

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WOLLASTON

BY-LAW NO. 19 - 2021

Being a By-law to regulate the discharge of Firearms in the Township

WHEREAS pursuant to Subsection 11(2) paragraph 6 of the Municipal Act, a municipality may pass by-laws to protect the health, safety and well-being of Persons;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to Section 119 of the Municipal Act, a municipality may, for the purpose of public safety, prohibit or regulate the discharge of Firearms and other similar devices;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to Section 436 of the Municipal Act, a municipality has the power to enter onto lands at any reasonable time for the purpose of carrying out an inspection to determine compliance of this by-law;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to Section 438 of the Municipal Act, a municipality has the power to enter onto lands at any reasonable time for the purpose of carrying out an inspection pursuant to orders under this by-law;

AND WHEREAS Council of the Township of Wollaston has deemed it in the public interest to regulate the discharge of Firearms within the Township for the purposes of public safety;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Wollaston enacts as follows:

PART #1 – TITLE AND DEFINITIONS

1. TITLE

- (a) This By-law shall be referred to as “The Discharge of Firearms By-law”.

2. DEFINITIONS

- (a) **“Agent”** means a Person authorized by the Regulations under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act to act as an agent for a landowner to kill, capture or harass wildlife for the protection of property and includes:
- i. Trappers licensed under Ontario Regulation 667/98 (Trapping);
 - ii. Employees or agents of a member of the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals under the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O. 36 or any amending or successor legislation;
 - iii. Members of a landowner’s immediate family acting on behalf of the landowner on the landowner’s own land;
 - iv. Persons whose business is primarily the business of removing nuisance wildlife if they harass wildlife or if they capture and release it if it is capable of being released;
 - v. Employees or agents of a municipality whose responsibility relates to wildlife control; and
 - vi. Persons who hold a valid H1 outdoors card issued under Ontario Regulation 665/98, for the purpose of killing or harassing the wildlife but not capturing it.
- (b) **“Business”** means a Person who carries on a business that includes the manufacture, assembly, possession, purchase, sale, importation, exportation, display, repair, restoration, maintenance, storage, alteration,

pawn brokering, transportation, shipping, distribution or deliver of Firearms and ammunition of Firearms.

- (c) **“By-law Enforcement Officer”** means the By-law Enforcement Officer for the Township of Wollaston.
- (d) **“Community Designation”** means the community areas as defined in Schedule “B” attached hereto.
- (e) **“Conservation Officer”** means a Conservation Officer or Deputy Conservation Officer appointed pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act.
- (f) **“Council”** means the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Wollaston.
- (g) **“Criminal Code”** means the Criminal Code of Canada, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-46, or any amending or successor legislation.
- (h) **“Educational Property”** includes school facilities operated by a school board, a private school, a university, a provincial college, a private college or an outdoor area owned by the school when in use for instructional purposes whether or not the area is adjacent to a school building.
- (i) **“Farming and Food Production Protection Act”** means the Farming and Food Production Protection Act, 1998, S.O. 1998, c. 1, or any amending or successor legislation.
- (j) **“Firearm”** means shotguns, rifles, or any class thereof and includes anything that can be adapted for use as a Firearm, excluding bows, cross bows, paint ball guns, pellet or BB guns or similar class of Firearm (for the purpose of this By-law).
- (k) **“Firearms Act”** means the Firearms Act, S.C. 1995, c. 39, or any amending or successor legislation.
- (l) **“Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act”** means the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997, S.O. 1997 c. 41, or any amending or successor legislation.
- (m) **“Migratory Birds Convention Act”** means the Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994, S.C. 1994, c. 22, or any amending or successor legislation.
- (n) **“Municipal Act”** means the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 45, or any amending or successor legislation.
- (o) **“Normal Farm Practice”**, as defined in the Farming and Food Production Protection Act, means a practice which is conducted in a manner consistent with proper and acceptable customs and standards, as established and followed by similar agricultural operations under similar circumstances, or makes use of innovative technology in a manner consistent with proper advanced farm, management practices, and includes any practice which may be recognized as such by the Normal Farm Practices Protection Board.
- (p) **“Peace Officer”** means a member of a regional, provincial or federal police force or the Canadian Armed Forces.
- (q) **“Person”** means an individual, firm, corporation, business, association or partnership.
- (r) **“Property”** means any parcel of land and any buildings or structures on the land and includes a portion of property.

