



By-law No. 44-2025

Fireworks By-law

Consolidated Version *Revised and Verified November 18, 2025*

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44-2025 (Original)	November 4, 2025

Consolidated for Convenience Only

This consolidated copy of a Woolwich Township By-law is for convenient information. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of this copy, the original by-law must be consulted for all legal interpretations and applications. For more information or to view by-laws please contact the Clerks Division. This document is available in alternate formats on request.

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The Corporation of the Township of Woolwich

By-law No. 44-2025

A By-law to Regulate the Sale and Use of Fireworks and Firecrackers.

Whereas section 391 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001 c.25, as amended, enables a municipality to pass by-laws imposing fees or charges on persons; and

Whereas section 23.1 and 23.2 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001 c. 25, as amended, authorizes the municipality to delegate certain powers and duties; and

Whereas Council has determined that the unregulated sale and discharge of Fireworks and Firecrackers could cause a public nuisance; and

Whereas Council has determined that regulating the sale and discharging of Fireworks and Firecrackers within the Township decreases both safety and nuisance concerns; and

Whereas section 120 of the *Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c.25*, as amended, provides that a local municipality may,

- a. prohibit and regulate the manufacture of explosives in the municipality;
- b. prohibit and regulate the storage of explosives and dangerous substances in the municipality;
- c. regulate the keeping and transportation of explosives and dangerous substances in the municipality;
- d. prohibit the manufacture or storage of explosives unless a Permit is obtained from the municipality for those activities and may impose conditions for obtaining, continue to hold, and renewing the Permit, including requiring the submission of plans; and

Whereas section 121 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended, provides that a local municipality may prohibit and regulate the sale of Fireworks and the setting of Fireworks, and further that a by-law may prohibit those activities unless a Permit is obtained from the municipality who may impose conditions for obtaining, continuing to hold and renewing the Permit, including requiring the submission of plans; and

Whereas the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Woolwich deems it expedient to enact a by-law to regulate and prohibit sales of Fireworks, and repeal By-law 15-2015;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WOOLWICH HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

Part I. Short Title, Purpose and Scope

Short Title

1. This by-law shall be known as the "Fireworks By-law".

Purpose

2. This by-law has been enacted to regulate the sale and discharging of Fireworks in order to promote public safety and reduce nuisance.
3. The Township is committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion and recognizes that fireworks are part of various cultural and religious celebrations. This by-law aims to regulate fireworks use while respecting the cultural practices of diverse community members. Township staff shall engage with underrepresented and racialized communities to ensure fair access to Fireworks Permits related to cultural celebrations.

Scope

4. This by-law shall apply to all individuals or entities selling or discharging Fireworks.

Part II. Interpretation**Headings**

5. The division of this by-law into parts and the insertion of headings are for convenient reference only and shall not affect interpretation of the by-law.

References to Applicable Law

6. All references to applicable law are ambulatory and apply as amended from time to time.

Definitions

7. For the purposes of this by-law:

“Act” means the *Explosives Act, R.S.C 1985, Chapter E-17*, and any Regulations enacted thereunder or any Act and Regulations enacted in substitution therefore;

“Administrative Monetary Penalty System By-law” means that Administrative Monetary Penalty By-law of the Township;

“Canada Day” shall mean July 1st each calendar year;

“Child” means a person who is under 18 years of age;

“Consumer Fireworks” means low hazard Fireworks generally used for recreation, which may be classified as type F.1 explosives under the *Act*, including but not limited to showers, golden rain, lawn lights, pinwheels, roman candles, and volcanoes, but does not include Christmas crackers or sparklers containing less than 2 mg of explosive substance;

“Cultural or Religious Holiday” means a day of significance traditionally celebrated by a cultural, ethnic, Indigenous, or religious community, recognized either through national/international observance or by local community practices.

“Display Fireworks” means high hazard Fireworks generally used for a public display, which may be classified as type F.2 explosives under the *Act*, including but not limited to rockets, serpents, shells, bombshells, tourbillions, maroons, large wheels, bouquets, bombardos, waterfalls, fountains, batteries, illumination, set pieces and pigeons, but does not include Firecrackers;

“Diwali” shall mean the day of the Diwali Festival celebrated primarily by South Asian communities and may include the use of Fireworks;

“Exemption” shall mean special permission granted to a person, business, or organization allowing them not to comply with to not follow a specific section of the by-law

“Fees and Charges By-law” means a by-law passed by Council from time to time pursuant to section 391 of the *Act*, establishing the fees and charges for services or activities provided by or on behalf of the Township;

“Firecracker” includes any article containing a combustible or explosive substance, or combination of substances, prepared for, capable of, or discharged for, the purposes of producing solely an explosion or audible sound and includes cherry bombs, cannon crackers, Firecrackers, mines, squibs and torpedoes but does not include a Christmas cracker or similar device;

“Fireworks” shall mean:

- a. Any article containing a combustible or explosive composition or any substance or combination of substances, prepared for, capable of, or discharged for the purpose of, producing a visual show or effect which may or may not be preceded by, accompanied with, or followed by, an explosion or audible sound and shall include Consumer Fireworks, Display Fireworks, Flame Effects and Pyrotechnics; or
- b. Those devices that are regulated under the authority of the *Act* and any regulations thereunder;
- c. Christmas crackers and sparklers containing less than 2 mg of explosive substance are not considered to be “Fireworks” for the purposes of this by-law.

