

To: COUNCIL

Meeting Date: 7/8/2025

Subject: **Municipal Significant Events Second and Third Quarter Updated Noise Exemption Approval**

Submitted By: Lesley Head, Director of Recreation and Culture

Prepared By: Alix Aitken, Manager of Recreation and Culture

Report No.: 25-083-CD

File No.: C11

Wards Affected: All Wards

RECOMMENDATION(S):

THAT Report 25-083-CD Municipal Significant Events Second and Third Quarter Updated Noise Exemption Approval be received;

AND THAT the requests identified in the report 25-083-CD be approved.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Purpose

To obtain Council approval for noise exemption under Noise By-law 32-04 for municipally significant events taking place in the second and third quarters of operations.

Key Findings

If an event is determined to be of municipal significance the event organizer would require both event approval and noise exemption on an annual basis. Event organizers must obtain approval from the City of Cambridge for an exemption under the City's Noise By-law 32-04.

A **Municipally Significant Event** is defined as a one time, annual, or infrequently occurring event that is open to the public and has a predetermined opening and closing date and time which:

1. Has local, regional, national or international historical or cultural significance;

2. Builds awareness of diverse cultures;
3. Has a charitable aspect, that sees profits or portion of profits going to local charities, local residents or the community at large;
4. Promotes the social, cultural, or economic development of the City;
5. Benefits the community at large;
6. Has significant impacts on the community at large;
7. Sound production with sound made or created by any sound-producing equipment; or
8. An occupancy load of over 1000+ attendees.

Financial Implications

Any costs associated with the delivery of Special Events are allocated as part of the annual operating budget.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

☐ Strategic Action

Objective(s): Not Applicable

Strategic Action: Not Applicable

OR

☒ Core Service

Program: Special Events

Core Service: Special Events (Independent)

The Council approved Arts & Culture Action Plan, 2024 identifies the need to support special events in the City of Cambridge along with event organizers to both thrive and contribute to the vibrancy of the city.

BACKGROUND:

In an effort to streamline the special events approval process and to obtain exemptions to the City of Cambridge's Noise By-Law 32-04, additional upcoming special events for the Second and Third Quarter identified as being under the definition of municipal significance have been consolidated into this report for Council approval.

ANALYSIS:

Approval for municipally significant events are requested on an ongoing basis, the list of events in this report are in addition to the events received in Council Report 25-083-CD on May 27, 2025. These events have been processed through the Special Events Advisory Team (SEAT) and all requirements to be issued a special event permit have been provided to the organizers.

The special events which are being recommended for approval outline the following:

- Showcase Arts & Culture within our community.
- Facilitate, support and provide a diverse range of events and festivals that bring all people together from the City, Region and beyond.
- Promote participation in the City of Cambridge initiatives and encourage residents to engage in family fun entertainment and activities.
- Alignment with the Council approved Arts & Culture Action Plan, 2024

To ensure compliance, promote safety and mitigate disruption the following actions have taken place over the past year:

- A reorganization of the Special Events team, and creation of Special Event Business Unit within the city organization structure.
- Updated Terms of Reference for the Special Event Advisory Team.
- Review and enforcement of Parks By-Law 162-10 as it relates to special event delivery in parks.
- Requirement of special event organizers to provide emergency, traffic and security plans for review and approval in advance of event.
- Event curfews have been changed to 10pm for sound production and to allow clean up and vacancy by the 11 pm time identified within the Parks By-Law 162-10.
- Development of Special Event Policy, including updated rates and fees coming forward to Council in coming months for approval.
- The following special events are going through the City's special event permitting process and are seeking a request for exemption to the City's noise By-Law 32-04 for special events taking place in the second and third quarter of operations.

Galt Jazz Street Party

Sunday's May 25- September 28 2:00pm-5:00pm
Lower Main Street
Road Closure Main Street between Ainslie and Water

Latin on Main

Saturday's June 7- September 13 6:00pm-10:30pm
Lower Main Street
Road Closure Main Street between Ainslie and Water

Sunday Day Markets

June 8 – September 14- 12:00pm-4:00pm
Lower Main Street, City Hall -Civic Square, Imperial Lane- Waterstreet Parking Lot #2
Road Closure on Lower Main, Water Steet Event Pad Parking Lot #2
Vendor Market throughout Galt

Backlot Sessions

Sunday's June 15 -September 28- 12:00pm-2:00pm
Water Street Parking Lot #2 Event Pad
Live Music

Friday Night Markets

June 21, July 18, August 15, September 19- 6:00pm-10:00pm
Lower Main Street, City Hall -Civic Square, Imperial Lane- Waterstreet Parking Lot #2
Road Closure on Lower Main, Water Steet Event Pad Parking Lot #2
Vendor Market throughout Galt

Family Fun Days

June 21, July 19, August 16, September 20- 11:00am-2:00pm
Lower Main Street
Road Closure Main Street between Ainslie and Water
Boucy Castle, face painting, live entertainments and activities for all ages

Sidewalk Sale

Saturday June 28 & September 27- 9:00am-9:00pm
Lower main Street, Water Street and Ainslie Street
Sidewalk right of way permit
Amplified Sound

Road to Oddfest Vol. 3 (Treasure Market)

