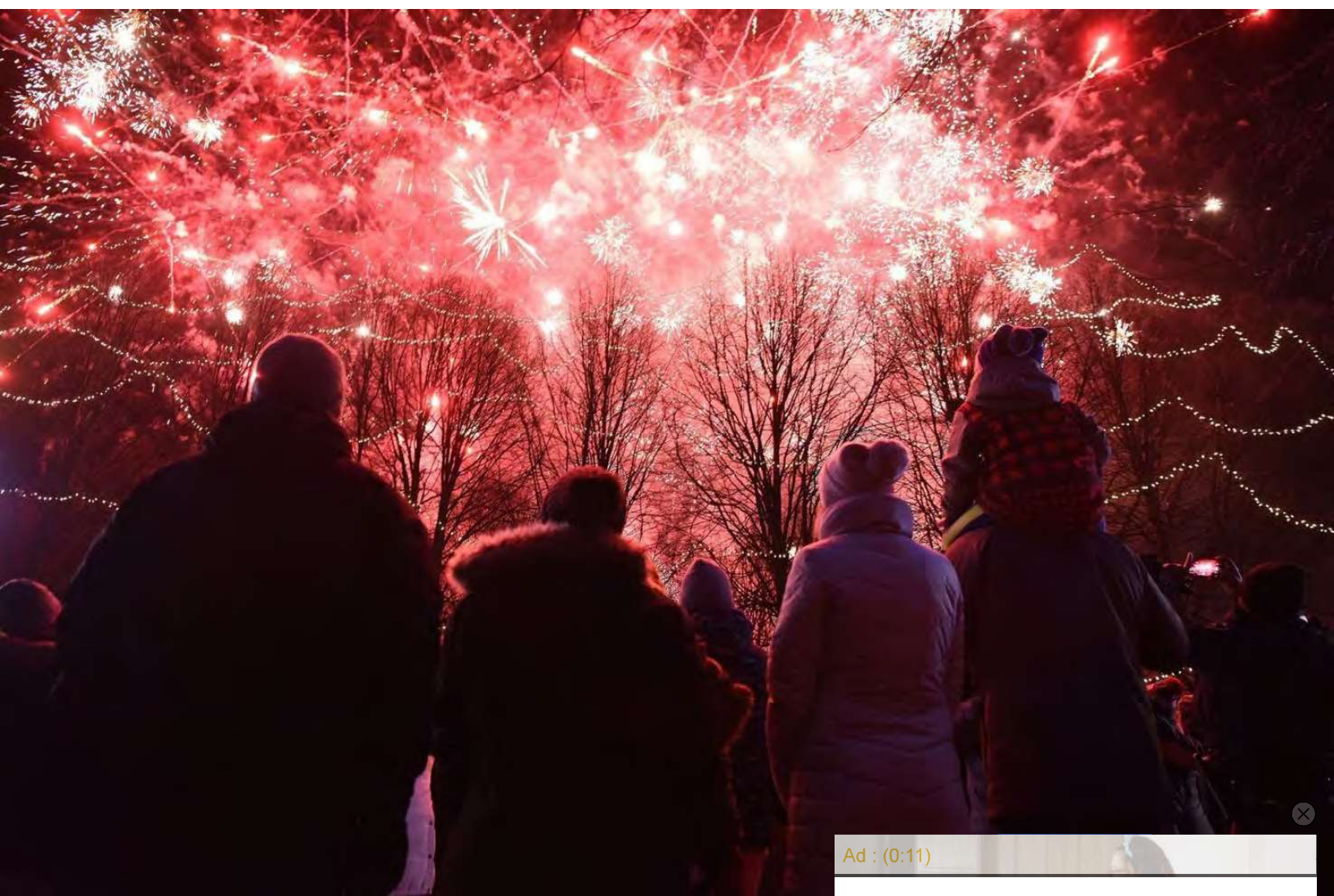
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COUNCIL

Brampton issues 65 illegal fireworks fines during Diwali as complaints soar compared to 2020

By **Graeme Frisque** Brampton Guardian



Ad : (0:11)

The Town of Caledon banned personal use of fireworks. - Metroland file photo

City of Brampton bylaw officers were kept busy festivities responding to hundreds of fireworks issuing dozens of fines.

The city's bylaw director Paul Morrison said his officers responded to a total of 426 complaints about fireworks and issued 65 fines.

"We did have quite a volume of calls this past few days. We had 426 in total for the three days involving fireworks for (in) the city," he told reporters during a news conference.

ARTICLE CONTINUES BELOW



Diwali, also referred to as the festival lights, is a festival celebrated by Hindus that began Nov. 4.

Fireworks are a big part of Diwali celebrations, and Diwali is one of four holidays where short-range fireworks are permitted in Brampton. Only small fireworks that travel less than three metres or 10 feet are permitted.

According to Morrison, the number of calls to the city about illegal fireworks skyrocketed this year. In 2017, the bylaw department received 94 calls relating to fireworks during Diwali and 147 in 2020 — marking a 190 per cent increase compared to last year.

Morrison added the city issued 32 warning in addition to the 65 charges laid for illegally possessing and using fireworks. The fine for illegal use of fireworks is between \$500 to \$5,000, according to the city's website.



“Warnings are for people for incidents where they’ve bought fireworks from stores or local vendors and thought they were legitimate (but) weren’t. We’ve spoken to them (and) they put them away. So, we would give a warning in those cases,” Morrison said.

Mayor Patrick Brown also weighed-in on the growth in illegal fireworks use during the news conference Nov. 10.

“I understand that in Brampton Diwali and Bandi Chhor Divas are very important events, and I do want to find a way in which we can have that celebration, but where the fireworks are more under control,” Brown said.

Brown added he plans to bring the idea of a centralized area for fireworks during Diwali celebrations to council as a possibility to reduce complaints from the public in future years.

Correction - Nov. 12, 2021: This article has been updated from a previous version to specify that Diwali is celebrated by Hindus.

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Graeme Frisue is a reporter with the Mississauga News and Brampton Guardian.



Permitting system for private fireworks shot down by city council



[Richard Vivian](#)

Oct 30, 2024 7:45 AM



GuelphToday file photo of fireworks.

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00:05:34

Correction: This article initially stated the designated holidays that fireworks are allowed was expanded to include New Year's Eve and the Lunar New Year. However, that motion was withdrawn and not voted upon. The existing bylaw allows for individual event requests to be made to the fire chief.

Changes are on the way for the city's fireworks bylaw, but not to the extent proposed by city staff.

Creation of a permitting system for private fireworks displays was defeated in a 7-6 vote, though several tweaks to the existing bylaw were approved. Many of the specifics won't be known for several months, when city staff return with a "final" bylaw for council's consideration.