“Fire Chief” means the Fire Chief of the Township of Woolwich or designate;

“Fire Department” means the Fire Department of the Township of Woolwich;

“Fireworks Display” means the setting off of Fireworks but shall not include the setting off Consumer Fireworks when done on land belonging to a private residence by the owner or tenant of such residence or a person authorized by him/her to do so; provided it is done on the following days:

- a. Canada Day;
- b. Diwali;
- c. Lunar New Year; and
- d. Victoria Day, and
- e. Any other day recognized by the Township as a Cultural or Religious Holiday for which prior notice has been submitted and approved.

“Flame Effects” shall mean the combustion of flammable or combustible solids, liquids, or gases to produce thermal, physical, visual, or audible phenomena where the effect is intended to be viewed by an audience;

“Fireworks Supervisor” shall mean a person authorized under the *Act*, to utilize certain classes of Fireworks or pyrotechnics and for the purpose of this by-law may be used interchangeably with pyrotechnician as defined under the *Act*;

“Lunar New Year” shall mean the beginning of a new year based on the lunar calendar and shall include the Chinese New Year;

“Municipal Act” means the *Municipal Act, 2001, SO 2001, c. 25*;

“Officer” means any member of the Fire Department, any Township By-law Enforcement Officer and any member of the Waterloo Regional Police Service;

“Owner” means the person having effective control over or apparent possession of property or the relevant portion thereof, or where that person cannot be determined, the registered owner of that property, or a receiver and manager, personal representative or trustee in bankruptcy who has taken possession of that property shall be deemed to have effective control over the property;

“Permit” shall mean a Fireworks Display Permit issued by the Fire Chief authorizing a Fireworks Display of any class of Firework and shall include Pyrotechnics and Flame Effect;

“Person” means any individual, group of persons, firm, partnership, merchant, storekeeper, corporation or company, and shall include an Owner;

“Provincial Offences Act” means the Provincial Offences Act, RSO 1990, c. P.33;

“Region” means The Regional Municipality of Waterloo;

“Sky Lantern” includes any small hot air balloon or device designed to carry an open flame as an airborne light and may also be commonly known as Kongming lantern, Chinese Lantern, Sky Candle, Fire Balloon or Sky Balloon;

“Special Occasion” means a personal or ceremonial event of significant importance, such as a wedding, anniversary, or other milestone celebration, and does not include religious or cultural holidays otherwise covered under this by-law.

“Township” means the Township of Woolwich and a reference to Woolwich is a reference to the geographical area of the Township of Woolwich or to the Corporation of the Township of Woolwich as the context requires;

“Victoria Day” means the Monday preceding May 25th;

“Woodlands” means treed areas that provide environmental and economic benefits to both the private landowner and the public, such as erosion prevention, hydrological and nutrient cycling, provision of clean air and the long-term storage of carbon, provision of wildlife habitat, outdoor recreational opportunities, and the sustainable harvest of a wide range of woodland products. Woodlands include treed areas, woodlots or forested areas and vary in their level of significance at the local, regional, and provincial levels.

Part III. General Provisions

Use of Fireworks

8. No Person shall set off Consumer Fireworks except during the permitted times on the following days:
 - a. Victoria Day and the day immediately before between 9:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.,
 - b. Canada Day and the day immediately before between 9:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.,
 - c. Such days that constitute the recognized duration of the holiday known as the Lunar New Year between 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., and
 - d. On the day of Diwali between 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., except when Diwali falls on Halloween (October 31st) where in the interest of public safety, Fireworks may instead be set off on October 30th during the same time, and

