

# Agenda

## Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee

9th Meeting of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee

August 2, 2023, 3:00 PM

Committee Room #5

The City of London is situated on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek (AUh-nish-in-ah-bek), Haudenosaunee (Ho-den-no-show-nee), Lūnaapéewak (Len-ah-pay-wuk) and Attawandaron (Add-a-won-da-run).

We honour and respect the history, languages and culture of the diverse Indigenous people who call this territory home. The City of London is currently home to many First Nations, Métis and Inuit today.

As representatives of the people of the City of London, we are grateful to have the opportunity to work and live in this territory.

The City of London is committed to making every effort to provide alternate formats and communication supports for meetings upon request. To make a request specific to this meeting, please contact [advisorycommittee@london.ca](mailto:advisorycommittee@london.ca).

	Pages
<b>1. Call to Order</b>	
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<b>2. Scheduled Items</b>	
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5.4 Resignation of D. Allick	30
<b>6. Adjournment</b>	

# Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee

## Report

8th Meeting of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee  
July 5, 2023

Attendance B. Samuels (Chair), I. El Ghamrawy, M. Griffith, A. Hames, C. Hunsberger, N. Serour, A. Whittingham and K. Mason (Acting Committee Clerk)

Also Present: Councillor J. Pribil, S. Corman, J. Stanford, B. Westlake-Power

The meeting was called to order at 3:09 PM, it being noted that I. El Ghamrawy, M. Griffith and N. Serour were in remote attendance.

### 1. Call to Order

#### 1.1 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

That it BE NOTED that no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

### 2. Scheduled Items

None.

### 3. Consent

#### 3.1 7th Report of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the 7th Report of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee, from its meeting held on June 7, 2023, was received.

#### 3.2 Resignation - P. Almost

That it BE NOTED that the resignation of P. Almost was received with regret.

#### 3.3 Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) review of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the expansion of the W12A Landfill

That it BE NOTED that the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks review of the Environmental Assessment for the expansion of the W12A landfill was received.

#### 3.4 Notice of Application - ReThink Zoning

That it BE NOTED that the Notice of Planning Application dated June 5, 2023 with respect to the New Comprehensive Zoning By-law - ReThink Zoning was received.

### 4. Sub-Committees and Working Groups

None.

## 5. Items for Discussion

### 5.1 Yard and Lot Maintenance By-law PH-9

That Municipal Council BE REQUESTED to pass a motion, in the spirit of the following, to direct staff to undertake a review of the Yard and Lot Maintenance By-law PH-9:

Whereas, biodiversity loss is a growing concern that requires immediate attention and action from municipal authorities;

Whereas, the Yard and Lot Maintenance By-law PW-9 poses conflicts with other objectives of the City of London to conserve natural heritage and biodiversity (Environmental Policies, the London Plan 2022), to mitigate and adapt to climate change (Climate Emergency Action Plan, 2022), and to create liveable, complete street designs (London Complete Streets Design Manual, s2.5 Green Infrastructure 2018);

Whereas, Londoners are increasingly engaging in environmental stewardship including maintaining boulevard-facing gardens, Low-Impact Development (LID) such as rain gardens, and naturalization projects;

Whereas, there is a lack of easily accessible public information regarding the Yard and Lot Maintenance By-law PW-9 and its enforcement, hindering residents' understanding of their responsibilities and the City's expectations;

Whereas, there have been concerns raised regarding poor and inconsistent complaint-driven enforcement of the Yard and Lot Maintenance By-law PW-9 leading to mischaracterizations of by-law provisions, destruction of private property and potential negative impacts on the City's reputation and liveability;

Whereas, the Yard and Lot Maintenance By-law PW-9 and Naturalized Areas and Wildflower Meadows policy include imprecise and prescriptive language that is not reproducible in enforcement, and therefore poses legal risks to the City that could potentially result in litigation and financial burdens;

Whereas, the Ontario Court of Justice has found other municipal by-laws similar in effect to the City of London's Yard and Lot Maintenance By-law PH-9 to be void for vagueness and uncertainty in their language and for unjustifiably violating the freedom of expression guaranteed by section 2(b) of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, 1982;

Therefore, be it resolved that the London City Council directs municipal staff to undertake a comprehensive review of the Yard and Lot Maintenance By-law PW-9 and related policies;

Be it further resolved that the review should address the following aspects:

- i) Clarifying the intent and purposes of the By-law;
- ii) Providing statistics on enforcement of the By-law and assessing the effectiveness of enforcement processes and procedures;
- iii) Identifying and addressing any legal risks associated with the By-law, aiming to minimize potential litigation and financial burdens on the City;
- iv) Comparing the By-law's alignment with other City policies and strategies, particularly those related to natural heritage, complete street designs, and the Climate Emergency Action Plan;
- v) Consulting with Indigenous communities about the By-law and prohibited plants;
- vi) Evaluating and improving mechanisms and public education to ensure consistent enforcement and compliance with the By-law;

Be it further resolved that the municipal staff present their findings and recommendations to Council within a reasonable timeframe, allowing for

further discussion and potential amendments to the Yard and Lot Maintenance By-law PW-9;

Be it further resolved that enforcement of the Yard and Lot Maintenance By-law PW-9 in cases where there is not an immediate safety risk be paused while the By-law's legal validity is under review;

Be it further resolved that the City hold a Public Participation Meeting (PPM) to invite feedback from the community on the Yard and Lot Maintenance By-law PW-9 and staff recommendations.

**6. Deferred Matters / Additional Business**

6.1 (ADDED) Resignation of L. Paulger

That it BE NOTED that the resignation of L. Paulger was received with regret.

6.2 (ADDED) Municipal Council Resolution - 6th Report of the Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the Municipal Council Resolution from its meeting held on June 27, 2023, with respect to the 6th Report of the Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee, was received.

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:36 PM.

## Report to Civic Works Committee

**To:** Chair and Members  
Civic Works Committee

**From:** Kelly Scherr, P.Eng., MBA, FEC  
Deputy City Manager, Environment & Infrastructure

**Subject:** Comments Provided to Federal Government on Recycled Content, Labelling Rules, and Registry for Plastic Products

**Date:** July 18, 2023

## Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the Deputy City Manager, Environment & Infrastructure, this report **BE RECEIVED** for information.

## Executive Summary

In November 2018, through the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME), the federal, provincial and territorial governments adopted the Canada-wide Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste. The same organizations also adopted a Canada-wide Action Plan on Zero Plastic Waste to implement the Strategy. Numerous steps and actions have been taken with respect to the management of plastics.

City staff have been working with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Regional Public Works Commissioners of Ontario (RPWCO), Municipal Waste Association (MWA) and the City of Toronto acting as one entity called the Municipal 3Rs Collaborative (M3RCs). This includes providing comments through consultations and holding proactive conversations with the Federal Government about plastics.

As part of the most recent public consultation on the Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste, released April 18, 2023, Council directed staff on May 16, 2023 to:

- provide written feedback on the proposed plastic regulatory framework and technical document through the federal government process by the May 18, 2023 deadline;
- provide a copy of the written submission to the Civic Works Committee at a future meeting; and
- provide a copy of the written submission to the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee for information as part of ongoing discussions dealing with Blue Box transition in London.

The City of London's two-part response is attached in Appendix C. In general, City staff are supportive of the direction the Federal Government is heading with respect to plastics management and addressing the impacts past management decisions have caused.