The council-approved amendments including potentially higher fines for bylaw violators, set minimum distances from schools, nursing homes, care facilities and other "vulnerable occupancies," and the removal of permission to set off fireworks a day before Canada Day and Victoria Day.

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"In trying to address the status quo, does it mean that we have to swing the pendulum so far to be over regulation and making it so onerous on what I believe is actually not a very big issue in our city," said Mayor Cam Guthrie, who voted down the staff-proposed permitting system alongside councillors Dan Gibson, Christine Billings, Carly Klassen, Dominique O'Rourke, Michele Richardson and Ken Yee Chew.

Earlier in the month, when council met as the [committee of the whole](#), it endorsed the proposed new bylaw, which would have seen a permit required in order to set off personal fireworks. In order to get a permit, there would be required minimum distances from residences and vulnerable occupancies such as nursing homes and care facilities, a licensed display supervisor would have been needed to set them off, an animal safety plan would be needed and liability insurance must be in place.

The proposed permit fee was \$208, including a safety inspection.

However, council heard Tuesday the other proposed requirements would have jacked up the cost to the point of making it prohibitive.

“For an individual to obtain that licence, it takes a lot of time and money,” said Priyam Vyas, who pegged the cost at about \$10,000 for a single celebration.

“This is going to hurt the community a lot,” added Paresh Soni, executive director of Hindu Legacy in London, Ontario, noting Diwali is an 800-year-old tradition. “This is actually a very important thing.”

“It’s been proven that having effective education is a much better solution (than a ban),” stated Sarah Rosenberg of fireworks company EG Canada Inc. “I truly don’t believe we should ban things due to a small percentage of people who abuse their usage. Today it’s fireworks, what’s next – candles? alcohol?”

Though council heard from several people who urged it not to approve the proposed bylaw, it heard from others in support of the proposal.

The noise from fireworks can cause “intense fear and stress” in both pets and wildlife, explained Lisa Veit, executive director of the Guelph Humane Society, who spoke in support of the staff proposal.

“There’s considerable evidence that fireworks cause many animals to become so frightened that they run from otherwise familiar environments and people, and, sadly, become lost or (find themselves) in life-threatening situations such as the risk of being hit by a car.”

Delegates on both sides of the issue called for enhanced public education regarding the safe use of fireworks, including the appropriate days, times and locations.

“I’m very concerned that we haven’t made things better,” said Coun. Rodrigo Goller, who suggested council has taken a “piecemeal approach” to revising the bylaw.

No additional public consultation or other input will be taken or considered, explained deputy CAO Colleen Clack-bush. The revised bylaw, as prepared by city staff following council’s direction, will be included on a future council agenda for potential approval, but delegates and further public input won’t be allowed.

Until that agenda’s public release – bylaws are included on updated agendas released the Friday prior to a council meeting – Guelph residents won’t know what separation distances, changes to the hours of use or the level of fine for violators are proposed.

City staff [launched a review](#) of the fireworks bylaw earlier this year following direction from city council. As a result two community engagement meetings were held – one virtually and another in-person – as well as an online survey that saw 1,327 participants.

“The engagement results show 65 per cent of respondents noted that they were unsupportive or very unsupportive of unregulated public and private fireworks. Similarly, 55 per cent of respondents indicated they were supportive to very supportive of a firework ban,” explains a [staff report](#) to council. “The permit-only option received noticeably more support 34 per cent were supportive to very

supportive) compared to the current practice of unregulated private fireworks displays (25 per cent were supportive to very supportive).”

A feedback booth was also set up during the Guelph Multicultural Festival, and staff spoke with representatives of Guelph Sikh Society, Guelph Humane Society, Guelph Chinese Canadian Cultural Group, Guelph Youth Council and local police.

Municipal staff face “persistent challenges” enforcing fireworks ban

Caledon banned personal use of fireworks in April 2022

By ZACHARY ROMAN

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Caledon's fireworks ban hasn't started with a bang, according to staff.

At Caledon Council's March 5 General Committee meeting, Town of Caledon municipal law enforcement analyst Joel Assaly submitted a memorandum to update Councillors on the impact of Caledon's fireworks ban thus far.

Caledon Councillors voted to adopt a new fireworks bylaw at an April 26, 2022 meeting. The bylaw bans the personal use of fireworks in Caledon, as well as the sale of fireworks.

Assaly said in 2022, municipal law enforcement staff used Victoria Day and Canada Day as a grace period where they warned people that fireworks were no longer allowed but did not issue tickets. He said the grace period gave staff a chance to educate residents.

When the grace period was over, he said staff responded proactively and reactively to conduct enforcement on and around holidays that typically result in the discharge of fireworks.

Since Caledon's fireworks ban was implemented, Assaly said 124 complaints have been received by municipal law enforcement staff: 67 in 2022 and 57 in 2023.

These complaints have resulted in 42 issued charges and four investigations into the sale of fireworks.

Assaly said despite allocation of resources to deal with the fireworks ban and a phased approach to its implementation, there's been enforcement difficulties and safety concerns. He called the decrease of complaints from 67 to 57 marginal, and said “persistent challenges” have emerged.

One such challenge is resistance and non-compliance from the public.

“Despite education and awareness efforts during the grace period, there continues to be a persistent portion of the population which continues to discharge fireworks,” reads the memorandum.

Another challenge is difficulty enforcing the fireworks bylaw at large gatherings, which has also led to safety concerns for bylaw officers.

“The safety of municipal law enforcement officers is a paramount concern, especially in instances where large groups are involved in the unauthorized discharge of fireworks,” reads the memorandum. “Officers have expressed credible safety concerns when intervening in situations involving significant numbers of people engaging in prohibited activities.”

Assaly said significant resources are needed to enforce the fireworks ban on major holidays like Canada Day and Diwali.

Due to the challenges outlined in his memorandum, Assaly said there's a need for ongoing public education about the fireworks ban. He said Caledon needs to implement a targeted communications strategy with awareness campaigns running both online and in-person at community events.

He said the communications strategy needs to provide accessible information that stresses the importance of safety.

“Regular updates on enforcement progress and continuous evaluation of the communication strategy will contribute to building a culture of compliance and safety within the community,” reads the memorandum.

Assaly said Caledon's municipal law enforcement staff will continue to enforce the fireworks ban.

He said in addition to the communications strategy, Caledon needs to optimize resources for key events and develop a strategic plan for managing large events where managing illegal fireworks discharge is challenging.

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Surrey seizes record \$345K of fireworks

The City of Surrey's Bylaws team has seized a record number of fireworks and issued 8 tickets over the past three weeks. Together with Surrey RCMP, Bylaw Officers have seized \$345K of illegal fireworks from four locations.