- e. Any additional Cultural or Religious Holiday approved by the Township upon application by a community group or individual at least 30 days in advance, subject to public safety considerations, where an Exemption has been issued.
 - f. Special Occasions where an Exemption has been issued.
9. Any individual or group may request recognition of a cultural or religious holiday for the purpose of setting off Consumer Fireworks by submitting an application to the Township at least 30 days in advance.
- a. The application must include:
 - i. Name and date of the holiday
 - ii. Cultural or religious significance
 - iii. Community group(s) observing it
 - iv. Proposed date and time of fireworks use
 - b. Township staff will review and make a decision based on community need, cultural significance and public safety.
10. No Person shall set off any Firecracker or Sky Lantern in the Township.
11. No Person shall set off any Fireworks in any park or on any street, highway, or land of the Township or the Region, without obtaining the prior written permission to do so.
12. No Child shall set off or possess any Fireworks, other than a sparkler where the child is under the supervision of an adult at all times.
13. No parent, guardian, or person standing in the place of a parent with respect to a Child shall permit that child to set off or possess any Firework, other than a sparkler where the Child is under the supervision of an adult at all times.
14. No Person shall set off Fireworks on any private property of which they are not the Owner, without obtaining the prior written permission from the Owner.
15. No Person shall set off any Fireworks into, inside of, or on any building, accessory building structure, or motor vehicle.
16. No Person shall set off any Fireworks within 10 metres of any person or within such greater distance of any other person as is recommended by the manufacturer.
17. No Person shall set off any Fireworks within 10 metres or such greater distance as recommended by the manufacturer of any building, tent, canvas shelter, or motorhome.
18. No Person shall set off any Fireworks in an area containing dead undergrowth, dry grass, or dry leaves.
19. No Person shall set off any Fireworks or class of Fireworks, where the Fire Chief has declared that the use of Fireworks in the Township or part thereof, would present an undue risk of fire or environmental harm to the community.
20. No Person shall set off any Fireworks in the Township within 150 meters of:
- a. Any woodlands;
 - b. Any place where explosives, gasoline, or other flammable or combustible substances are manufactured, sold or stored;

- c. Any church, childcare facility, or public, separate, secondary or other school;
- d. Despite section 20(c), Fireworks may be used in a church, or a separate, secondary or other school where a Permit for their use has been issued by the Fire Chief.

Fireworks Sales

- 21. No Person shall at any time offer for sale or sell any Firecracker or Sky Lantern in the Township.
- 22. No Person shall sell or offer for sale any Fireworks in the Township without a permit.
- 23. No person shall sell or offer for sale any Fireworks in the Township on any day or days during the year except on the five (5) days immediately preceding Victoria Day, and the five (5) immediately preceding Canada Day, provided that nothing in this by-law shall prevent the sale on any day for the purpose of a Fireworks Display to a person who is the holder of a permit for such display.
- 24. Every person applying for a Fireworks sales licence shall submit an application to the Fire Chief in the form prescribed by the Township, the applicable licence fee as set out in the Fees and Charges By-law, and the following information:
 - a. A manifesto of all Fireworks to be sold and stored and their quantities;
 - b. Proof of general liability insurance in the minimum amount of \$5,000,000 per occurrence;
 - c. Site drawings of both the sales and storage locations which clearly indicate where all Fireworks are to be stored and/or merchandised;
 - d. Proof of completion of Vendor Training Course through the Canadian National Fireworks Association or other recognized Fireworks safety certification course.
- 25. No Person shall sell online, offer for sale, or supply any Fireworks in the Township to anyone under the age of eighteen (18) years of age, and if purchased or ordered online, shall only be delivered to anyone eighteen (18) years of age or older.
- 26. All advertising and merchandising of Fireworks sales as authorized by a Fireworks sales licence must be removed within 24 hours of the end of each sales period.
- 27. All sales of Fireworks in the Township of Woolwich must also comply with the provisions set out in the Explosives Regulations, as amended.
- 28. Proof of inspection by the Fire Department. A minimum of one (1) inspection per sales period will be required however additional inspections may be required at the Fire Chief's discretion and may be subject to an inspection fee as set out in the Fees and Charges By-law; and
- 29. If the applicant proposes to sell any Display Fireworks, proof of an explosives licence issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources is also required.
- 30. Written permission from the property owner allowing the sale of Fireworks to take place from the proposed location.
- 31. Any other documentation deemed necessary by the Fire Chief.
- 32. Where the operating name of the business changes, though ownership of the business remains unchanged, the licensee shall immediately notify the Township Clerk and being satisfied that there have been no other changes in the circumstances of the licenced business, the Township

Clerk may issue a replacement of the original licence with the change of the operating name of the business.

33. Where a currently licenced business changes location or premise, such new location or place of business shall not be deemed to be licenced. The applicant must apply for a new licence, within fifteen (15) days, under the provisions of this by-law, and shall surrender to the Township Clerk the licence issued in respect of his or her previous location.
34. The Person to whom a licence is issued shall post at all times, the current licence at the place of Fireworks Sales to which the licence pertains in a prominent and visible place that it may be readily seen and read by persons entering the place of sales.