- (s) **“Public Road”** means a year-round or seasonably maintained road by the Township of Wollaston.
- (t) **“Recreational Purposes”** means target shooting, skeet shooting, sighting your Firearm, training of animals or similar activity.
- (u) **“Township”** means the geographic area comprising the Township of Wollaston.
- (v) **“Trapper”** means a Person licensed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997 and Regulations to hunt and trap furbearing mammals.

PART #2 – APPLICATION OF THE BY-LAW

3. INTERPRETATION

- (a) For the purpose of this by-law:

Word Usage

- (i) Words in singular shall be deemed to include plural and words in plural shall be deemed to include singular and this By-law shall be interpreted with all changes in gender or number as the context may require;
- (ii) Unless otherwise defined herein, the words and phrases used in this By-law have their normal and ordinary meaning;
- (iii) Headings are inserted for convenience and reference purposes only, form no part of this By-law and shall not affect in any way the meaning or interpretation of the provisions of this By-law; and
- (iv) Reference to any Act, Regulation, By-law, or Agreement is a reference to that Act, Regulation, By-law or Agreement as it is amended or re-enacted from time to time.

4. APPLICATION

- (a) The provisions of this By-law shall apply to all discharges of Firearms within the boundaries of the Township of Wollaston.
- (b) Nothing in this By-law shall be interpreted as reducing or eliminating the need for full compliance with the provisions of all applicable Federal and Provincial statutes and associated Regulations, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - (i) Criminal Code;
 - (ii) Firearms Act;
 - (iii) Migratory Birds Convention Act; and
 - (iv) Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act

5. CONFLICT

- (a) Where this By-law conflicts, or is deemed to conflict with any applicable Federal or Provincial statute, the provisions of such Federal or Provincial statute shall prevail.

6. SEVERABILITY

- (a) If a court of competent jurisdiction declares any section or part of a section of this By-law to be invalid, such section or part of a section shall not be construed as having persuaded or influenced Council to pass the remainder of this By-law, and the remainder of this By-law shall be valid and remain in force.

PART #3 – GENERAL PROVISIONS

7. PROHIBITIONS

- (a) No Person shall discharge a Firearm in the Township except in accordance with this By-law.
- (b) No Person shall discharge any Firearm in the Township upon lands outside the Community Designation except:
 - (i) When lawfully hunting as per the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, or
 - (ii) For Recreational Purposes:
 - a. Not within 30 metres (98 feet) from the edge of the travelled portion of a public road
 - b. Not within 100 metres (338 feet) of any lake with more than 2 lots under separate ownership; and
- (c) No Person shall discharge any Firearm in the Township upon lands within the Community Designation except:
 - (i) When lawfully hunting as per the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act; and
 - (ii) On a lot greater than 3 hectares (7.4 acres)
- (d) Despite any other provision in this By-law, no Person shall discharge a Firearm in the Township within 300 metres (984 feet) of any educational property.
- (e) No Person shall discharge any Firearm in the Township upon lands except a landowner, tenant, Agent authorized by the landowner or tenant, or a Person with the landowner or tenant's permission.

8. EXCEPTIONS

- (a) This By-law shall not apply to the discharge of a Firearm:
 - (i) For the protection of property from nuisance wildlife that may be killed or harassed in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act or a permit issued under the Canada Migratory Birds Regulations and a maximum of only ten (10) rounds being fired in a twenty-four (24) hour period;
 - (ii) Undertaken as a normal farm practice;
 - (iii) Upon properties being used for agriculture purposes and the owner or tenant possesses a valid Farm Business Registration Number;
 - (iv) By any Peace Officer, By-law Enforcement Officer, Conservation Officer or Deputy Conservation Officer acting in the course of their duty under the authority of their employment;

- (v) At a facility operated or utilized by Peace Officers for training purposes;
- (vi) At an educational property used for instruction in the proper use of Firearms;
- (vii) At a federally regulated and licensed Business, the use and location of which is lawful and in accordance with all applicable federal, provincial and municipal laws; and
- (viii) By a Person firing blank ammunition for the purposes of:
 - a. a ceremonial event, historical display or education program;
 - b. a theatrical film or television production;
 - c. a sporting event; or
 - d. driving off nuisance wildlife with a maximum number of only ten (10) rounds being fired in a 24-hour period.

9. GRANT OF EXEMPTION BY COUNCIL

- (a) Notwithstanding any provisions of this By-law, any Person may make application to Council to be granted an exemption from any of the provisions of this By-law with respect to the discharge of Firearms and Council, by resolution, may grant or refuse to grant the exemption applied for, or may grant any exemption of lesser effect, and in granting any exemption Council may include such terms and conditions as it deems appropriate.
- (b) In deciding whether to grant an exemption, Council shall give the applicant and any other Persons an opportunity to be heard and may consider such other information and matters as it considers appropriate.
- (c) A breach by the applicant of any of the terms or conditions of any exemption granted by Council shall render the exemption immediately null and void and of no force and effect.