## Linkage to the Corporate Strategic Plan

Municipal Council continues to recognize the importance of waste diversion and waste management in its 2023-2027 Strategic Plan for the City of London specifically in the strategic area of focus Climate Action and Sustainable Growth. On April 23, 2019, the following was approved by Municipal Council with respect to climate change:

Therefore, a climate emergency be declared by the City of London for the purposes of naming, framing, and deepening our commitment to protecting our economy, our eco systems, and our community from climate change.

On April 12, 2022, Municipal Council approved the Climate Emergency Action Plan which includes Area of Focus 5, Transforming Consumption and Waste as Part of the Circular Economy.

## Analysis

### 1.0 Background Information

#### 1.1 Previous Reports Related to this Matter

Relevant reports that can be found at [www.london.ca](http://www.london.ca) under Council meetings include:

- Updates: Blue Box Transition and Next Steps (January 10, 2023 meeting of Civic Works Committee (CWC), Item #2.2)
- Updates: Blue Box Transition and Next Steps (June 21, 2022 meeting of CWC, Item #2.4)
- Comments on Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO): Proposed Blue Box Regulation (November 17, 2020 meeting of CWC, Item #2.1)
- Response to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Regarding Transition of Recycling (May 26, 2020 meeting of CWC, Item #2.4)

#### 1.2 Background

In regard to waste and resource management policy development, changes and directions, City staff are grateful for the work undertaken and shared by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Regional Public Works Commissioners of Ontario (RPWCO), Municipal Waste Association (MWA) and the City of Toronto acting as one entity called the Municipal 3Rs Collaborative (M3RCs). This ensures that comments are regularly submitted on behalf of municipalities in regard to policies, regulations and legislation regarding waste management and the circular economy.

City staff are active members of M3RCs via RPWCO including being co-chair of the RPWCO Waste Subcommittee. City staff also participate with MWA.

In some cases, comments will also be sent directly by the City of London after approval by Committee and Council. However, the time available to read, review and respond to matters from regulatory authorities, the Province of Ontario and the Federal Government often does not provide enough time for individual municipalities, like London, to respond directly.

In November 2018, through the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME), the federal, provincial and territorial governments adopted the Canada-wide Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste., the Strategy takes a circular economy and lifecycle approach to plastics and provides a framework for action in Canada. The Strategy also builds on the Ocean Plastics Charter that was adopted by Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the European Union in 2018.

The federal, provincial and territorial governments also adopted a Canada-wide Action Plan on Zero Plastic Waste to implement the Strategy. The Plan sets out tangible actions and clear timelines to better prevent, reduce, reuse, recover, capture and clean up plastic waste and pollution in Canada.

Regarding the work completed and ongoing over the last five years at the Federal Government regarding the reduction and management of plastic waste, the City of London has been mostly engaged via M3RCs. This has included written responses and direct dialogue with Federal Government staff.

On May 16, 2023, Council resolved that:

That the following actions be taken with respect to the public consultation, released April 18, 2023, from the Environment and Climate Change Canada's "Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste":

- a) the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to provide written feedback on the proposed plastic regulatory framework and technical document through the federal government process by the May 18, 2023 deadline;
- b) the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to provide a copy of the written submission to the Civic Works Committee at a future meeting; and,
- c) the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to provide a copy of the written submission to the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee for information as part of ongoing discussions dealing with Blue Box transition in London. (2023-D22)

## 2.0 Discussion and Considerations

### 2.1 Recycled Content and Labelling Rules for Plastics

Appendix A contains the Table of Contents for the document entitled Recycled Content and Labelling Rules for Plastics: Regulatory Framework. The purpose of the document is noted as:

“This document outlines a regulatory framework for plastic packaging and certain single-use plastics that includes recycled content requirements and labelling rules for recyclability and compostability. It is intended to provide an updated and more detailed overview of the regulatory approach the Government is proposing for the draft regulations, which are currently under development. This regulatory framework has taken into account the significant feedback we received from partners, stakeholders and the public during consultations on these proposed rules and requirements. The draft regulations are targeted for publication in *Canada Gazette*, Part I, before the end of 2023, which will be followed by a further consultation period before the regulations are finalized. Partners and stakeholders are invited to review this document and provide feedback before May 18, 2023.”

### 2.2 Federal Plastics Registry is Needed

Appendix B contains the Table of Contents for the document entitled Consultation Paper: A Proposed Federal Plastics Registry for Producers of Plastic Products. The purpose of the document is noted as:

The Government of Canada has committed to supporting provincial and territorial extended producer responsibility (EPR) efforts by establishing a federal plastics registry and requiring producers to report on plastics in the Canadian economy. A federal plastics registry will support adoption of EPR rules in Canada that are consistent, comprehensive and transparent. The registry will also support the implementation and monitoring of other measures that are part of the Government’s zero plastic waste agenda, including recycled content requirements for plastic products. A plastic registry would improve the efficiency and effectiveness of EPR as it is practised in Canada and increase value recovery rates, keeping plastics in the economy and out of the environment. This would help achieve the goal of zero plastic waste, which could eliminate \$500 million in costs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 1.8 megatonnes, and create 42,000 direct and indirect jobs.

The purpose of this consultation paper is to seek stakeholder input as the Government develops this registry. Partners, stakeholders and interested members of the public are invited to provide comments.

### 2.3 City of London Response

The City of London’s two-part response is attached in Appendix C. In general, City staff are supportive of the direction the Federal Government is heading with respect to plastics management and addressing the impacts past management decisions have caused.

### 3.0 Financial Impact/Considerations

There are no financial impacts/considerations to London taxpayers associated with this report. There will be financial impacts/considerations, costs and benefits, as this process moves forward.

### Conclusion

In general, City staff are supportive of the direction the Federal Government is heading with respect to plastics management and addressing the impacts mismanagement has caused.

**Prepared and Submitted by:** Jay Stanford, M.A., M.P.A. Director, Climate Change, Environment, and Waste Management

**Recommended by:** Kelly Scherr, P.Eng., MBA, FEC, Deputy City Manager, Environment & Infrastructure

c Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee

Appendix A Table of Contents - Recycled Content and Labelling Rules for Plastics: Regulatory Framework Paper

Appendix B Table of Contents – Technical Paper: Federal Plastics Registry

Appendix C Submission to Federal Government

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Table of Contents - Recycled Content and Labelling Rules for Plastics: Regulatory Framework Paper**

1. Introduction
  - 1.1 Canada's zero plastic waste agenda
  - 1.2 Packaging, single-use plastics, and the circular economy
2. Overview of the framework
  - 2.1 Federal measures
  - 2.2 Provincial and territorial measures
  - 2.3 Impacts
3. Scope of application
  - 3.1 Regulated parties
  - 3.2 Application to plastic packaging and SUPs
  - 3.3 General exemptions
4. Recycled content requirements
  - 4.1 Special rules on regulated parties
  - 4.2 Scope
    - 4.2.1 Categories of packaging subject to recycled content requirements
    - 4.2.2 Sub-categories excluded from recycled content requirements
  - 4.3 Levels of recycled content required and timelines
  - 4.4 Demonstrating compliance
    - 4.4.1 Method for demonstrating compliance
    - 4.4.2 Compliance verification
  - 4.5 Acceptable sources of secondary plastic
    - 4.5.1 Reporting and recordkeeping
5. Recyclability and compostability labelling rules
  - 5.1 Scope
  - 5.2 Prohibited activities
  - 5.3 Measuring recyclability
    - 5.3.1 Overview of recyclability measurement test
    - 5.3.2 Criterion 1: collection
    - 5.3.3 Criterion 2: sorting
    - 5.3.4 Criterion 3: re-processing
  - 5.4 Recyclability labelling requirements
    - 5.4.1 Recyclability categories
    - 5.4.2 Recyclability labels
    - 5.4.3 QR codes
  - 5.5 Compostability labelling requirements
  - 5.6 Timelines
  - 5.7 Technical guidelines
6. Next steps

