



Supernova Fireworks National HQ
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Date: September 3, 2020

Addressing the bylaw imposing on fireworks sales and use

Dear Honorable Mayor Andy Lethem, our City of Kawartha Lakes Councilors and Fire Chief Pankhurst of City of Kawartha lakes

Firstly, thank you for listening to our concerns and recommendations in regards to the bylaw suggested for the Kawartha Lakes, regarding the regulation of consumer fireworks both at the reseller and the consumer level.

Concerning the excessive use of and regarding the noise complaints surrounding fireworks usage please let it be known to all interested parties that we are not against putting regulations into place. Being professionals within the Fireworks Entertainment Industry and familiar with its operations, we have some recommendations to consider that we believe may help opposing parties to be able to meet in the middle. Our goal is to help prevent these economic resources from leaving our already financially strapped local businesses, along with promoting safe and respectful use of fireworks. We are committed to inform our resellers, our consumers and licensed professionals to respect these bylaws.

I would like to begin with, addressing the end users of fireworks and what changed this year in particular?

Over the course of 2020, as you are well aware, we have all been touched by the burden of this pandemic. The measures taken to control the virus, has left many families cooped up at home, unable to travel or use their funds towards extracurricular activities. In addition, due to the cancelation of many local community Firework Shows and Displays, the obtaining of consumer level fireworks is as at an all-time high. As a result, the Fireworks Entertainment Industry has been far from normal. Please be aware that we monitor very closely who purchases fireworks and the average customer is simply a family member looking to be the backyard hero, hoping to make this year a little bit brighter for their family and kids.

First Concern: The Limiting of Fireworks Usage to 6 Days a Year

Something to strongly reconsider when considering this option is that when you take into account the number of fireworks users per year and congest their show times into only 6 days per year, it will likely look like what California regularly sees; a scene which greatly resembles and sounds like a war zone for 30 minutes to an hour during their allowable times. YouTube has many videos of this new issue that politicians now face. This same issued has been magnified even more for Vancouver which now limits fireworks to one day of the year on Halloween.



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My recommendation is we do not penalize the respectful users by putting into place a regulation only allowing fireworks to be fired 6 days of the year. It is our belief and concern that this kind of scenario would cause further social tension between those who enjoy fireworks and those who do not. With this being said, we are in absolute agreeance with all members of council, that there is no logical or good reason why fireworks should be fired during a weekday or after 11pm. This behavior is not coming from the respectable families and citizens, who obey current noise bylaws, but from the abusers who ruin it for everyone. These are the users that should be penalized.

In response, we suggest the following to include all groups of people who use fireworks responsibly and respectfully.

Hour stipulation: Dusk until 11pm **Agreed**

Dates and Holidays to be included: Day prior to, including and the day after for Canada day(July 1st) and Victoria Day (May) **Agreed**

but in addition we recommend that Family Day (Feb), Aboriginal Day (June 21st), Labour Day (Sept – Traditonal for the end of summer), and New Year's Eve (Dec. 31st) most importantly be included.

Permits: Suggestion that permits can be acquired (such as a fire permit, but possibly for a small fee) for other special events such as birthday parties, family reunions, social events, special occasions, weddings, and public events that are held on Fridays and Saturdays without restriction to dates, while still adhering to the noise bylaws, the safety guidelines recommended for safe use of family fireworks and display fireworks fired by licensed professionals as set out by the Explosive Regulatory Division of Canada (ERD).

The goal of the new bylaw should be to be put in place an end to the irrational use of fireworks at inappropriate times of the day or night without penalizing the law respecting citizens who are trying to make awesome summer memories. Let us ensure that those who are doing things right be allowed to continue enjoying this tradition with friends and family.