Consumer Fireworks by Exemption

35. Any Person may apply to the Fire Chief to set off Consumer Fireworks outside of the permitted days and times set out in section 8 of this by-law for a Special Occasion or Cultural or Religious Holiday.
36. Every Person applying for a Consumer Fireworks Exemption shall submit an application to the Fire Chief a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the date of the proposed display, in the form prescribed by the Township, the applicable non-refundable application fee as set out in the Fees and Charges By-law, and the following information:
 - a. A description of the Special Occasion or Cultural or Religious Holiday;
 - b. The proposed date, time and location of the Fireworks;
 - c. A description of the Fireworks to be discharged;
 - d. A site plan showing safety measures and separation distances;
 - e. Contact information for the responsible Person;
 - f. The manner in which spent Fireworks shall be cleaned up from the site;
 - g. Any other documentation deemed necessary by the Fire Chief.

Fireworks Display by Permit

37. No Person shall hold a Fireworks Display in the Township except under a Permit issued by the Fire Chief under the authority of this by-law.
38. A Permit issued under this by-law may include consent to hold the Fireworks Display in a public park.
39. Every Person applying for a Fireworks Display Permit shall submit an application to the Fire Chief a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the date of the proposed display, in the form prescribed by the Township, the applicable Permit fee as set out in the Fees and Charges By-law, and the following information:
 - a. Fireworks manifesto;
 - b. The date and time of the proposed Fireworks Display;
 - c. The name of the club, association or group, to whom the same shall be issued;
 - d. The name, address and phone number of an executive officer or other responsible person;
 - e. The name, address, and telephone number of the Fireworks Supervisor;

- f. The address in the Township where the Fireworks Display is to be held;
- g. A site plan providing a description of the discharge site to be used for the Fireworks Display;
- h. Proof of Certification of the applicant as a Fireworks Supervisor;
- i. Emergency Procedures;
- j. Dangerous Goods Shipping and Handling Certificate;
- k. The manner in which spent Fireworks shall be cleaned from the Fireworks Display site;
- l. The manner in which the unused Display Fireworks are to be disposed of;
- m. The number of authorized persons on site during the event to handle and discharge the Display Fireworks;
- n. Proof of general liability insurance in the amount of \$5,000,000 per occurrence.

Part IV. Enforcement and Penalty

Enforcement

- 40. Any Officer may be responsible for the enforcement of this by-law.
- 41. Any Officer may inspect without prior notice at any reasonable time a location from which the Fireworks are being stored, sold, displayed, or otherwise used or held.
- 42. Any Permit issued under this By-law may be revoked by the Fire Chief where the Fire Chief believes said revocation would be in the interest of public safety.
- 43. An Officer may enter on land at any reasonable time for the purpose of carrying out an inspection to determine if the By-law is being complied with.
- 44. For the purposes of an inspection pursuant to the By-law, an Officer may:
 - a. Require the production for inspection of documents or things relevant to the inspection;
 - b. Inspect and remove documents or things relevant to the inspection for the purpose of making copies or extracts;
 - c. Require information from any Person concerning a matter related to the inspection; and
 - d. Alone or in conjunction with a Person possessing special or expert knowledge, make examinations or take test samples or photographs necessary for the purpose of inspection.

Offence

- 45. Any person, organization or business who contravenes the provisions of this by-law is guilty of an offence and, upon conviction, is subject to the penalty set out in the Provincial Offences Act.
- 46. Part III, sections 8 to 37 inclusive of all subsections thereunder, of this By-law are hereby designated as parts of this By-law to which the Administrative Monetary Penalty System By-law applies.
- 47. Any person shall, upon issuance of a penalty notice for a contravention of this By-law in accordance with the Administrative Monetary Penalty System By-law, be liable to pay an

administrative penalty and any administrative fees, in accordance with the Administrative Monetary Penalty By-law.

- 48. All the provisions of this by-law continue to apply in the Provincial Offences Act in addition to the Designated Provisions of this by-law.
- 49. Where a person has not paid the administrative penalty within 30 days in accordance with the Administrative Monetary Penalty System By-law, the Township may add the administrative penalty to the tax roll for any property for which the owner or owners are responsible for paying the administrative penalty under section 47.

Part V. Conflict and Transition

Conflict

- 50. In the event the provisions of this by-law are inconsistent with the provisions of the Municipal Act, its Regulations or any other Act, the provisions of the Act or Regulation shall prevail.

Terms Severable

- 51. The terms and provisions of this by-law shall be severable and should any term or provision be found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be legally unenforceable, in operative or invalid, the remainder of the by-law shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Repeal or Amendment (of former by-laws)

- 52. The following by-laws are repealed:
 - a. By-law 15-2015

Enactment

- 53. This by-law shall come into full force and effect on the date it is passed at which time all by-laws, policies and resolutions that are inconsistent with the provisions of this by-law are hereby repealed insofar as it is necessary to give effect to the provisions of this by-law.

FINALLY PASSED AND ENACTED this 4th day of November, 2025.

Signature on File _____
Mayor

Signature on File _____
Clerk

By signing this by-law on the date it is passed, Mayor Sandy Shantz will not exercise the power to veto this by-law.