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Table of Contents – Technical Paper: Federal Plastics Registry**

1. Introduction
  - 1.1 Background
    - 1.1.1 Why a federal plastics registry is needed
2. Parties obligated to report
  - 2.1 Provincial and territorial definitions of a producer
  - 2.2 Aligning a national producer definition with provincial and territorial definitions
    - 2.2.1 Federal producer definition
    - 2.2.2 Small businesses
  - 2.3 Reporting by parties other than producers
    - 2.3.1 Other service providers
  - 2.4 Reporting process flowchart
  - 2.5 Reportable administrative information
  - 2.6 The keeping of records
3. Data to report
  - 3.1 Rules for small businesses
  - 3.2 Residential versus industrial, commercial and institutional sources of plastic waste
  - 3.3 Resin types
  - 3.4 Categories and subcategories
    - 3.4.1 Category: packaging
    - 3.4.2 Category: electronics and electrical equipment
    - 3.4.3 Category: construction
    - 3.4.4 Category: automotive
    - 3.4.5 Category: white goods
    - 3.4.6 Category: agriculture
    - 3.4.7 Category: textiles
  - 3.5 Calculating data points
    - 3.5.1 Calculating plastics placed on the market
      - 3.5.1.1 Specific component identification method
      - 3.5.1.2 Average bill of materials method
      - 3.5.1.3 Fixed-factor calculator method
    - 3.5.2 Other data points
  - 3.6 Developing open standards for plastics data
  - 3.7 Verifying data
4. Confidential business information
  - 4.1 Claiming confidentiality
  - 4.2 Review and disclosure of confidential information
  - 4.3 Information generally not expected to be confidential
5. Phased implementation approach
6. Next steps

## APPENDIX C

### Submission to Federal Government



300 Dufferin Avenue  
P.O. Box 5035  
London, ON  
N6A 4L9

May 18, 2023

Sent by email:  
[plastiques-plastics@ec.gc.ca](mailto:plastiques-plastics@ec.gc.ca)

Tracey Spack, Director  
Plastics Regulatory Affairs Division  
351 Saint-Joseph Blvd  
Gatineau QC K1A 0H3

**Re: City of London Comments on Recycled Content and Labelling Rules for Plastics: Regulatory Framework Paper and Technical Paper: Federal Plastics Registry**

On behalf of the City of London, please find below comments on the above two consultation opportunities. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

The City of London's previous comments on this matter were contained in a submission dated October 7, 2022 from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the City of Toronto and the Municipal Waste Association through the Municipal Resource, Recovery and Research Collaborative (M3RC). At that time we collectively stated that we "are supportive of the Government of Canada's goal of generating robust data through the federal plastics registry, and to make that data available to all stakeholders through an open data platform."

#### **Recycled Content and Labelling Rules for Plastics: Regulatory Framework Paper**

This regulatory framework is essential for moving forward with proper systems to increasingly prevent valued plastics items from becoming a waste or litter.

#### 3. Scope of Application

Supportive. It is key that this section is aligned with provincial approaches and strengthen them where possible. Duplication and redundancy will pose unnecessary costs on industry.

#### 4. Recycled Content Requirements

Supportive.

#### 5. Recyclability and compostability labelling rules

Supportive. In our experience, clearly identifying Prohibitive activities (5.2) is key. Measuring recyclability (5.3) has been done in Ontario for years for the residential sector. Consistency (standardization) in how measurement programs are completed between a Canada-wide framework and provincial systems will improve efficiencies for all.

### 5.3.3 Criterion 1: collection

Supportive. This section will impact municipalities and local businesses the most as we are the closest level of government to the consumer from a collection services perspective.

In Ontario, it is key that the Federal framework recognize that extended producer responsibility legislation is in place. What is currently described in this section may suggest a separate collection system for plastics needs to be available. Wording should be provided that refers to multi-material collection systems are acceptable.

### 5.4 Recyclability labelling requirements

Supportive. As part of implementing the framework it is key that educational information from labelling is also applied to labelling information on recycling bins. This will be up to recycling systems operators and where bins are to be located.

### 5.5 Compostability labelling requirements

Concerns have been identified. Labeling requirements for compostable items continue to cause some concerns for local governments in Ontario based on ongoing discussions with Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the City of Toronto, the Regional Public Works Commissioners of Ontario and the Municipal Waste Association (collectively known as the Municipal 3Rs Collaborative – M3RCs).

As previously documented in the November submission, it is a complex challenge to manage these products in the existing organics processing infrastructure given how diverse it is. While the requirements point to demonstration of successful in-field composting at one facility in Canada, this would not mean it successfully can be processed at the majority of facilities and existing infrastructure. For example, in a number of anaerobic digestion facilities these compostable items may be screened out of the process with conventional plastics and result in increased process residues and operating costs.

We would suggest that the criteria for labelling an item as compostable be modified to consider the following thresholds:

1. Is the product accepted for collection in >80% of households?
2. Can the product be successfully composted/processed in existing, operating organics infrastructure?

A standard that replicates on-site performance at organics management facilities needs to be applied to these products to support the environmental claims being made to ensure these items can be effectively sorted by consumers into the proper stream and that the infrastructure can manage them successfully. The current proposal of demonstrated success at one facility in Canada would not address the significant issues that have been experienced in Ontario and other parts of Canada.

Information received by the City of London suggests that Environment and Climate Change Canada and the Province of Ontario completed a study to examine compostable products performance in aerobic composting and anaerobic digestion facilities. The results of this study would be valuable to inform this discussion. We would urge both Environment and Climate

Change Canada and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to release the study findings as part of this consultation process.

## 5.6 Timelines

Supportive.

### **Technical Paper: Federal Plastics Registry**

Supportive. This Technical Paper will be very important for the producers of plastics items. We want to express our support for the rationale stated by the Federal Government in the report:

#### **“1.1.1 Why a federal plastics registry is needed**

The registry will serve to improve our knowledge of plastic waste, value recovery, and pollution across Canada. It will provide important information to inform the government on future compliance promotion and enforcement activities and will help to identify gaps in the plastics value chain where further government action may be required. The registry would be a key source of information that the Government of Canada will use to support the implementation and monitoring of different measures that are part of the government’s zero plastic waste agenda. A federal plastic registry would standardize the data that is collected on provincial and territorial Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs and provide useful information for stakeholders, government and Canadians. Furthermore, it will support provincial and territorial EPR programs in force or under development, and provide useful baseline data to provinces and territories when expanding EPR into new product categories.”

Most plastic items have an important role in society. Their proper management is essential to reduce impacts and prevent future challenges. Consistent action across Canada will allow for economic development opportunities as part of the circular economy, create economies of scale and common approaches that are easier to understand for the consumer.

Thank you again for this opportunity to comment. We look forward to participating directly or indirectly in the next steps. Please do not hesitate to contact Jay Stanford if you require further details (519-661-2489, ext. 5411 or [jstanfor@london.ca](mailto:jstanfor@london.ca)).