Second Concern: Suggested Reselling Restriction on Retailers

As a local fireworks distributor I have had the pleasure to meet many of the community fundraising committees, owners of variety stores, gas stations, hardware stores, along with other local businesses who use fireworks as a large sale item to help them fundraise or keep groceries on the table for their families. Knowing many of them personally, I can say this is an especially important



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source of income for many of these committees and small businesses. Much of this welcomed revenue opportunity comes from the plethora of cottagers spending their money in our municipality to celebrate at cottages and in rural areas along with our local citizens who enjoy putting on a good show. This year the extra volume of income was greatly welcomed by our local businesses that are caught up in a pandemic-stricken tourism industry that is at the heart of the economy of the city of Kawartha Lakes.

Putting a bylaw in place to restrict the ability to sell fireworks would result in the cities loss of permit fees, along with \$1000.00's of dollars being taken out of many hard-working business owners' pockets. For some of these businesses, I know this is the difference of making 30k and 25k a year income.

Many these businesses have suffered from the already rising costs of living in addition to the economic crisis incurred by the ongoing pandemic. These local business owners are encouraged to have that extra income resulting from this retail boom especially when we are constantly reminded that a 2nd wave is a possibility for the current pandemic that could further limit their resources. Many can't and won't survive another economic shut down.

We will not be getting rid of the problem at hand by limiting the resellers to certain dates of the year. Fireworks are readily available through many alternate nearby sources including local native reserves, other neighboring jurisdictions, not to forget online sales. Limiting our local business will result in money flowing to different areas of the province, and out of the Kawartha Lakes. Realistically these sales will still occur however outside of the Kawartha Lakes. It will be our small businesses that will be losing out on these much needed opportunities.

I would like to emphasize once again that we are here to continue to work with Kawartha Lakes Council, it's bylaw officers and administration to ensure both the resellers, professionals and the public are well educated when it comes to reselling or buying of fireworks with strong focus on safe and respectful use. We also want to ensure that all residents enjoy the great quality of life that is found here in the City of Kawartha Lakes. Fireworks can be a positive source of family entertainment for many if they are used in a safe and respectful manner, during times that simply make sense.

Summarizing the following proposed bylaw:

Resellers:

Continuation of what we already have in place. Education on the permit process and keeping all fees the same on this process.



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End users:

Time frame: Dusk until 11pm
Dates and Holidays to be included:
Canada day (June 30th-July 2nd)
Victoria Day (Friday-Sunday of that weekend),
Family Day (in February for Ontario)
Aboriginal Day (June 21st)
Labor Day Weekend
New Years Eve

Restriction as always: If a burn ban is in place there will be **no** fireworks allowed.

Public Fireworks Displays and Gatherings:

No restrictions on dates but must continue to go through same permitting process as before using the online portal.

Implementation of a Separate Permit Process for special occasions:

(Consumer/family fireworks shows)

Occasions included: Birthdays, weddings, baby/gender reveals, anniversaries, family or neighborhood get-togethers, resorts, and possibly even the occasional celebration of life.

The idea behind this strategy is that these shows can obtain a permit for a non-traditional date similar to obtaining a bon fire permit. This will ensure they are aware of the safe and respectful use of fireworks, to preserve the tradition, without allowing a continued "free for all" that will further harm this industry.

In conclusion, this is my passion and as a local business owner, in which I have worked very hard to grow and as a 3rd generation resident in Omeme, I am proud to call CoKL my home and want to ensure we have a very positive relationship with the communities as one of the leading fireworks providers on every level of use.

Thank you in advance for your considerations regarding our thoughts and suggestions.

Yours truly

Matthew Hutchinson

Owner and Lead Fireworks Specialist

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Local Affiliates who have voiced concerns over changes to bylaws who are in agreeance with this proposal:

Mark Hallet and Casey Wardlaw – local Licensed Display Supervisors
Kawartha Pyro Fest 2021 Team
L and L Fireworks (Shawn and Peter)
Local Resorts
Local Fundraising Committees
Local variety stores, businesses and gas stations
Many End consumers
Some CoKL Councilors, respectfully