



**Subject: Port Colborne and District Conservation Club and the Discharge of Firearms By-law – 2023 update**

**To: Council**

**From: Community Safety & Enforcement Department**

Report Number: 2023-143

Meeting Date: August 15, 2023

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### **Recommendation:**

That Community Safety and Enforcement Department - By-Law Services Report 2023-143 be received; and

That Council approve staff recommendation Option 2, to adopt the most recent schedule followed by the Club and include Schedule F to the By-law 7026/63/22, Being a by-law to regulate the discharge of firearms and bows in the City of Port Colborne; and

That the proposed amendments to the By-law 7026/63/22, Being a by-law to regulate the discharge of firearms and bows in the City of Port Colborne be brought at a future Council meeting for approval.

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### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to provide options and recommendations regarding the Discharge of Firearms at the Port Colborne and District Conservation Club as per the motions that were carried at the June 27 and July 18, 2023, Council Meetings. (See attached Appendix A).

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### **Background:**

The Port Colborne and District Conservation Club (the Club) is a legally approved club to discharge firearms within the City of Port Colborne. The Club meets both land use and provincial regulatory requirements, which are Zoning (legal-nonconforming) compliance and a provincial license from the Chief Firearms Officer for the Province of Ontario.

The Club recently underwent some changes with their membership and executive, resulting in an increase in the discharge of firearms, which varied from their traditional shooting schedule, which in turn resulted in an increase of complaints to the City of Port Colborne, By-law Services. The Chief Firearms Officer for the Province of Ontario recently revoked the Shooting Range approval certificate #186 and is now considering reimplementing Provincial approval.

The City Clerk, on behalf of Council, emailed the Chief Firearms Officer regarding pending consideration of the matter by Council at the June 27, 2023, meeting hoping that the City of Port Colborne's position on the matter would be taken into consideration regarding the issuance of the approval certificate. (See attached Appendix B)

The Council meeting of July 18, 2023, Councillor Ron Bodner presented a motion to Mayor and Council (See attached Appendix A).

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## **Discussion:**

After review of all the data presented, By-law Services is providing two options for Council to consider.

**Option 1:** Status Quo – do nothing – This is not a recommended option.

**Option 2:** Adopt the most recent schedule followed by the Club (see attached Appendix C). The Schedule is twice monthly (no July & August) on Sundays, from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for trap and skeet shooting and once monthly on a Saturday for Air Gun Field Target, with no shooting on any other dates. As well as, further amendments be added to the body of the By-law, to incorporate the option and also to include Administrative Penalties for Non-Parking Offences; and/or

**Option 3:** Determine a new schedule by adding additional dates and times to the Schedule; or reducing and removing dates and times from the recent Schedule.

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## **Internal Consultations:**

The Chief Firearms Officer for the Province of Ontario was contacted by City staff to discuss ways to regulate dates and times as part of the provincial license, The Office of the Chief Firearms Officer for the Province of Ontario advised via email that:

*“This type of decision is completely up to The City of Port Colborne, and the Chief Firearms Officer only requires the parameters of the amendments the City of Port Colborne put in place as well as confirmation that the range location is in compliance with the Zoning laws.”*

Therefore, the dates and times can not be included as part of the license issued by the Province of Ontario and can only be regulated by the municipality. Any violations of

these parameters would be enforced by the municipality via its Discharge of Firearms and Noise By-laws.

Given the position of the Chief Firearms Officer, staff are recommending that hours of operation/schedules be set out in the Discharge of Firearms By-law through the amendments that reflect option 2 above:

1. An amendment to add Schedule F as follows to the Discharge of Firearms and Bows 7026/63/22:

#### Schedule 'F'

Name of Club	Address of Club	Type of Shoot	Schedules
Port Colborne and District Conservation Club	3757 Second Concession Road Port Colborne, ON L3K 5V5	Trap & Skeet	Two Sundays per month from 12pm to 5pm (No shoots in July and August) Excluding Sundays that fall within a Statutory Holiday weekend
Port Colborne and District Conservation Club	3757 Second Concession Road Port Colborne, ON L3K 5V5	Air Gun Field Target	One Saturday per month from March to October, during daylight hours Nationals weekend and the Elmer Fudd

2. Further amendments to the body of the By-law, to incorporate option and also to include Administrative Penalties for Non-Parking Offences

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### Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications.

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### Public Engagement:

Currently, no public engagement has taken place.

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### Strategic Plan Alignment:

The initiative contained within this report supports the following pillar(s) of the strategic plan:

- Welcoming, Livable, Healthy Community

## Conclusion

Staff recommend Option 2, with amendments to the Discharge of Firearms By-law.

That the amendments to the by-law be referred to staff to make the necessary changes and further forward such amendments for Council's approval.

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## Appendices:

- a. Motion from Councillor Ron Bodner July 18, 2023
- b. Email from City Clerk to Chief's Firearms Officer for the Province of Ontario
- c. Port Colborne and District Conservation Club Shooting Schedule 2023.
- d. Schedule F – Discharge of Firearms By-Law
- e. Confidential memorandum from Sullivan Mahoney Lawyers, Conservation Club – Discharge of Firearms and Noise By-laws (**Note: Confidential appendix will be circulated under separate cover**)

Respectfully submitted,

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## Report Approval:

All reports reviewed and approved by the Department Director and also the City Treasurer when relevant. Final review and approval by the Chief Administrative Officer.