November 10, 2023

Media Release

Surrey, BC – The City of Surrey's Bylaws team has seized a record number of fireworks and issued 8 tickets over the past three weeks. Together with Surrey RCMP, Bylaw Officers have seized \$345K of illegal fireworks from four locations.

"I commend our dedicated Bylaws team for working tirelessly to locate and seize a record number of illegal fireworks in our City," said Mayor Brenda Locke. "This investigative work has surely made our City safer and sends a strong message that this activity will not be tolerated in Surrey. As with Halloween, Bylaw Officers will be out during Diwali with extended hours to respond to community reports and continue their proactive patrols in hot spot areas."

- Oct. 27- \$100,000 seizure
- Nov. 3- \$80,000 seizure
- Nov. 6- \$100,000 seizure
- Nov. 6- \$60,000 seizure
- Nov. 9- \$5,000 seizure

In the City of Surrey, fireworks are not allowed to be sold or discharged without a valid Fire Department permit **and** Federal Fireworks Operator Certification. Violating the City's Firework Bylaws can result in a penalty of up to \$5,000 to a suspension or loss of a business license for businesses found selling illegal fireworks. Click [here](https://www.surrey.ca/about-surrey/surrey-fire-service/fireworks) (<https://www.surrey.ca/about-surrey/surrey-fire-service/fireworks>) to learn more.

Surrey Bylaw Enforcement Officers and police will be enforcing the City's Fireworks Bylaw through Halloween to Diwali. Call 604-591-4370 to report fireworks and firecracker complaints in Surrey.

9-1-1 should not be used to report fireworks. 9-1-1 is for police, fire and medical emergencies when immediate action is required: someone's health, safety or property is in jeopardy, or a crime is in progress.

British Columbia

Cargo of fireworks explodes into hour-long light show after Highway 1 crash near Hope, B.C.

Highway's eastbound lanes closed after collision between semi-trailer and parked pickup towing fireworks

CBC News · Posted: Oct 27, 2023 2:01 PM EDT | Last Updated: October 27, 2023



Fireworks explode above Hwy 1 in B.C. after collision ignited truck's cargo

► 12 months ago 0:49

A crash involving a semi-trailer and a pickup truck on Highway 1 near Hope, B.C., led to an impromptu, hour-long light show on Oct. 26, 2023, RCMP said. The eastbound lanes of the highway were closed due to the accidental pyrotechnics.

 [comments](#)

A collision on the Trans-Canada Highway east of Vancouver resulted in an hour-long light show on Thursday night after the crash caused a cargo of fireworks to ignite.

RCMP said a semi-trailer travelling eastbound collided with a pickup truck towing a trailer full of fireworks that was parked on the side of the road about 10 kilometres west of Hope, B.C.

The crash, which happened around 10 p.m. PT, caused the fireworks to go off, resulting in flashes and explosions above the highway.

Cpl. Carmen Kiener with Chilliwack RCMP said the incident closed Highway 1 eastbound for about an hour, until the fireworks eventually stopped.

"Obviously, the fireworks were quite the display to passerby motorists," she said.



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'Raging inferno'

Ryan Kuhn said he was on his way to Hope, about 125 kilometres east of Vancouver, on Thursday night when he saw "a raging inferno of fireworks."

"I came around a corner and, well, saw fireworks. It seemed very strange for 10 o'clock at night," Kuhn told CBC News.



Crash involving fireworks lights up B.C. highway

▶ 12 months ago 2:14

A collision involving a cargo of fireworks on the Trans-Canada Highway east of Vancouver resulted in an impromptu light show.

Kuhn said vehicles on the highway slowed down or stopped to watch the fireworks, which he described as the "best fireworks show I'll ever see."

"It was a bit of mayhem," he said, describing the semi-trailer, which he said had caught on fire.

Video taken by people at the scene shows fireworks exploding high in the sky above the highway, as continuous pops and bangs are heard.

- [As much as B.C. loves its fireworks, some residents are pushing Ottawa to retire them](#)

RCMP and B.C. Emergency Health Services said one person was taken to hospital.

Kiener said the drivers were the only occupants of the vehicles, and that investigators are continuing to determine the cause of the crash.

Corrections

- A previous version of this story contained information initially provided by the RCMP that two people were taken to hospital as a result of the crash. In fact, only one person was taken to hospital.
Oct 27, 2023 4:45 PM PT
-

With files from Charis Hogg

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COLUMNISTS

Opinion | Banning sale of fireworks in Kitchener and Waterloo is a foolish pursuit

What the cities are actually doing is punishing people who use fireworks responsibly and wish to continue doing so, while trying to convince us that irresponsible users will just abandon fireworks entirely, writes Mike Farwell.

May 14, 2025



Banning the sale of fireworks isn't going to stop people from buying them, writes Mike Farwell.

Metro Creative

By Mike Farwell Contributing Columnist

Columnist Mike Farwell is a broadcaster, MC and advocate. Follow him on X at [@farwell_WR](#) or connect with him via Mike.Farwell@rci.rogers.com.

City councils in both Kitchener and Waterloo are at risk of injury as they pat themselves on the back in congratulations for a job they've done in spirit only.

In a bid to crack down on increasing complaints and dangerous behaviour, Kitchener and Waterloo will ban the sale of fireworks starting next year.

Which will change precisely nothing.

Waterloo councillor Julie Wright no doubt feels the weight of the problem most keenly. Wright was on her way home from Canada Day celebrations in Waterloo last summer when she was shot in the face with a firecracker.

"I strongly believe that we need some certainty and regulation around the use of fireworks," Wright told Waterloo council last week.

Which we already have, of course. Those very regulations led to the arrest and charges against a man in his 30s for shooting the firecracker at Wright.

Existing regulations also make illegal the fireworks-related mayhem we saw last year in Kitchener's Victoria Park.

So, rather than engage in government overreach — as Kitchener Mayor Berry Vrbanovic characterizes the ban on the sale of fireworks — we need only enforce the laws that already exist.

Nobody will deny the increasing number of complaints or the increasingly bad behaviour, but the fireworks aren't the problem. Our growing cities are now home to more people in densely packed neighbourhoods. Conflict is inevitable, as is the need to educate this growing population on the safe use of fireworks.

Enacting a ban is much easier, though, and gives the impression the cities are doing something, even when they're not. What the cities are actually doing is punishing people who use fireworks responsibly and wish to continue doing so, while trying to convince us that irresponsible users will just abandon fireworks entirely.

It's a foolish pursuit.

Currently, fireworks are still available for sale in Cambridge and the townships. And, in a world where just about anything can be delivered to your doorstep in 24 hours, it's not like buying fireworks will be difficult.

If anything, the ban will be a boon to underground market fireworks.