Sincerely,



Kelly Scherr, P.Eng., M.B.A., F.E.C.  
Deputy City Manager  
Environment & Infrastructure



Jay Stanford, M.A., M.P.A.  
Director, Climate Change, Environment &  
Waste Management

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**London**  
CANADA

P.O. Box 5035  
300 Dufferin Avenue  
London, ON  
N6A 4L9

July 12, 2023

To: Nominating Committees and Organizations

Re: **2024 Mayor’s New Year’s Honour List – Call for Nominations**

Each year London City Council enlists your assistance to nominate citizens for the Mayor’s New Year’s Honour List, which recognizes long-standing contributions to the London community.

Please consider nominating a London citizen who is worthy of this honour in the category for which your organization is responsible, as follows:

Reports to Community and Protective Services Committee ([cpssc@london.ca](mailto:cpssc@london.ca))

<b>NOMINATING BODY</b>	<b>CATEGORY</b>
Accessibility Community Advisory Committee	Accessibility
Age Friendly London Network	Age Friendly
Community and Protective Services Committee	Safety and Crime Prevention
Community and Protective Services Committee	Housing
London Arts Council	The Arts
London Sports Council	Sports

Reports to Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee ([sppc@london.ca](mailto:sppc@london.ca))

<b>NOMINATING BODY</b>	<b>CATEGORY</b>
Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Oppression Community Advisory Committee	Humanitarianism
Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Oppression Community Advisory Committee	Diversity and Race Relations

Reports to Planning and Environment Committee ([pec@london.ca](mailto:pec@london.ca))

<b>NOMINATING BODY</b>	<b>CATEGORY</b>
Community Advisory Committee on Planning	Heritage

Reports to Civic Works Committee ([cwc@london.ca](mailto:cwc@london.ca))

<b>NOMINATING BODY</b>	<b>CATEGORY</b>
Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee	Environment

2024 Mayor's New Year's Honour List – Call for Nominations  
July 12, 2023

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You may make your recommendation in confidence through the appropriate Standing Committee.

All nominations must be received at the email indicated **no later than 9 a.m. Monday, September 25, 2023**, to be included on the agenda for recommendation to Council on October 17, 2023. This timetable ensures that the slate of honourees is finalized for the traditional New Year's Day announcement.

For your information and assistance, we have enclosed a fillable pdf of the nomination form, a list of the previous recipients (no individual can be recognized more than once in their lifetime), together with a copy of the Council Policy which details the criteria and process to be followed.

Thank you very much for your expert assistance in this nomination process, and for your cooperation in meeting the submission deadline.

Sincerely,



Michael Schulthess  
City Clerk



Barb Westlake-Power  
Deputy City Clerk

Attachments (3)

cc: Mayor Josh Morgan



# Mayor's New Year's Honour List Nomination Form

**Note:** Please refer to City Council's *Mayor's New Year's Honour List Policy*, for the criteria governing the nomination of individuals.

## NOTICE OF COLLECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

The personal information collected on this form is collected under the authority of the *Municipal Act 2001 as amended*, and will be used to administer the Mayor's New Year's Honour List program. Questions about this collection should be addressed to the City Clerk at 300 Dufferin Avenue, London, Ontario, N6A 4L9. Tel: (519) 661-CITY (2489) ext. 4937.

### A. Nominee information

Name				
Street address		City	Province	Postal code
Daytime telephone number	/ extension	Home telephone number	E-mail address	

### B. Nominator information

Name			Date	
Street address		City	Province	Postal code
Daytime telephone number	/ extension	Home telephone number	E-mail address	

### C. Nomination category (check one):

- Accessibility** (i.e. contributions to foster an environment of inclusion that embraces citizens of all abilities)
- Age Friendly** (i.e. contributions to empowering older adults and advancing an age friendly community)
- Arts** (i.e. contributions to fostering and/or the production of human creativity)
- Distinguished Londoner** (to be selected by the Mayor)
- Diversity and Race Relations** (i.e. contributions to the elimination of hate and discrimination)
- Environment** (i.e. contributions to the awareness, preservation and protection of the environment)
- Heritage** (i.e. contributions to the awareness, preservation and protection of heritage resources)
- Housing** (i.e. contributions to the provision of safe and accessible housing for all members of the community)
- Humanitarianism** (i.e. contributions to human welfare through philanthropic and other efforts)
- Safety and Crime Prevention** (i.e. contributions to a safe and secure community)
- Sports** (i.e. contributions to the awareness of and participation in sports activity and/or demonstrated excellence within a particular sports activity)

### D. Reason for nomination

Please provide a summary of the nominee's contributions as related to the applicable criteria. *(May continue to next page)*

Please provide a summary of the nominee's contributions as related to the applicable criteria. (*continued*)



London  
CANADA

## MAYOR'S NEW YEAR'S HONOUR LIST (1976 – 2023)

### 1976 (Arts)

Catharine Kezia Brickenden  
Lenore Crawford  
Heinar Piller  
Ray Sealey  
Bruce Sharpe  
Ruth Sharpe

### 1977 (Arts)

Martin Boundy  
A. Elizabeth Murray  
James Reaney  
Margaret Skinner  
Earle Terry

### 1978 (Arts)

Robin Dearing  
Donald Fleckser  
Angela Labatt  
Dorothy Scuton  
Pegi Walden

### 1979 (Arts)

Paul Eck  
Edward Escaf  
Clifford Evans  
Arnim Walter

### 1980 (Arts)

Jane E. Bigelow  
Barbara Ivey  
Richard M. Ivey  
Beryl Ivey

### 1981 (Arts)

Herbert J. Ariss  
Dorothy Carter  
Noreen DeShane  
John H. Moore  
S. Elizabeth Moore

### 1982 (Arts)

Wesanne McKellar  
Edward R. Procnier  
J. Allyn Taylor

### 1983 (Arts)

Robert L. (Bob) Turnbull  
Frank L. Hallett  
Kathleen M. Hallett  
Ivor Brake  
Phyllis J. Brake  
Carol Johnston  
Thomas F. Lawson

### 1984 (Arts)

Minnette Church  
Betty Duffield

### 1985 (Arts)

Nancy Poole  
Paddy Gunn O'Brien  
Thomas F. Siess

### 1986 (Arts)

Sasha McInnis Hayman  
Gregory R. Curnoe  
Thomas J. Hannigan

### 1987 (Arts)

Caroline L. Conron  
Stephen Joy  
Gerald Fagan  
Millard P. McBain

### 1988 (Arts)

Maurice A. Coghlin  
Arthur Ender  
Bernice Harper  
Ian Turnbull

### 1989

Mervin Carter (Safety)  
Robert Loveless (Physically Challenged)  
Gordon Jorgenson (Crime Prevention)  
Orlo Miller (Architectural Conservation)  
Nancy Postian (Arts)  
Thomas Purdy (Environment)

### 1990

Julia Beck (Architectural Conservation)  
Ruth Clarke (Safety)  
Sam Katz (Environment)  
Helena Kline (Crime Prevention)  
Nellie Porter (Housing)  
Nancy Skinner (Physically Disabled)  
Maurice Stubbs (Arts)

### 1991

Paul Ball (Crime Prevention)  
Ian Chappell (Crime Prevention)  
Silvia Clarke (Architectural Conservation)  
Norman Davis (Crime Prevention)  
Norma Dinniwel (Arts)  
Jay Mayos (Environment)  
Marilyn Neufeld (Physically Challenged)  
Margaret Sharpe (Crime Prevention)  
Glen Sifton (Safety)

