



Interim Fireworks By-law Update

August 29, 2023



Background

- The Current Fireworks By-law was created in 2004 and allows fireworks to be set off on Victoria Day, Canada Day and Diwali, and in the event inclement weather any day within two days following an approved day
- On April 17, 2017, Council passed an amendment to reduce the inclement weather clause from 7 days down to 2 days
- Staff and Council have received an increased number of complaints related to fireworks over the past few years
- The current fireworks by-law is silent when it comes to allowable times to set off fireworks

Municipal Comparison

Municipality	Permitted Discharge Dates	Total Annual Discharge Days
Cambridge (Proposed)	Victoria Day, Canada Day, Diwali, Permitted Occasion. Permitted until 11pm	3+
Kitchener	Victoria Day, Canada Day, Diwali, Permitted Occasion. Permitted until 11pm	3+
Waterloo	Victoria Day/Canada Day and one day before and after. Diwali, Lunar New Year, Permitted Occasion. Permitted until 11pm	10+

Municipal Comparison

Municipality	Permitted Discharge Dates	Total Annual Discharge Days
North Dumfries	Victoria Day/Canada Day and one day before and after. Permitted occasion. Permitted until 10:15pm	6+
Wilmot	Victoria Day/Canada Day/Diwali/Lunar New Year and one day before and after. Diwali, Lunar New Year, Permitted Occasion. Permitted until 11pm	12+
Woolwich	Not permitted without permit	?

Complaints

- Firework complaints can be difficult to enforce
 - People disperse quickly
 - Complaints generally do not include a specific address
 - Typically, do not last longer than a few minutes
 - Difficulty obtaining witness statements

Next Steps

- Development of an online survey to seek feedback on our current by-law and solicit input into a future state of fireworks within the City of Cambridge
- Hold a public open house where residents can visit staff and provide feedback and share experiences/ideas
- Continue to engage with Corporate Communications to create fireworks awareness through various social media channels and our fireworks webpage
- Engage with Legal Services to develop/consolidate the fireworks by-law
- Present back to Council by the second quarter of 2024 to share the results of the survey, public open house and potential proposed changes to the fireworks by-law

Recommendation

- That Council approve the amending by-law attached to the staff report as Appendix A
 - Removing the setting off of fireworks within the two days following Victoria Day, Canada Day and Diwali due to inclement weather
 - Adding a time that the setting off of fireworks are permitted. A recommendation of dusk till 11:00pm is proposed on the approved days.
- Staff be directed to undertake a full review of the fireworks by-law and its regulations and report back to Council by the second quarter of 2024



Thank You!

Questions?