And at a time when municipalities — including Kitchener and Waterloo — are boasting about being “elbows up” and encouraging people to shop locally, turning their backs on local small businesses is curious.

Are fireworks vendors disposable?

Curiously, in a community that has seen increasing complaints and increasingly dangerous behaviour around an annual, illegal St. Patrick's Day bash, nobody has yet proposed a ban on parties or even on party favours as a potential solution.

It's anybody's guess where the cities go next when the ban on the sale of fireworks does not have the desired effect and the irresponsible behaviour continues into 2026 and beyond.

There is a bright side to all of this, though.

With so much energy invested in a toothless ban on fireworks, our cities clearly don't have any real problems to deal with.

Opinion articles are based on the author's interpretations and judgments of facts, data and events. More details

Fireworks, explosives, bear spray seized from B.C. youth on Halloween: RCMP

[Black Press Media Staff](#)

Nov 1, 2024 3:48 PM



Squamish RCMP say a "mob mentality took over" on Halloween night 2024 as officers seized fireworks, explosive devices and bear spray from a group of teens. | (Squamish RCMP/handout)

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00:01:44

Squamish RCMP say a "mob mentality took over" on Halloween night as officers seized fireworks, explosive devices and bear spray from a group of teens.

Mounties are now investigating after about 100 youth were setting off illegal fireworks, lighting fires and causing mischief in the Garibaldi Highlands neighbour, police said in a release Friday (Nov. 1).

RCMP say a number of the youth were allegedly "physically and verbally aggressive" toward officers and fireworks were directed and set off toward police and their vehicles.

Some of the youth were also allegedly in possession of bear spray, bear bangers and improvised explosive devices. Some of the youth were also allegedly wearing balaclavas.

There were reports of loud explosions in the area, which Squamish RCMP believe was a result of the improvised explosive devices.

"This is not a case of kids being kids. The group or mob mentality took over and the lack of regard for any direction or guidance to leave the area were largely ignored," said Squamish RCMP Staff Sgt. Gareth Bradley.

"This is a very concerning trend and it is out of pure luck that no one was hurt from the explosive devices."

Several of the youth were arrested and later released into the care of their guardians. No charges have been laid, but police say the investigation is ongoing.

Squamish RCMP deployed additional resources to the Garibaldi Highlands community on Thursday "in anticipation of increased call volume" after receiving a high number of calls last year for fireworks being shot at people, homes and vehicles.

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Surrey increases fines for fireworks violations

The minimum penalty for fireworks violations will increase to \$400 from \$100 and the maximum penalty to \$50,000 from \$5,000.

By [Tiffany Crawford](#)
Published Oct 08, 2024Last updated Oct 08, 2024 minute read [Join the conversation](#)



File photo of damage caused by firecrackers to a hedge at a Burnaby home. Photo courtesy of Jennifer RoschatPNG

If you use illegal fireworks and firecrackers in Surrey this Halloween, you’re in for a fright.

City council voted Monday to approve significant increases to fines related to the sale and use of fireworks before Halloween and Diwali celebrations.

Key changes include increasing the minimum penalty for fireworks violations to \$400 from \$100 and the maximum penalty to \$50,000 from \$5,000.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

In a statement Tuesday, Surrey Mayor Brenda Locke said there has been a surge in complaints related to fireworks.



Sunrise

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“The illegal use of fireworks poses severe risks, including potential injuries, property damage and distress to animals. Council has taken this step to significantly increase fines in order to deter the illegal use of

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fireworks and to ensure the safety of our residents,” she said.

In Surrey, the discharge of fireworks requires federal certification and permits from the Surrey Fire Service. To apply for a fireworks or pyrotechnics permit visit surrey.ca.

Last year, [Port Moody](#) voted to ban all firework sales and require permits for any use of fireworks. [Burnaby](#) and [Vancouver](#) have also banned the sale of fireworks and require permits for use. Similar bans exist in Coquitlam, Richmond, Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows and Abbotsford.

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Despite local bylaws Halloween fireworks in full display across Lower Mainland



FILE - Despite rules and regulations that widely ban the use of fireworks around the Lower Mainland, many people say they were kept up much of Halloween night because of them.(iStock) Westbury



By **Sonia Aslam** and **Charles Brockman**

Posted November 1, 2024 8:40 am.

Last Updated November 1, 2024 4:40 pm.

Despite rules and regulations that widely ban the use of fireworks around the Lower Mainland, many people say they were kept up much of Halloween night because of them.

People say they were heard for several hours in parts of Langley, Ladner, Vancouver, Surrey, Burnaby, and Coquitlam.



Not found

Was non stop from 6:30 until 10pm in Aldergrove. Good thing they are illegal pic.twitter.com/5j2CihxwuP

— WillyB® (@willyBwozy) November 1, 2024

Katie 🍷

@BlueJayGal · [Follow](#)



Literally an hour and a half straight of fireworks noises. I hate Vancouver for this “Halloween tradition”.

12:17 AM · Nov 1, 2024



5



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Sgt. Paul Walker with the Abbotsford Police Department tells 1130 NewsRadio that officers dealt with a “large amount” being set off throughout the community and had to wrangle some young people who “seemed to have no regard for where they were setting them off and who from the public was around.”

[leahlucid.rwo](#) 🐛 🐞 🐞 XBT

@leahlucid_ · [Follow](#)



it's Diwali and Halloween in Vancouver tonight the fireworks have been going for 3 hours straight so far haha 🌟

12:08 AM · Nov 1, 2024



4



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Christina B 

@ChristinaBehme4 · [Follow](#)



Concerns? Judging by the intensity of the fireworks here in Surrey, Sullivan Heights, people must think there's a \$1000 reward for setting off fireworks, not a fine. A ban without enforcement is utterly useless. WHERE is law-enforcement?!

[@Hiker_Scott](#) [@CWNH](#) [@bike_rails](#)



Surrey RCMP  @SurreyRCMP

If you have concerns regarding the misuse of fireworks in your neighborhood, contact Surrey Bylaws at 604-591-4370 (operating until 1:00 am, November 1, 2024).

11:48 PM · Oct 31, 2024



1



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“Last evening the AbbyPD responded to a large number of fireworks complaints within our city particularly within the west side of Abbotsford. Violation tickets were issued along with fireworks seizures occurring,” Walker continued.

“During last night’s deployment, the common theme for a significant portion of this illegal activity was youth ranging from as young as 14 in possession of illegal fireworks.”

“Parents of these youth play a significant role in assisting police in ensuring they know what their kids are up to. We’re asking parents as we move into the weekend to ensure that their children aren’t participating in this type of illegal behaviour.”




Marc Nixon 
@MarcNixon24 · [Follow](#)




Epic neighborhood fireworks in Burnaby BC. Happy Halloween everyone.

