

Staff Report

Report To: City Council
Report From: Jen Wright, Events and Activation Coordinator
Meeting Date: May 30, 2022
Report Code: CS-22-070
Subject: Approval of Exemption to the Fireworks By-Law for 2022
Canada Day Fireworks

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-22-070 respecting 2022 Canada Day Fireworks, City Council grants an exemption to the Fireworks By-Law No. 2022-050 to allow Owen Sound's Canada Day celebrations to discharge display fireworks (High Hazard Fireworks) on Friday, July 1, 2022, subject to an inspection at the discretion of Owen Sound Fire and Emergency Services.

Highlights:

- The Fireworks By-Law requires Council to grant an exemption for the use of High Hazard Fireworks.
- The fireworks will be discharged at the north end of the pier beside the grain elevators and will be visible from many locations along the harbour wall.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

This report supports the delivery of Core Service.

Previous Report/Authority:

[By-law No- 2022-050](#) – A By-law to regulate the sale and discharge of fireworks

Background:

In 2021, the City issued an RFP for the provision for Canada Day. GFA Pyro, a professional fireworks company, based in Montreal, was the successful proponent of the RFP, and the contract was awarded to them. GFA Pyro meets or exceeds all safety and professional expectations and has provided a wonderful display of fireworks at the 2018, 2019, and 2021 Canada Day celebrations and Owen Sound Celebrates in the winter of 2020.

The Fireworks By-law states:

High Hazard Fireworks

16. No person shall use high hazard fireworks or high hazard flares and signals in the City without:
 - a. complying with all requirements of the Explosives Act and any other act or regulation;
 - b. providing a certificate of insurance to the satisfaction of the City;
 - c. ensuring a review of the proposed use is undertaken by Owen Sound Fire and Emergency Services staff; and
 - d. receiving an exemption to this by-law, which exemption shall be granted by Council by resolution or by-law.

Exemptions by Council

17) Council may, at their discretion, provide an exemption by resolution or by-law to any provision of this by-law subject to any conditions Council may see fit to impose, including but not limited to requiring liability insurance naming the City as an additional insured.

18) Where an exemption to this by-law has been granted by council, breach of any of the terms or conditions of the exemption may, at the discretion of an Officer, render the exemption null and void.

The purpose of this report is to obtain an exemption to by-law 2022-050 to allow for Owen Sound's Canada Day celebrations to discharge fireworks on July 1, 2022.

Analysis:

GFA Pyro complies with all the regulations outlined in the Fireworks By-law (2022-050) and is subject to inspection and approval by the Fire and Emergency Services Department. The proposed location for discharge is the pier on the inner harbour, just north of the grain elevators. This location has been used in the past for the 2018, 2019 and 2021 Canada Day fireworks and staff have once again applied and received permission (see approval letter) to use the pier from Transport Canada.

A resolution of Council is required to provide an exception for the 2022 Canada Day celebration under By-law 2022-050. The fireworks display will begin at 10 p.m. on Friday, July 1, 2022, lasting approximately fifteen minutes. In case of severe weather (lightning or winds exceeding 35km/h), the display will be postponed to the following day. Rain would not be a concern.

Financial Implications:

The cost of the fireworks is included in the Canada Day budget.

Communication Strategy:

Staff will communicate "safe-spots" for spectators through social media, media releases and a GIS Map.

Consultation:

GFA Pyro

Owen Sound Fire and Emergency Services

Attachments:

1. Fireworks Package; Application for Special Occasion High-Hazard Fireworks, GFA Pyro Event Description & Safety Plan, Map of launch site, insurance, Transport Canada Approvals, Certifications and Fireworks Product List.

Recommended by:

Jen Wright, Events and Activation Coordinator

Brent Fisher, Manager of Community Development & Marketing

Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Jen Wright at jwright@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 ext. 1237.