### 1992

Kenneth Bovey (Environment)  
Susan Eagle (Housing)  
George Mottram (Safety)  
Laverne Shipley (Crime Prevention)  
Richard Verrette (Arts)  
Debbie Willows (Physically Challenged)



London  
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## MAYOR'S NEW YEAR'S HONOUR LIST (1976 – 2023)

### 1993

Alan Benninger (Housing)  
William Fyfe (Environment)  
Wil Harlock (Architectural Conservation)  
David Long (Housing)  
Margaret MacGee (Safety)  
Nancy McNee (Arts)  
Craig Stainton (Housing)  
Peter Valiquet (Crime Prevention)  
Shirley Van Hoof (Physically Disabled)

### 1994

Michael Baker (Architectural Conservation)  
Caroline Bolter (Environment)  
Richard Izzard (Crime Prevention)  
David Kirk (Safety)  
John Moran (Physically Disabled)  
John Schunk (Housing)  
Katharine Smith (Arts)

### 1995

Ruth Drake (Architectural Conservation)  
Martha Henry (Arts)  
Jeff Henderson (Environment)  
Sandra McNee (Housing)  
Ron Newnes (Crime Prevention)  
Tanys Quesnel (Physically Challenged)  
Bill Woolford (Safety)

### 1996

Robert Baumbach and the Dixie Flyers (Arts)  
Jess Davidson (Physically Challenged)  
Rosemary Dickinson (Environment)  
Gertrude Roes (Safety)  
Mowbray Sifton (Housing)  
Nancy Zwart Tausky (Architectural Conservation)

### 1997

Karen Burch (Environment)  
Gretta Grant (Humanitarianism)  
Marion Obeda (Safety and Crime Prevention)  
Kim Pratt (Architectural Conservation)  
Cesar Santander (Arts)  
W. (Bill) Willcock (Housing)

### 1998

Paterson Ewen (Arts)  
Tim Dupee (posthumously) (Physically Challenged)  
Sargon Gabriel (Humanitarianism)  
Mary Huffman (Safety and Crime Prevention)  
Ann McKillop (Heritage Conservation)  
Henry and Maria Stam (Environment)

### 1999

Dan Brock (Heritage Conservation)  
Tom Crerar (Environment)  
John Davidson (Physically Challenged)  
O. Veronica Dryden (posthumously) (Humanitarianism)  
Michael Edward Howe (Housing)  
Phil Murphy (Arts)  
Shelly Siskind (Safety and Crime Prevention)

### 2000

Lottie Brown (Heritage Conservation)  
Hume Cronyn (Arts)  
Paul Duerden (Sports)  
John Falls (posthumously) (Physically Challenged)  
Gwen Barton Jenkins (posthumously) (Humanitarianism)  
Judy Potter (Housing)  
Paul van der Werf (Environment)

### 2001

Douglas Bocking (Heritage Conservation)  
Connie Cunningham (posthumously) (Housing)  
Keith Cartwright (Physically Challenged)  
Art Fidler (Arts)  
Dan and Mary Lou Smoke (Humanitarianism)  
Lesley Thompson (Sports)  
Gosse VanOosten (Environment)  
Audrey Warner (Safety and Crime Prevention)

### 2002

Eric Atkinson (Arts)  
Bill Brock (Safety and Crime Prevention)  
Debbie Dawtrey (Physically Challenged)  
Susan Epstein (Environment)  
Janet Hunten (Heritage)  
Gail Irmiler (Housing)  
Carolyn Rundle (Humanitarianism)  
Darwin Semotiuk (Sports)

### 2003

Ralph Aldrich (Arts)  
Mary Kerr (Heritage)  
Michael Lewis (Physically Challenged)  
Laila Norman (Safety and Crime Prevention)  
Elaine Pensa (Humanitarianism)  
Joseph Rea and the Archangelo Rea Foundation (Environment)  
Jan Richardson (Housing)  
Clarke Singer (Sports)

### 2004

Alan Cohen (Arts)  
Ayshi Hassan (Humanitarianism)  
Dr. Bill Judd (Heritage)  
Carol Kish (Safety and Crime Prevention)  
Rick Odegaard (Housing)  
Jennifer Smith Ogg (Sports)  
Cathy Vincent-Linderoos (Physically Challenged)  
Dave and Winifred Wake (Environment)

### 2005

Bernice Brooks (Environment)  
Eugene DiTrollo (Safety and Crime Prevention)  
Genet Hodder (Heritage)  
Prof. Donald McKellar (Arts)  
Patrick Murphy (Persons with Disabilities)  
Barry Parker (Housing)  
Shanti Radcliffe (Humanitarianism)  
Jude St. John (Sports)



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## MAYOR'S NEW YEAR'S HONOUR LIST (1976 – 2023)

### 2006

Jane Antoniak (Diversity and Race Relations)  
John Barron (Arts)  
Dale and Mark Hunter (Sports)  
Jim Mahon (Environment)  
Lorin MacDonald (Persons with Disabilities)  
Darlene Ritchie (Housing)  
Clare Robinson (Safety and Crime Prevention)  
Sister Teresa Ryan (Humanitarianism)  
Barry Wells (Heritage)

### 2007

Eleanor Bradley (Safety and Crime Prevention)  
Peter Brennan (Arts)  
Chris Doty (posthumously) (Heritage)  
Peter Inch (Sports)  
Sandy Levin (Environment)  
Raul Llobet (posthumously) (Diversity and Race Relations)  
Susie Matthias (Persons with Disabilities)  
Glen Pearson and Jane Roy (Humanitarianism)

### 2008

Henri Boyi (Humanitarianism)  
Dr. Cathy Chovaz (Persons with Disabilities)  
Michelle Edwards (Diversity and Race Relations)  
Stephen Harding (Heritage)  
Thom McClenaghan (Environment)  
Todd Sargeant (Sports)  
Jeffrey Paul Schlemmer (Housing)  
Dr. Margaret Whitby (Arts)

### 2009

Mohamed Al-Adeimi (Diversity and Race Relations)  
Teresa Anglin (Humanitarianism)  
Diana Anstead (Safety and Crime Prevention)  
Margaret Capes (Housing)  
Mike Circelli (Sports)  
Nancy Finlayson (Environment)  
Jeff Preston (Persons with Disabilities)  
Theresa Regnier (Heritage)  
Jim Scott (Arts)

### 2010

Alison Farough (Safety and Crime Prevention)  
Jennifer Grainger (Heritage)  
Charlene Lazenby (Housing)  
Kathy Lewis (Persons with Disabilities)  
Maryanne MacDonald (Environment)  
Joyce Mitchell (Diversity and Race Relations)  
Darlene Pratt (Arts)  
Sister Margo Ritchie (Humanitarianism)  
Ray Takahashi (Sports)

### 2011

Sister Joan Atkinson (Housing)  
Major Archie Cairns (Arts)  
Bill De Young (Environment)  
Mike Lindsay (Sports)  
Marlyn Loft (Heritage)  
Christina Lord (Humanitarianism)  
Dr. Gaston N.K. Mabaya (Diversity and Race Relations)  
Marg Rooke (Safety and Crime Prevention)  
Cheryl Stewart (Persons with Disabilities)

### 2012

Maryse Leitch (Arts)  
Catherine McEwen (Heritage)  
Josip Mrkoci (Sports)  
Perpétue Nitunga (Humanitarianism)  
Greg Playford (Housing)  
Anne Robertson (Persons with Disabilities)  
Evelina Silveira (Diversity and Race Relations)  
Maureen Temme (Environment)