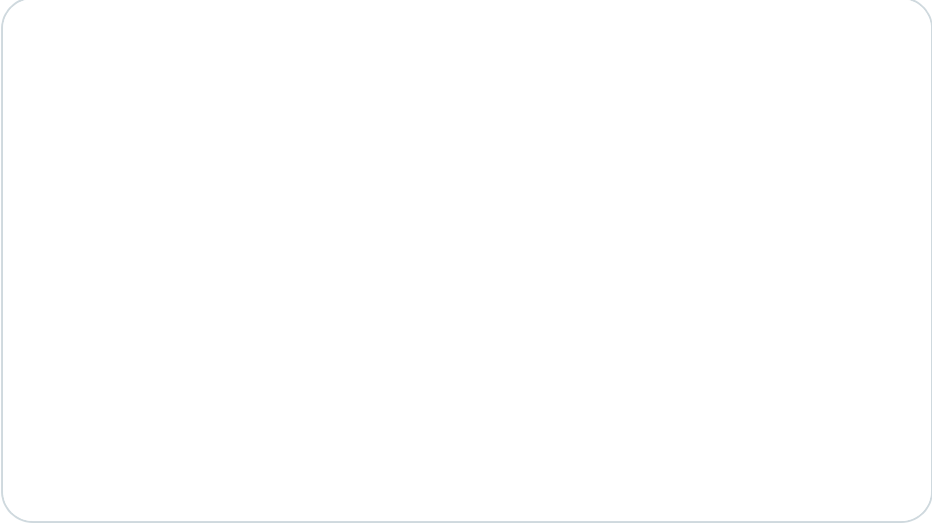
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Burnaby Central Park Halloween 🎃 fireworks today .
Friday Oct 25



12:06 AM · Oct 26, 2024 

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Steve lives in the Johnston Heights area in Surrey and called our newsroom on Friday morning. He says it was simply too much.

“It was crazy, especially after 9 p.m., massive explosions,” he said. “I find Surrey bylaw, they were driving around trying to catch [people], but they were being very smart about it.”

Sonia Aslam · Nov 1, 2024



@SoniaSAslam · [Follow](#)

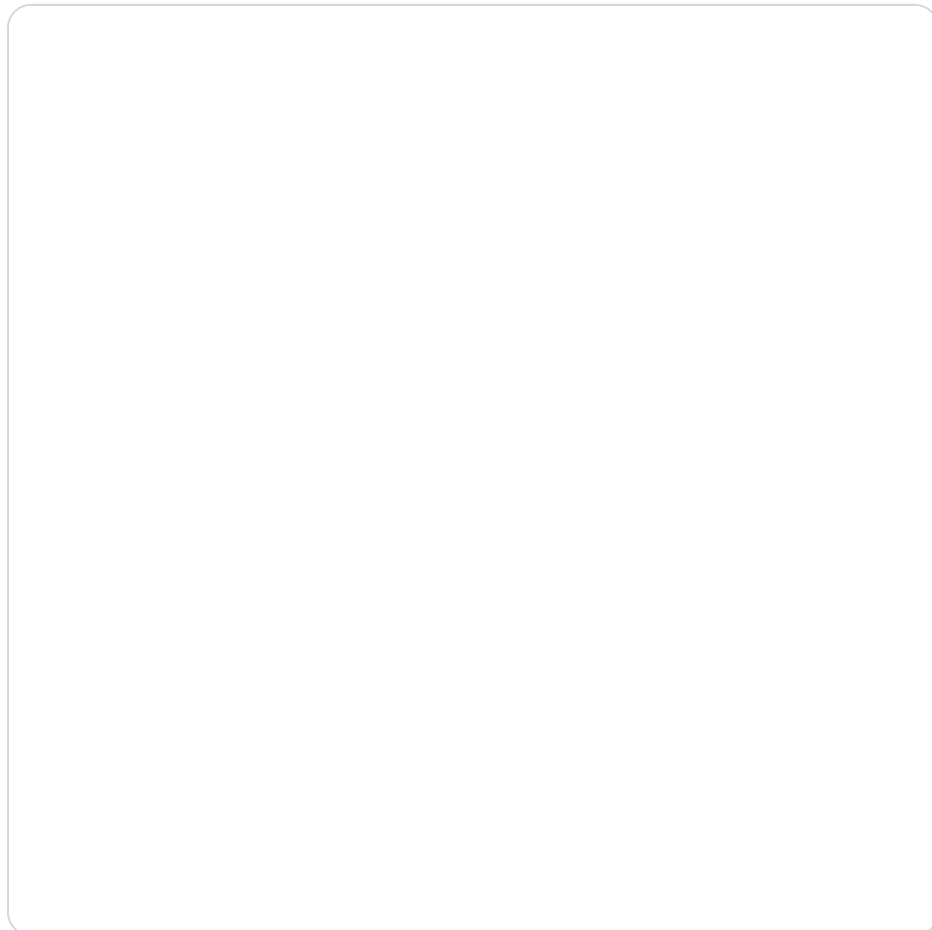
The fireworks were non-stop in my neighbourhood last night. Curious what they were like where you live. Did you hear a lot? Did it keep you up? Was your pet scared? Give me a call in the @CityNewsVAN newsroom at 604.877.4400 and let me know!



dogfather.bsky.social

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My dog was so scared, he elected to hide in the shower.



11:34 AM · Nov 1, 2024



9



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He worries people will continue shooting them in the air tonight and through the weekend.

This year, Halloween fell on Diwali — the Hindu festival of lights — which is often marked with fireworks.

Related:

- **Fireworks fines skyrocket in Surrey**
 - **Metro Vancouver cities crack down on fireworks for Halloween, Diwali**
 - **Surrey enhancing bylaw patrols for Halloween, Diwali celebrations**
-

Fines vary from city to city with Surrey recently increasing its minimum fine from \$100 to \$400. The maximum was also raised from \$5,000 to \$50,000.

Fireworks-related arrests, injuries reported on Halloween

A police officer and two teens were injured, while others were arrested in multiple fireworks-related incidents around the Lower Mainland on Halloween.

The Vancouver Police Department (VPD) says it's investigating after two teen boys were injured by a firecracker set off in their school hallway Thursday morning.

An unknown person allegedly set off the firecracker near the entrance to David Thompson High School's gymnasium just after 10 a.m. Two students of the South Vancouver school were injured while walking by.

