

Fireworks By-law Review

October 4, 2023



Existing By-laws

As directed by Council, staff conducted a review of the fireworks by-laws:

- Fireworks By-law 0293-2001: Regulations for setting off fireworks
- Outside Fireworks Vendors Licensing By-law 0340-2001 By-law: Licensing requirements and process for selling fireworks
- Business Licensing By-law 0001-2006: Licensing requirements for fireworks indoor sales

Current Regulations

The review focused on the regulatory framework and enforcement practices

Permitted Use



- Residents are only allowed to set off fireworks on their private property.
- This use is permitted for one day without a permit on Lunar New Year, Victoria Day, Canada Day and Diwali.
- Fireworks are allowed until midnight on the designated fireworks dates.

Licensing and Restrictions



- A licence issued by By-law Enforcement is required to sell fireworks.
- Licences are only issued for the 10 days preceding the holiday dates.
- Vendors cannot sell to those under the age of 18, sell restricted fireworks, or sell outside of the permitted period.

Community Engagement



Overview

Staff conducted robust community engagement through:

- Three surveys,
- Four community meetings, and;
- Two sessions with industry stakeholders.



Residents

Engagement theme:

- Residents expressed support for greater compliance of the current regulations through public education and enforcement.



Industry

Engagement themes:

- Industry members believe the industry is well regulated,
- Most vendors voluntarily educate the public on safety practices, and;
- Support for increased public education and vendor training.

Enhanced Enforcement

Overview

- For Victoria Day and Canada Day 2023, Enforcement provided after-hours or weekend fireworks enforcement.
- This year Enforcement utilized dynamic portal to allow for 24/7 complaint intake and response, which enabled Enforcement staff to conduct proactive enforcement over the two licensing periods.

Enhanced Enforcement Results

Licensing

- 12 vendors licensed
- 976 proactive inspections conducted
- 11 unlicensed vendors made compliant

Complaint Response

- 252 service requests (May 19-September 18)
- 170 onsite responses
- Only 10% of on site responses resulted in contact with a resident
- Average response time of 64 minutes

Key Changes



By-law Changes



Proactive
Enforcement



Public Education

By-law Changes

By-law consolidation: Fireworks By-law 0293-2001, Outside Fireworks Vendors Licensing By-law 0340-2001 By-law and fireworks licensing for indoor sales from Business Licensing By-law 0001-2006


Fireworks Use

- Addition of New Year's Eve as a permitted holiday.
- Reduce permitted time from midnight to 11 p.m.
- Amend by-law so that the property owner is responsible for violations to ensure the ability for greater enforcement.


Fireworks Licensing

- Allow sales only until 9 p.m. on the day of holiday.
- Introduction of a training requirement for vendors and other safety provisions.
- Reduction of annual licensing fee to \$800 to align with comparable jurisdictions.

Future Enforcement




- Future enforcement will be done by the Enhanced Evening team along with Mobile Licensing Officers.



- Officers will continue to respond to complaints on private property.



- Staff will work with Peel Regional Police and Security Services to develop procedures for transferring complaints about fireworks misuse on roadways and public property to the responsible group.



- Given the challenges with enforcement, robust public education is needed to complement enforcement efforts.

Public Education



Residents need to be educated on the current regulations, particularly around fireworks dates and times of use.



There is a need to educate residents that fireworks are prohibited in parks and school properties.



Staff recommend that a comprehensive public education plan be conducted.

Thank you

