



CORPORATE SERVICES

Staff Report

REPORT NO: COR 2025-10

TO: Council

SUBMITTED BY: Kaitlin Bos, Manager of Legislative Services/Municipal Clerk

PREPARED BY: Erin Merritt, Supervisor of Municipal Law Enforcement

REVIEWED BY: Greg Clark, Acting CAO

DATE: March 3, 2025

SUBJECT: Regional Firework By-law Review

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report COR 2025-10 - Regional Firework By-law Review be received for information

SUMMARY:

The Township of Wilmot, along with our regional partners from the cities of Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo and the Townships of North Dumfries, Wellesley and Woolwich are working together to improve fireworks safety across the region. All agreed to collaborate on finding ways to improve fireworks safety through coordinated bylaw restrictions, management, and enforcement.

BACKGROUND:

In 2023, the Township of Wilmot conducted a review of the Noise By-law with a hearty public engagement campaign, from this engagement campaign we received a lot of feedback regarding fireworks, as well as noise. With the number of comments received on the disruptive nature of fireworks, Township of Wilmot staff added a review of our Fireworks By-law was put onto our annual workplan.

In March 2024, the City of Cambridge engaged Cambridge residents to inform their ongoing [Fireworks By-law Review](#).

In September 2024, Kitchener City Council directed staff to do research and consultation to develop recommendations by April 2025 for:

- How the City of Kitchener can make fireworks regulations more stringent
- Potential policies or actions that can be implemented to address the fireworks issue effectively
- Strategies for a coordinated regional effort to manage and enforce fireworks regulations

In response to the last point, Kitchener staff reached out to area municipalities. In which all agreed to collaborate on finding ways to improve fireworks safety through coordinated bylaw restrictions, management, and enforcement.

A fireworks safety survey was launched on January 30, 2025 on [EngageWR](#). The engagement opportunity was advertised on the Township's social media and website seeking input from Wilmot residents. The survey complemented Cambridge's previous engagement efforts, inviting further input from residents across the region. The survey asked for residents to share their perspectives on fireworks and how the municipalities might improve fireworks safety.

REPORT:

The Fireworks safety survey closed on February 13, 2025. Results from both surveys will inform Wilmot's recommendations to Township Council this spring. The Township of Wilmot Municipal Law Enforcement team, along with regional partners will analyze the survey results, and draft recommendations, which may include amendments to existing fireworks bylaws that best serve the residents our communities, while supporting our regional partners.

Staff plan to report back to the Committee of the Whole in June with any proposed changes to our Fireworks By-law and any other recommendations that come from this public engagement. Although this is regional effort Township of Wilmot staff will review and ensure any recommendations align with our community.

ALIGNMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT STRATEGIC PLAN:

Healthy Community

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

None at this time.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.