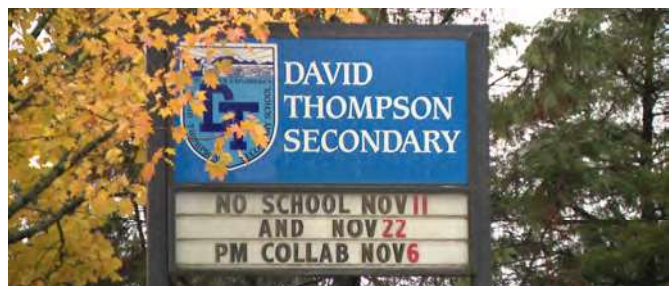
"One student was taken to hospital for a facial injury, and the second student suffered temporary loss of hearing," said VPD.

Police say the suspect has not been identified, and it's unclear if the suspect is also a student at the school.

The VPD's Youth Services Section is conducting an investigation into the incident. Anyone with information to submit is asked to call investigators at 604-717-3144.



(CityNews Image)



(CityNews Image)

Later, police in Mission say they responded to 56 calls on Halloween night, including the scene of a gathering of an estimated 300 young people around Griner Park and Albert McMahon

Elementary School.

“Police received reports of various offences, including youth assaulting another youth, rocks being thrown at a car, fireworks being shot at cars, and fireworks being set off in the direction of buildings,” the Mission RCMP reported Friday.

Mounties say they were overwhelmed by the number of people “acting recklessly.”

When an officer took one youth into his vehicle, others surrounded it, allegedly trying to open the door, spitting on, and kicking the car.

Police say another officer was hit in the face and hand with a baton while confronting another group.

“Other calls to 911 included a witness seeing approximately 100 youth surrounding police – worried that officers were in trouble – while another called after seeing youth lighting off fireworks right next to police vehicles,” Mounties said.

Mission Fire and Rescue Service helped block off streets and disperse the crowds. Police say some arrests were made and multiple tickets were issued.

Anyone wanting to report an incident from Thursday night can call the Mission RCMP at 604-826-7161.



(Courtesy the Squamish RCMP)

In Squamish, patrolling Mounties reported finding an estimated 100 young people setting off fireworks and lighting fires in the Garibaldi Highlands neighbourhood.

“A number of youths were physically and verbally aggressive towards police. Fireworks were directed at police and their vehicles and were set off. Additionally, some youths were in possession of bear spray, bear bangers, improvised explosive devices (IED) and wearing balaclavas,” Mounties said.

Police believe the IEDs were responsible for loud explosions heard in the area.

No one was injured by the explosives, but several youths were arrested and later released. Fireworks, bear spray, and IEDs were seized by police.

“The group or mob mentality took over and the lack of regard for any direction or guidance to leave the area were largely ignored,” said Squamish RCMP Staff Sgt. Gareth Bradley.



—*With files from Cole Schisler.*

https://www.therecord.com/news/council/kitchener-council-exploring-tough-fireworks-bylaw-possible-ban/article_aa77c8d9-45f3-537b-80fc-4aafea54285f.html

CITY COUNCIL

Kitchener council exploring tough fireworks bylaw, possible ban

Kitchener city council is considering stricter fireworks regulations, potentially leading to a ban and alternative event options.

Updated Oct. 2, 2024 at 3:25 p.m. | Oct. 2, 2024  



Kitchener council is exploring a stricter fireworks bylaw or an outright ban.

Metroland file photo

By Bill Doucet Reporter

Kitchener city council is exploring a stricter fireworks bylaw that could lead to an outright ban.

The motion came from Coun. Ayo Owodunni Monday, a little more than a year after the city tightened up its bylaw to allow fireworks only before 11 p.m. and only on Victoria Day, Canada Day and Diwali. Fireworks cannot be set off on public property and a permit must be obtained to light them off on any other day.

Now, passed unanimously by council, staff will be contacting colleagues in cities that have banned or strictly regulated fireworks — including Vancouver, Brampton, Woodstock and Milton — and get feedback on the effectiveness of such bans or regulations.

As well, staff will contact other municipalities within Waterloo Region and work toward a unified approach, addressing how regulations can be made more stringent, and the strategies and policies surrounding possible regulations.

Two amendments were made to the motion by Coun. Debbie Chapman and Coun. Paul Singh, respectively, asking to examine the cost and implications of moving from fireworks displays to light shows, and exploring the feasibility and related costs to developing city-coordinated fireworks events on days when fireworks are permitted.

Originally, council was asking staff to bring findings back to council in February 2025, but staff asked to have the date extended to April.

Owodunni said he'd like to see stiffer regulations or an outright ban on fireworks after 186 fireworks complaints in 2023, along with 173 fireworks complaints to date this year, with Diwali still to come at the end of the month. He also cited the incident involving Waterloo Coun. Julie Wright, where she was hit with a firework pointed at her by a resident after Canada Day celebrations.

Three delegations voiced their support for council to go with a full ban.

Mo Markham from Waterloo Region Climate Initiatives said noise, violence and near riots during recent fireworks shows — on top of the cost for extra police and bylaw officers to patrol unsanctioned fireworks events — are just some of the reasons to ban the sale, purchase and discharge of fireworks.

She added with some large forest fires in Canada this year, fireworks are a danger to the environment.

“It would seem to me that we have enough fires to put out without taking more risk for entertainment when there are other alternatives,” Markham said, noting pyrotechnic displays, low noise fireworks, lasers and drone shows could be an alternate to community firework displays.

Other delegates noted the stress on animals caused by fireworks and how it affects people dealing with anxiety or PTSD.

Councillors asked delegates if they would be supportive of city-sanctioned fireworks events.

“In my opinion, if we were to ban fireworks, that doesn’t prevent individuals coming from other municipalities, whether it’s the region or anywhere else, and bring in fireworks. There’s no way for us to police that or to even look at that as a thing. Banning, in my opinion, I think wouldn’t work,” Coun. Bil Ioannidis said.

Aleem Kanji, chief advocacy officer for Canadian National Fireworks Association, said banning fireworks would create an underground market, with people buying fireworks elsewhere, online, or possibly even making their own.

He disagreed with the issues outlined by delegates to support the ban of fireworks, including the suggestion it harms the environment.

“If there were issues with creating catastrophic environmental implications, as was suggested earlier this evening, I can assure you our federal government would not approve them to be sold or to be used on a personal level,” he said.

Above those concerns, Coun. Jason Deneault said too many injuries have occurred in relation to fireworks.

“I believe the greater good is not having them. I don’t believe that the sale of fireworks brings many benefits to the city. It’s more costly on the city,” Deneault said.

Kanji countered, saying the assertion fireworks are dangerous is unfair.

“They are regulated by our federal government, and they’re allowed to be sold for use. If they were potentially dangerous to communities, they wouldn’t be allowed to be used in communities and sold to communities. And over 4,000 of them are,” he said, noting he had a report stating there were just 210 cases of injury related to fireworks in the last 12 years.

Lit candles caused more injuries, he added.