### 2013

Meredith Fraser (Diversity and Race Relations)  
Bramwell Gregson (Arts)  
Bruce Huff (Sports)  
Suzanne Huot (Humanitarianism)  
David Nelms (Housing)  
Joe O'Neil (Heritage)  
Shane O'Neill (Environment)  
Lou Rivard (Safety and Crime Prevention)  
Carmen Sprovieri (Persons with Disabilities)

### 2014

Barry Fay (Sports)  
Talia Goldberg (Persons with Disabilities)  
Rebecca Howse (Diversity and Race Relations)  
John Nicholson (Arts)  
Gary Smith (The Environment)  
Lloyd Stevenson (Housing)  
Kenneth Wright (Humanitarianism)

### 2015

Hilary Bates Neary (Heritage)  
Alfredo Caxaj (Diversity and Race Relations)  
Roger Khouri (Persons with Disabilities)  
Michael Lynk (Humanitarianism)  
Patrick Mahon (The Arts)  
Corina Morrison (Safety and Crime Prevention)  
Bob Porter (Environment)  
Martha Powell (Housing)  
Damian Warner (Sports)

### 2016

Gary Brown (Environment)  
Glen Curnoe (Heritage)  
Charles and Carolyn Innis – Humanitarianism  
Holly Painter (Arts)  
Bonnie Quesnel – Persons with Disabilities  
Paul Seale – Safety and Crime Prevention  
Jens Stickling (Housing)  
Reta Van Every (Diversity and Race Relations)  
Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir – Sports



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## MAYOR'S NEW YEAR'S HONOUR LIST (1976 – 2023)

### 2017

Dale Yoshida – Arts  
Mojdeh Cox – Diversity and Race Relations  
Dr. Joseph Cummins – Environment  
Sandra Miller – Heritage  
Susan Grindrod – Housing  
Andrew Rosser – Humanitarianism  
Brenda Ryan – Persons with Disabilities  
Danielle Mooder – Safety and Crime Prevention  
Therese Quigley – Sports

### 2018

Karen Schuessler – Arts  
Dharshi Lacey – Diversity and Race Relations  
George Sinclair – Environment  
Susan Bentley – Heritage  
Sister Delores Brisson – Housing  
Lina Bowden – Humanitarianism  
Todd Sargeant and Sigmund Bernat – Persons  
with a Disability  
Émilie Crakondji – Safety and Crime Prevention  
Tom Partalas – Sports

### 2019

Rachel Braden and Merel (Facility Dog) -  
Accessibility  
Ernest Maiorana - Age Friendly  
Victoria Carter - Arts  
Gabor Sass - Environment  
Steven Liggett - Heritage  
Melissa Hardy-Trevenna - Housing  
Jacqueline Thompson - Humanitarianism  
Mike Lumley - Sports

### 2020

Gary Doerr – Accessibility  
Patrick Fleming – Age Friendly  
Renée Silberman – Arts  
Don Campbell – Distinguished Londoner  
Hayden Foulon (Posthumously) – Distinguished  
Londoner  
Leroy Hibbert – Distinguished Londoner  
Brian Hill – Distinguished Londoner  
Rob McQueen – Environment  
Arthur McClelland – Heritage  
Carla Garagozzo – Housing  
Alexander Kopacz – Sports

### 2021

Gerald (Gerry) LaHay – Accessibility  
Jean Knight – Age Friendly  
Betty Anne Younker – Arts  
Joey Hollingsworth – Distinguished Londoner  
Jim Campbell – Distinguished Londoner  
Mitchell A. Baran, posthumously – Distinguished  
Londoner  
Wayne Dunn – Distinguished Londoner  
Mary Alikakos – Diversity and Race Relations  
Marianne Griffith – Environment  
Sylvia Chodas – Heritage  
Dr. Abe Oudshoorn – Housing  
Jeremy McCall – Humanitarianism  
Murray Howard – Sports

### 2022

Hayley Gardiner – Accessibility  
Patrician Hoffer – Arts  
Joyce E. Larsh – Distinguished Londoner  
Mario Circelli – Distinguished Londoner  
Mike Evans – Distinguished Londoner  
Mandi Fields – Distinguished Londoner  
Mary Anne Hodge – Environment  
Dorothy Palmer – Heritage  
Robert Sexsmith – Housing  
Kait Symonds – Safety and Crime Prevention  
Maggie MacNeil – Sports

### 2023

Ashton Forrest – Accessibility  
Beverly Farrell – Age Friendly  
Karen Schindler – Arts  
Edward Medzon – Distinguished Londoner  
Jason Rip – Distinguished Londoner  
Sydney Vickers – Distinguished Londoner  
Joe Cardillo – Distinguished Londoner  
Charlene Doak-Gebauer – Distinguished Londoner  
Padre Frank Mantz – Distinguished Londoner  
Carl Cadogan – Diversity and Race Relations  
Tom Cull – Environment  
John Manness – Heritage  
Nawaz Tahir – Humanitarianism  
Roop Chanderdat – Sports



**London**  
CANADA

## **Mayor's New Year's Honour List Policy**

**Policy Name:** Mayor's New Year's Honour List Policy

**Legislative History:** Adopted June 13, 2017 (By-law No. CPOL.-18-214); Amended April 24, 2018 (By-law No. CPOL.-18(a)-144); Amended July 24, 2018 (By-law No. CPOL.-18(b)-390); Amended October 15, 2019 (By-law No. CPOL.-18(c)-288); Amended August 10, 2021 (By-law No. CPOL.-18(d)-231); Amended July 5, 2022 (By-law No. CPOL.-18(e)-204)

**Last Review Date:** July 5, 2022

**Service Area Lead:** City Clerk

### **1. Policy Statement**

- 1.1 This policy establishes the Mayor's New Year's Honour List for the recognition of persons who have contributed in an outstanding manner to the community of London in one of the categories of Accessibility, Age Friendly, Arts, Distinguished Londoner, Diversity and Race Relations, Environment, Heritage, Housing, Humanitarianism, Safety & Crime Prevention, and Sports.

### **2. Definitions**

- 2.1 Not applicable.

### **3. Applicability**

- 3.1 This Council policy applies to all persons who have contributed in an outstanding manner to the community of London in prescribed categories.

### **4. The Policy**

#### 4.1 Categories

Persons may be recognized in any of the following categories:

- a) Accessibility (i.e. contributions to foster an environment of inclusion that embraces citizens of all abilities);
- b) Age Friendly (i.e. contributions to empowering older adults and advancing an age friendly community);
- c) Arts (i.e. contributions to fostering and/or the production of human creativity);
- d) Diversity and Race Relations (i.e. contributions to the elimination of hate and discrimination).
- e) Environment (i.e. contributions to the awareness, preservation and protection of the environment);
- f) Heritage (i.e. contributions to the awareness, preservation and protection of heritage resources);
- g) Housing (i.e. contributions to the provision of safe and accessible housing for all members of the community);
- h) Humanitarianism (i.e. contributions to human welfare through philanthropic and other efforts);

- i) Safety & Crime Prevention (i.e. contributions to a safe and secure community);
- j) Sports (i.e. contributions to the awareness of and participation in sports activity and/or demonstrated excellence within a particular sports activity);  
or
- k) Distinguished Londoner (i.e., outstanding contribution to community collaboration or acts of good will by giving back to our City).