PART #4 – ENFORCEMENT

10. POWER OF ENTRY

- (a) The Township may enter onto a property (not into a dwelling) at any reasonable time for the purpose of carrying out an inspection to determine whether or not the following are being complied with:
 - (i) The provisions of this By-law;
 - (ii) An order issued under this By-law; or
 - (iii) An order made under Section 431 of the Municipal Act.
- (b) Where an inspection is conducted by the Township, the Person conducting the inspection may:
 - (i) Require the production for inspection of documents or things relevant to the inspection;
 - (ii) Inspect and remove documents or things relevant to the inspection for the purpose of making copies or extracts;

- (iii) Require information from any Person concerning a matter related to the inspection including their name, address, phone number and identification; and
- (iv) Alone or in conjunction with a Person possessing special or expert knowledge, make examinations or take tests, samples or photographs necessary for the purposes of the inspection.
- (c) The Township may undertake an inspection pursuant to an order issued under Section 438 of the Municipal Act.
- (d) The Township's power of entry may be exercised by a Peace Officer or any other Person appointed to enforce by-laws for the Township.
- (e) Every Person who hinders or obstructs an Enforcement Officer (By-law Enforcement Officer, Conservation Officer, Peace Officer) lawfully carrying out the enforcement of this By-law is guilty of an offence.

11. PENALTY

- (a) Every Person who contravenes any provision of this By-law is guilty of an offence and on conviction is liable to a fine provided for in the Provincial Offences Act R.S.O. 1990, c. P.33
- (b) Every Person guilty of an offence under this By-law may, if permitted under the Provincial Offences Act, pay a set fine and the Chief Judge of Ontario Court Provincial division, shall be requested to establish set fines in accordance with Schedule "A" attached to this By-law.
- (c) If this By-law is contravened and a conviction entered, the Court may also order that the Place of Business or the Premises or any part of the Premises be closed to any use for a period not exceeding two (2) years.
- (d) For the purposes of this By-law:
 - (i) "Multiple offence" means an offence in respect of two or more acts or omissions each of which separately constitutes an offence and is a contravention of the same provision of this By-law; and
 - (ii) An offence is a second or subsequent offence if the act giving rise to the offence occurred after a conviction had been entered at an earlier date for the same offence.

12. SCHEDULES TO THIS BY-LAW

- (a) Schedule "A" Set Fines
- (b) Schedule "B" Community Designation

PASSED this 08th day of March, 2021.

MAYOR: LYNN KRUGER

SEAL

CLERK: BERNICE CROCKER

The Corporation of the Township of Wollaston

**BY-LAW NO. – 19-2020 A BY-LAW TO REGULATE THE DISCHARGE OF
FIRERAMS**

SCHEDULE “A” – Set Fines Schedule Part 1 Provincial Offences Act

Item	Column 1 Short Form Wording	Column 2 Provision Creating or Defining Offence	Column 3 Set Fine
1	Discharge Firearm within 30 metres of a public road	Part 3, Section 7. (b)(ii)a.	\$500.00
2	Discharge Firearm within 100 metres of a lake	Part 3, Section 7. (b)(ii)b.	\$500.00
3	Discharge Firearm while hunting on lot less than 3 hectares	Part 3, Section 7. (c)(i)	\$500.00
4	Discharge Firearm not lawfully hunting	Part 3, Section 7. (c)(ii)	\$500.00
5	Discharge Firearm within 300 metres of an Educational Property	Part 3, Section 7. (d)	\$500.00
6	Hinder or obstruct Enforcement Officer	Part 4, Section 10. (e)	\$1,000.00

The Corporation of the Township of Wollaston

**BY-LAW NO. – 19-2020 A BY-LAW TO REGULATE THE DISCHARGE OF
FIRERAMS**

SCHEDULE “B” – Community Designation

Community Designation shall include all property from:

- a. the Coe Hill sign located on Highway 620 East of Coe Hill to and including the Coe Hill sign located on Highway 620 West of Coe Hill
- b. Intersection of Highway 620 at Lower Faraday Road to and including 4901 Lower Faraday Road;
- c. All properties along Elm Street;
- d. All properties along Spring Street;
- e. All properties along High Street;
- f. All properties along Wollaston Lake Road;
- g. All properties along Norman Lane.