Bill Doucet is an award-winning reporter/photographer with the Waterloo Region Record. Reach him at bdoucet@therecord.com.

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\$100K of fireworks seized in Surrey through online investigation

A City of Surrey Bylaws investigation has led to the seizure of \$100K of fireworks from a single retail location ahead of Halloween.

October 30, 2023

Media Release

Surrey, BC – A City of Surrey Bylaws investigation has led to the seizure of \$100K of fireworks from a single retail location ahead of Halloween. Bylaw Officers conducted online and social media searches for sellers of fireworks in Surrey and identified a retail location allegedly selling fireworks. Officers attended the business and observed several shelves full of fireworks. RCMP seized the fireworks and municipal tickets were issued to the owner as well as two employees.

"I would like to commend our dedicated Bylaw Officers for innovatively targeting illegal fireworks vendors in the City of Surrey," said Mayor Brenda Locke. "It took four pick-up trucks and a minivan to transport the illegal items found at this single location. A seizure of this size will surely reduce injuries related to the use of fireworks and firecrackers, as well as alleviate the nuisance noise complaints. To help everyone have a safe and happy Halloween, Surrey Bylaws will be out tomorrow night to enforce Surrey's Fireworks Bylaws."

In the City of Surrey, fireworks are not allowed to be sold or discharged without a valid Fire Department permit **and** Federal Fireworks Operator Certification. Violating the City's Fireworks Bylaws can result in a penalty of up to \$5,000 to a suspension or loss of a business license for businesses found selling illegal fireworks. Click [here \(https://www.surrey.ca/about-surrey/surrey-fire-service/fireworks\)](https://www.surrey.ca/about-surrey/surrey-fire-service/fireworks) to learn more.

Surrey Bylaw Enforcement Officers and police will be enforcing the City's Fireworks Bylaws through Halloween to Diwali. Call 604-591-4370 to report fireworks and firecracker complaints in Surrey.

9-1-1 should not be used to report fireworks. 9-1-1 is for police, fire and medical emergencies when immediate action is required: someone's health, safety or property is in jeopardy, or a crime is in progress.



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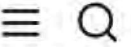
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Surrey bylaw officers seize \$80,000 worth of illegal fireworks



By **Simon Little** • Global News

Posted November 6, 2023 11:43 pm · 1 min read



Despite the sale and use of fireworks being banned for the last three years, Vancouver police and firefighters still responded to several fireworks-related incidents Halloween night. Angela Jung reports – Nov 1, 2023



-A A+

Bylaw officers in **Surrey**, B.C. say they've sized another \$80,000 worth of illicit fireworks.

City officials believe the haul came from the same owner as \$100,000 worth of pyrotechnics they seized the week before Halloween.

According to the city, **bylaw officers** posing as customers made an appointment to buy the **fireworks** at a property that appeared to be an abandoned house.



WATCH LIVE

Surrey enhancing bylaw patrols for Halloween, Diwali celebrations



Canada Day fireworks in Surrey, 2023. (City of Surrey Image)



By **Charles Brockman**

Posted October 30, 2024 11:29 am.

Last Updated October 30, 2024 11:30 am.

The City of Surrey says it's taking proactive safety measures ahead of Thursday when Halloween is set to coincide with Diwali celebrations.

Mayor Brenda Lock says bylaw officers will be focused on investigating the illegal use of fireworks across the city.

Earlier this month, Surrey city council raised fines for the sale and use of fireworks.

On Oct. 8, the minimum penalty for selling or lighting fireworks without a permit increased from \$100 to \$400; while the maximum penalty rose from \$5,000 to as much as \$50,000.

Related: Fireworks fines skyrocket in Surrey

Locke said the new penalties are in response to a “significant surge in complaints related to fireworks.”

“The illegal use of fireworks poses severe risks, including potential injuries, property damage, and distress to animals. Council has taken this step to significantly increase fines in order to deter the illegal use of fireworks and to ensure the safety of our residents,” said Locke.

The city says the new fines will help bylaw officers and police to manage firework risk.

“Officers will respond to reports, gather evidence, issue tickets, and involve the RCMP as needed. Last year, bylaw officers visited over 500 locations and issued around 150 tickets,” the city said in an update Wednesday.

In Surrey, the discharge of fireworks requires federal certification and permits from the Surrey Fire Service. You can apply for a permit on the **[city’s website](#)**.

—*With files from Raynaldo Suarez*

'Do the right thing,' and forget fireworks, says Chilliwack mayor



[Jennifer Feinberg](#)

Oct 25, 2024 2:49 PM



Display fireworks at the 2015 Canada Day celebration in Chilliwack have now been replaced by an LED drone light show. (Cory Carruthers photo)

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00:02:35

As Halloween approaches you might see fireworks on sale locally but setting them off in Chilliwack is still illegal.

City of Chilliwack put out a [reminder](#) on their socials this week to say that both the sale and purchase of fireworks and firecrackers is still prohibited.

They increased the fines a few years ago and added the threat of confiscation to the bylaw.

"It's disappointing there are some retailers in Chilliwack who are still continuing to do this," said Mayor Ken Popove. "Some might see me as the 'no fun' mayor for it, but that ship has sailed."

Fireworks are known to damage property, injure people, spook livestock and pets, and start fires.

It's not just Halloween, the "possession and discharge of consumer fireworks and firecrackers" is prohibited at all times in Chilliwack.

Large display fireworks can only be discharged by professionals with a permit.

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"I know we can't stop it but we can ask people to do the right thing," Popove said. "It's not cool for pets. It's not cool for livestock."

Fireworks that are illegally discharged can "pose a huge public safety risk, as they can endanger the individuals discharging the fireworks, bystanders, and surrounding property and infrastructure," the city notice said.

City officials beefed up the fines to \$500 for anyone caught by bylaw enforcement officers or RCMP while in possession of fireworks.

But the mayor said they'd have to employ 500 bylaw officers to be everywhere at once when the devices are set off in various parts of town to hand out fines effectively.

City of Chilliwack decided last summer to try out a drone light show performance for Canada Day, swapping out the professional fireworks for a new type of show.

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"It went over well," Popove said. "The drone show is booked come back next year as well."

It's has reached the point that fireworks are considered by many in the community to be a nuisance, the mayor concluded, as they are loud and disruptive to humans and pets.

"People just need do the right thing."

For firework and firecracker complaints in Chilliwack, call City of Chilliwack bylaw enforcement at 604-793-2908 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or afterhours, call the RCMP non-emergency line at 604-792-4611. Do not call 911 unless it is an actual emergency.