July 11- 2:00pm-8:00pm

Lower Main Street

Road Closure Main Street between Ainslie and Water

Amplified Sound

CMS Community BBQ

July 12- 10am-7:30pm

Churchill Park

Food, Inflatables, Amplification of Sound

Cambridge Scottish Festival Media Day

July 12- 12:00pm-4:00pm

Lower Main Street

Road Closure Main Street between Ainslie and Water

Food, Sound Amplification

Cambridge Summer Live – Ultimate Dog Show

July 16- 6:30pm-7:30pm

Forbes Park

City Led Family Friendly Event with Sound Amplification

Preston Food Crawl

July 18- 4:00pm-8:00pm

Central Park, King Street and Argyle Street

All ages event, Live Music, licensed area

Summer in the Park- Vendor Market

July 19- 8:00am-4:00pm

Forbes Park

Community vendor and craft market

Mini-Con

July 19- 11:00am-4:00pm

Lower Main Street

Road Closure Main Street between Ainslie and Water

Sound Amplification

Cambridge Summer Live- Tex Rexman

July 23- 6:30pm-7:30pm

Central Park

City Lead Family Friendly Event with Noise amplification

Family Picnic

July 26- 10:00am-7:30pm

Dolph Picnic Area -Riverside Park

Amplified Sound

Cambridge Summer Live- Isabella Hoops

July 30- 6:30pm-7:30pm

City Hall; Civic Square

City Lead Family Friendly Event with Noise amplification

Burgers and Beats

August 3 - 4:00pm-8:00pm

Location To Be Determined

Food with Live DJ

The Voices of the River – Grand River Community Play

August 5-6- 5:00pm-9:00pm

Along Grand River, Millrace Amphitheatre, Lower Main Street

Sidewalk Procession

Picnic, Story Telling, Amplified Sound

Cambridge Summer Live- Kiki Totally Outrageous

August 6- 6:30pm-7:30pm

Forbes Park

City Lead Family Friendly Event with Noise amplification

Praise-Fest

August 9- 12:00pm-4:00pm

Forbes Park

Music, singing, facepainting, and puppet shows

Cambridge Summer Live – Ultimate Dog Show

August 13- 6:30pm-7:30pm

Central Park

City Led Family Friendly Event with Sound Amplification

Praises in the Park

August 16- 10:30am-5:30pm

Forbes Park

All ages, religious service with live music and food

Church in the Square

August 16- 10:30am-1:00pm

City Hall, Civic Square

Religious Service with live music

Cambridge Summer Live – Ultimate Dog Show

August 20- 6:30pm-7:30pm

City Hall; Civic Square

City Led Family Friendly Event with Sound Amplification

Oddfest Market

August 23- 2:00pm-8:00pm

City Hall, Civic Square

Sound Amplification

Oddfest Summer Soiree

August 23- 1:00pm-10:00pm

Lower Main

Road Closure Main Street between Ainslie and Water

Amplified Sound, Live Music

Terry Fox Run

September 14- 9:00am-3:30pm

Mickler Field - Riverside Park

Sound amplification

Take Back the Night

September 18- 5:00pm-9:00pm

YWCA

Sidewalk Closure- Dickson to Water Street, up to main street, to Wellington and back down Dickson

EXISTING POLICY / BY-LAW(S):

City Noise By-Law 32-04.

Parks By-Law 162-10

Special Event Terms of Reference (SEAT) Terms of Reference

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Any costs associated with the delivery of Special Events are allocated as part of the annual operating budget.

PUBLIC VALUE:

Special Events have been held to support the community's enjoyment of living in Cambridge. This aligns with the 2024-26 Strategic Initiatives and goal to and activate spaces that offer people things to do.

Leadership:

Approval of these Municipally Significant Events will:

- Highlight the positive narrative that Cambridge is dedicated to hosting Special Events for its Community Members.
- Act as a leader in Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility.
- Recognize the positive impact that independent event organizers have within the community and support their efforts.

Collaboration:

Collaboration will involve working in partnership with event organizers to ensure compliance with all requirements and By-laws.

Transparency:

To ensure transparency, regular updates on Special Events will be shared in the Council information package and noise exemption requests will be done bi-annually until the new noise by-law is approved.

Engagement:

The Special Events Team engages with event organizers to ensure requirements, permits and expectations are set. Delivery of community events are supported through clear expectations and providing information pertaining to events.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE INPUT:

Advisory Committees are consulted based on Event participation or content as applicable.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee was consulted and updated on processes that the Special Events Team has put in place to ensure event organizers provide the most comprehensive accessible plans possible.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Posted publicly as part of the report process.

INTERNAL / EXTERNAL CONSULTATION:

In preparing for Special Event delivery, staff have consulted with the Special Events Advisory Team (SEAT) which includes Region of Waterloo Public Health, Waterloo Regional Police Services, Cambridge Fire Department, Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO), and all departments of the City.

CONCLUSION:

The occurrence of the above noted special events are subject to final approval of the current special event approval process, which ensures that requirements for the safe delivery of events is achieved by event organizers. Staff are recommending the approval of the noise exemption of these events under Noise By-Law 32-04.

Staff will be bringing forward updates to both the Noise By-law 32-04 and Special Event Policy for Council approval in the coming months. Staff will continue to provide Council with event information as part of the Council Information Package and will bring forward a subsequent report for noise exemptions for the 4th quarter of operations.

REPORT IMPACTS:

Agreement: **No**

By-law: **Yes**

Budget Amendment: **No**

Policy: **No**

APPROVALS:

This report has gone through the appropriate workflow and has been reviewed and or approved by the following as required:

Director

Deputy City Manager

Chief Financial Officer

City Solicitor

City Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

No attachments.