#### 4.2 Nominating Committees/Organizations

The following Committees/Organizations shall nominate individuals in the respective categories:

- a) Accessibility – Accessibility Community Advisory Committee
- b) Age Friendly – Age Friendly London Network
- c) Arts – London Arts Council
- d) Diversity and Race Relations – Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Oppression Community Advisory Committee
- e) Environment – Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee
- f) Heritage – Community Advisory Committee on Planning
- g) Housing – Community and Protective Services Committee
- h) Humanitarianism – Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Oppression Community Advisory Committee
- i) Safety & Crime Prevention – Community and Protective Services Committee
- j) Sports – London Sports Council
- k) Distinguished Londoner – Each Council Member may submit one (1) name to the Mayor for consideration. The Mayor may select up to six (6) individuals for recommendation to Municipal Council.”

#### 4.3 Conditions

The following conditions shall apply to the nomination of individuals:

- a) no more than one person in each category shall be named in any one year, except for the category of Distinguished Londoner, subject to:
  - i) a person may not necessarily be named in each category each year;
  - ii) City Council may, at its sole discretion and on an exception basis, choose to recognize two individuals in any one category in a given year should the City Council determine that two individuals have inseparably partnered in contributing to their respective category, thereby increasing the aggregate amount of nominees beyond the usual maximum of ten persons to be named in any one year;
- b) the recipients shall be chosen for long standing contributions in their respective categories;
- c) the name of any one individual shall be included on the Honour List only once in their lifetime;

- d) any person currently serving as a member of any one of the Advisory Committees, City Council, Civic Administration or organizations referred to in 4.2 shall not be eligible for naming to the list during their term of appointment or employment with the City;
- e) nominees being recommended by the Advisory Committees or organizations referred to in 4.2 shall receive at least seventy-five percent of the total eligible votes on the respective Advisory Committee or organization.

#### 4.4 Form of Recognition

- a) The recipients shall be honoured at the first meeting of City Council in January, with a reception for themselves and one guest, and presentation of an appropriately-worded certificate.
- b) A plaque shall be displayed in a prominent public area of City Hall honouring those persons named each year to the Mayor's New Year's Honour List and shall be updated annually by the City Clerk.

# Submission on the Fireworks By-law Review – August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

Prepared by the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee (ESACAC)

**The Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee recommends that the City of London adopts Option B as outlined in the staff report presented to the Strategic Priority and Policy Committee.** Option B would allow for permitted display fireworks only to be discharged (which has traditionally included Canada Day, Victoria Day, Diwali, and New Years Eve) in London. This option would restrict use of all consumer (backyard) fireworks, restrict the sale of consumer fireworks in London, and propose an increase to current fines.

Additionally, ESACAC recommends that 1) the City considers the locations of permitted display fireworks to account for nearby environmental disturbance and to limit pollution from entering sensitive features such as the Thames River, and 2) the City aims to promote lower-impact alternatives to fireworks for at least some subsidised public events, such as outdoor concerts and light shows using drones.

The mandate for ESACAC includes remedial planning toward the clean-up of contaminated areas, waste reduction, and the development and monitoring of London's Urban Forest Strategy and Climate Emergency Action Plan. Therefore, our feedback mostly focuses on these themes. This report includes three sections. The first provides background information to support Council reviewing the Fireworks By-law through a climate emergency lens. The second provides linkages between the By-law and relevant City of London policies and strategies. The third addresses potential concerns and frames the proposed Option B for the By-law within broader objectives.

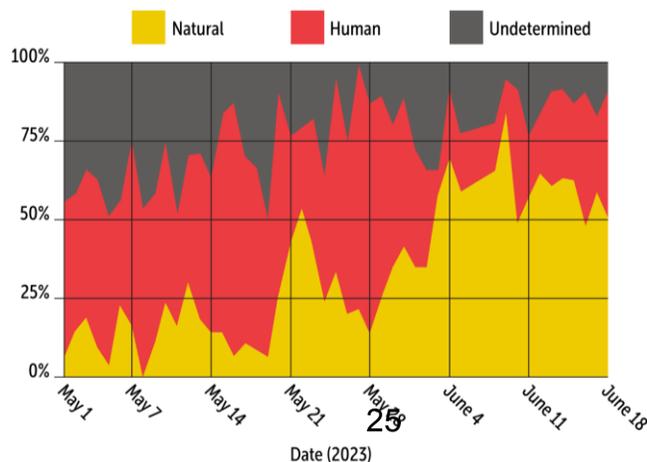
## 1. Background information: fireworks, climate change and the environment

Climate change is elevating the risk of wildfires. Now and in the future, fireworks may be more likely to cause wildfires that harm people, property and the urban canopy in London Section 1 of the Climate Emergency Action Plan<sup>1</sup> says: “*London has luckily remained relatively unscathed from the severe physical impacts of climate change such as forest fires, major floods and intense heat waves that have struck other parts of the world. As time progresses however, London will very likely experience more severe effects.*”

For example, in June 2023, an unusually long period without rainfall led to some of the worst wildfires and smoke Canada has ever seen<sup>2</sup>, creating significant health and safety concerns for Londoners<sup>3</sup>, and resulting in the London Fire Department enacting a temporary ban on open burns<sup>4</sup>. Humans cause more than half of all wildland fires in Canada, typically in populated forest and grassland areas<sup>5</sup>. In Ontario, human causes of fires may include fireworks, campfires, off-road vehicles, ammunition, industrial activity, agriculture, power lines and arson.

### Cause of 2023 wildfires in Canada (% of total)

Source: Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre Inc.



Source: The Narwhal (2023)<sup>6</sup>

According to the Canadian Forest Service (2005) the overall number of fires occurring in Ontario's fire management area is expected to increase 15% by 2040 and 50% by the end of the century<sup>7</sup>. A recent scientific study predicts eastern Canada will see a dramatic 200% to 300% increase in "fire spread days" including dry conditions, smoke and poor air quality<sup>8</sup>. Natural Resources Canada estimates that fire protection costs could double in Canada by 2040 as we attempt to keep up with worsening risk.<sup>9</sup>

Responding to community-wide fires in interior British Columbia and Fort McMurray, in 2021 the Canadian federal government issued high-level, nation-wide guide<sup>10</sup> that contains thresholds to inform when and how to prepare at the local and city-wide levels for fires. Section 4.2.2.1 Regulatory Considerations begins with the following:

*"Ideally, all land uses should be evaluated to determine whether they are in a wildfire hazard area and, if so, the appropriate type and level of mitigation. However, local municipalities and any other Authorities Having Jurisdiction must also consider their capacity to administer and enforce regulations, which may vary considerably across provinces and territories. The following guidance can support local governments in the development and adoption of land use planning requirements that address the wildfire hazard in the Wildland Urban Interface.*

- *Incorporate the goal of minimising the wildfire hazard to people, property, and infrastructure at all stages of the land use planning process. This often begins with plans containing high-level goals and objectives. Although plans may not be legally binding, this policy direction creates a foundation for future implementation through by-laws and other regulatory instruments.*

The Provincial Policy Statement 2014 and London Plan 2016 require that planners must take into consideration the risk of wildland fires. This is based on Provincial mapping of urban forest areas at risk of wildland fire (2017 mapping available on Ontario GeoHub<sup>11</sup>) The Ontario provincial threat assessment has historically focussed on resource protection, particularly on the boreal forest, but under climate change conditions that attitude no longer prevails. While London is not a hotspot for industrial-scale forestry, it is a major transport hub and densely populated area. Wildland fires, which can include grassland fires, will likely become more frequent and/or more extensive here.