Surrey, Delta trying to crack down on fireworks



[Sandor Gyarmati](#)

Oct 10, 2024 11:00 AM



Delta staff are preparing a memo for council outlining an enforcement plan for Halloween/Diwali and other significant firework days and events. Delta Optimist file

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00:03:17

It remains to be seen if it sounds less like a war zone on both sides of the Delta-Surrey border following Surrey council this week agreeing to increase fines related to the sale and use of fireworks ahead of

Halloween and Diwali celebrations.

“The increase in fines is in response to the significant surge in complaints related to fireworks leading up to Halloween and Diwali,” said Mayor Brenda Locke in a news release. “The illegal use of fireworks poses severe risks, including potential injuries, property damage, and distress to animals. Council has taken this step to significantly increase fines in order to deter the illegal use of fireworks and to ensure the safety of our residents.”

In Surrey, the discharge of fireworks requires federal certification and permits from the Surrey Fire Service.

Under the current Surrey regulations, fines for fireworks violations have been relatively low, with maximums reaching \$500, the city notes.

The city is proposing substantial amendments to the Fireworks Bylaw, Bylaw Enforcement Notice (BEN) Bylaw, and Municipal Ticket Information (MTI) Bylaw.

Those changes include increasing the minimum penalty for fireworks violations from \$100 to \$400 and the maximum penalty from \$5,000 to \$50,000, raising the maximum MTI fine for violations of the Fireworks Bylaw to \$1,000, which is to facilitate more rigorous enforcement, as well as increased penalties under the BEN Bylaw to ensure better compliance and community safety.

Meanwhile, Delta council recently gave final approval for bylaw amendments aimed at having tougher new city penalties on using fireworks without permission.

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Although Delta 18 years ago banned the use of fireworks, except with a fireworks permit issued by the fire department, the community continues to experience illegal fireworks use.

A staff report notes that almost all firework usage in Delta is illegal as the city only issued five fireworks permits in 2023, but last year issued 24 bylaw offence notices for bylaw contraventions.

The bylaw updates include prohibiting the discharge within 500 metres of livestock properties, while the fines for all illegal firework activity will be increased to \$500.

The bylaw updates will not solve all fireworks problems, but in the absence of a broader provincial or federal framework, they are the only tools available, the report notes.

Delta staff are also preparing a memo for council outlining the enforcement plan for Halloween/Diwali and other significant firework days and events.

A City of Delta motion on fireworks was endorsed at last month's Union of BC Municipalities convention, requesting the province work with local governments to amend the BC Fireworks Act and concurrently work with the federal government to address the online sale of fireworks.

Delta staff found significant differences in how local governments in B.C. are regulating the sale and use of fireworks within their communities. Where no local bylaw exists, the provincial Fireworks Act applies, resulting in discrepancies.

Documents reveal details of Surrey fireworks busts

Bob Mackin

Dec 26, 2023 3:00 PM



1 / 3 Photographs from a fully stocked clandestine fireworks store in Surrey, busted Oct. 27 by bylaw officers and police constables. | City of Surrey

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00:05:11

Planning to start the new year with a bang in Surrey? You might want to think twice.

Heavily censored incident reports and photographs, obtained under the freedom of information law, include details of coordinated fireworks seizures by civic bylaw enforcement officers and RCMP

constables from underground retailers and buyers without permits.

Surrey Mayor Brenda Locke boasted last month that staff and cops seized \$345,000 worth of fireworks from four locations during the Halloween and Diwali period in late October and early November. They also attended 269 discharge locations and issued 23 fines.

The sale and discharge of fireworks, without a fire department permit and federal fireworks operator certificate, is punishable in Surrey with fines up to \$5,000. Incident reports state Surrey did not issue any permit in 2023.

In one Oct. 31 case, bylaw officer Tyler Lunn “observed that a propane torch, connected via a hose, to a 100-lb tank was being used to light the fireworks. The propane tank was located just inside the garage of the building on the property.”

A Nov. 1 file said bylaw officer Kevin Yip “observed a large display of fireworks being discharged from a wheelbarrow and from an area beside a wheelbarrow” into the air and into traffic.

Yip “could hear laughter as they were being shot onto the street area” and witnessed people return to twice to relight fireworks in the wheelbarrow.

“The officer remained on scene for approximately 10 minutes and had his amber lights flashing while gathering evidence. The group on the property continued to discharge fireworks into the air and towards the officer’s vehicle as well as traffic,” said the incident report.

Officers seized \$80,000 of fireworks from a clandestine store set up in an abandoned house during a Nov. 3 inspection.

Bylaw officer Jaspreet Kandola found a Google ad for fireworks for sale and posed as a customer in order to receive the address by text message from the proprietor.

The seller arrived at the location late, driving a grey Tesla with B.C. licence plates, with multiple fireworks boxes in the back seat. The interior of the house “was down to the studs,” but a room was filled with packed shelves of fireworks, and a cash register on a table. A photograph also shows a PIN pad for credit and debit transactions.

Prices varied, from \$70 to \$90 per package for the family pack. The officer said she would buy six packages and then advised the seller she was with Surrey bylaw enforcement.

“RCMP went into the property and confirmed the house was full of firework packages and the property was unoccupied,” said the incident report. “RCMP seized all of the fireworks from the house.” Constables and bylaw officers delivered the fireworks to the RCMP main detachment bay garage for destruction.

Another officer similarly obtained the address for another store via text message. Two officers, Taranjit Bains and another only identified as Maghera, and two constables, identified only as Carozza and Gibson, entered the store on Oct. 27 during a bust of fireworks valued at \$100,000.

“Const. Gibson asked the employees if they were the owners and they said no. Employees said they will call the business owner to attend. Meanwhile, Const. Gibson asked the employees to stand outside while all the fireworks are being seized,” said the incident report.

An additional pair of constables arrived and Maghera asked for more bylaw officers to join in the removal of the fireworks for delivery to the main RCMP detachment for destruction.

The apparent business owner arrived and said “they do not sell directly from the store but store the items so when costumers buy online, it is easier for shipping.”

The owner and two employees were given fine notices.

Photographs shot at the scene show a hand printed sign offering free sparklers to customers who post reviews to Google Maps. Price tags on shelves contained the logo for the Pyro Bob’s chain and products included names like Wake the Neighbours, The Two-Four and Kerfuffle.

Among the seized boxes were several labelled as explosives and marked with the name of Abbotsford distributor Mystical Fireworks, which sources fireworks from China and Cambodia.

In an additional Nov. 4 report, Bains and Kandola attended the subject address. Bains knocked on the front and rear doors, but nobody answered. They walked back to their work vehicle and observed movement in a black Kia SUV.

Bains approached the vehicle to find a person in the front seat, which was pushed all the way down. Bains requested identification and re-served the municipal violation tickets. The Oct. 27 originals were cancelled due to an error in the address.

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