Under the current Fireworks By-law, consumer fireworks are being detonated throughout the city, including in vegetated and densely populated areas. While there is abundant anecdotal evidence to suggest fireworks are being used in ways outside of what is permitted under the By-law, applicable restrictions are challenging to enforce, and there are limited data on enforcement cases to estimate the risk of starting fires. However, the lack of data should not inhibit the City from taking actions to limit known and plausible harms and risks. Under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (1999) the Canadian federal government's actions to protect the environment and health are guided by the precautionary principle, which states that "*where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.*"<sup>12</sup>

The City's Urban Forest Strategy was completed in 2016 to effectively care for existing tree cover, plan for continued health and improve tree cover for the future. A Tree Planting Strategy update is underway which will also include an update to the Wildland Fire Risk rating (identified as 'low to moderate' for London in 2017 by Provincial Ministries). Council may wish to consult with staff about the forthcoming updated Wildfire Fire Risk rating to support decisions on fireworks.

The Canadian Association of Fireworks Chiefs espouses a complete ban on the sale and use of consumer fireworks in Canada, in favour of the professional fireworks industry<sup>13</sup>.

Existing uses of consumer fireworks are creating pollution that extends into the Natural Heritage System and the Thames River. However, there are presently no data on the extent of pollution associated with fireworks in London specifically. Fireworks generate multiple forms of pollution, including:

- A. **Single-use plastics** which should be sent to landfill, but often end up as litter at sites where detonations occur. Fireworks detonated near waterways may send plastic downriver. Plastics used in fireworks casing and packaging can take decades to centuries to break down. Plastic fragments may be ingested by wildlife such as fish, turtles and birds. Litter in natural areas associated with fireworks is observed frequently during the warmer months, especially following recent celebrations (Antler River Rally, personal communication).
- B. **Airborne pollutants** such as ozone<sup>14</sup> and fine particulate matter which are released upon detonation fireworks. Fine particulate pollutants may include perchlorates, nitric oxide and sulphur dioxide (primary contributors to acid rain)<sup>15</sup> and heavy metals such as lead, copper, barium, strontium, potassium and magnesium<sup>16</sup> that linger in the air and contribute to reduced air quality. For instance, one study found concentration of particulate matter in the air is about 42% greater during fireworks shows<sup>17</sup>; another study found that within 1 hour of fireworks displays, strontium levels in the air increased 120 times, magnesium 22 times, barium 12 times, potassium 11 times, and copper 6 times more than the amount already present in the air before the event<sup>18</sup>. Fine particulate pollutants are small enough to enter human lungs and cause health issues<sup>19</sup>. Pollutants dissipate slowly; in many areas, air quality may not return to normal until the following day as particles are captured in rainfall, or settle in soils and bodies of water. Pollution from fireworks may compound in the environment over time<sup>20</sup>, some with toxic effects at even low doses<sup>21</sup>. Airborne pollutants released by fireworks travel far from their origin. For example, studies that tagged heavy metals used in pyrotechnics found the metals travelled 100 km (62 miles) downwind over a two-day period of mild weather<sup>22, 23</sup>. Concerns about air quality impacts<sup>24</sup> have led to government interventions on firework displays during celebrations such as Diwali in New Delhi, India<sup>25</sup>.

## 2. Linkages to City of London policies and strategies

The City of London 2023-2027 Strategic Plan outlines several Strategic Areas of Focus and their Outcomes that are relevant to reviewing the Fireworks By-law.

- A. **Strategic Area of Focus:** Reconciliation, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion

### **Excerpts from Plan:**

- *“The City of London is a leader in becoming an equitable and inclusive community.”*
- *“Working collaboratively, intentionally, and integrating these values across all our work, we will help make London a community that is equitable, inclusive, and accessible for everyone.”*

**Linkages:** Detonations of consumer fireworks have immediate negative consequences for community members throughout the City, such as people with disabilities such as autism<sup>26</sup>, people with respiratory ailments (such as asthma) and people with PTSD and trauma<sup>27</sup>, in ways that are inescapable from their own homes.

- B. **Strategic Area of Focus:** Wellbeing and Safety

### **Excerpt from Plan:**

- *“Prioritising safety and quality of life for all Londoners, we will make London a community where everyone feels safe, welcome, and supported.”*

- Outcome 1.1 “Londoners feel safe across the city, in the core, and in their neighbourhoods and communities.” e) “Modify municipal compliance protocol to proactively address emerging issues, including the health and homelessness crisis, using a balanced compassionate approach.”
- Outcome 1.2: “Londoners have a strong sense of belonging and sense of place.” b) “Create cultural opportunities that reflect the arts, heritage, and diversity of the community.”

**Linkages:** Vulnerable Londoners report not feeling safe or supported when fireworks are creating oppressive, unpredictable noise that they cannot escape in places where they live. The detonation of consumer fireworks in neighbourhoods is subject to zero oversight and poses safety risks to people and property. Under Option B, the City can create cultural opportunities reflecting the diversity of the community by facilitating cultural events, including some fireworks displays and alternatives, in controlled, communal settings.

### C. **Strategic Area of Focus:** Climate Action and Sustainable Growth

#### **Excerpt from Plan:**

- Outcome 1.2 “Waterways, wetlands, watersheds, and natural areas are protected and enhanced.” c) “Protect and enhance the health of City’s watersheds through the implementation of the Shared Waters Approach, the Thames Valley Corridor Plan, and the Watershed Resource Management Strategies.”
- Outcome 2.2: “London is more resilient and better prepared for the impacts of a changing Climate.” b) “Support community preparedness for the impacts of climate change and extreme weather.” c) “Implement the Climate Lens Framework across the City of London and its agencies, boards, and commissions and report on the results.”

**Linkages:** The Shared Waters Approach<sup>27</sup>, Goal 3: Improve Water Quality To Support Stream Health, Including Aquatic Life (page 61), includes the following recommendation: “Continue to support regulations and encourage compliance for activities that manage waste or minimise, prevent or mitigate the release of emissions or contaminants to the environment.” As outlined above, limiting detonations of consumer fireworks will play an important role in mitigating elevated risk of wildfires under climate change.

### 3. **Concerns and responses**

The Fireworks By-law debate has been ongoing in the City of London for several years. Across numerous discussions, some narratives have been shared that do not reflect aspects of this decision that we feel could be important. Below we provide responses to three principal concerns that have been identified.

**Concern:** “If consumer fireworks are restricted, the City will lack sufficient capacity to enforce the By-law.”

**Response:** Many of London’s by-laws are only enforced to a limited extent, depending on complaints and/or available resources such as compliance staff. In some cases, by-laws can be challenging to enforce because of intrinsic difficulties with obtaining necessary documentation that a violation has occurred. For example, the Tree Protection By-law lays out prohibitions on injuring or removing mature trees, yet in practice compliance staff cannot possibly prevent or react to all cases of illegal activities involving trees. Similarly, the Animal Control By-law outlines prohibitions on allowing pets to run at large, yet the City does not issue fines in the vast majority of cases where dogs and cats are allowed to run. Nonetheless, the Tree Protection By-law and Animal Control By-law are both recognized as important for environmental protection because they outline prohibitions in the first place. They set legal standards for the public to

follow, they act as deterrents against harmful activities, and they support residents in situations where standards have not been followed and documentation is obtained. Under Option B, people who detonate consumer fireworks in London despite the by-law would be knowingly engaging in legally prohibited activities. Whether or not the by-law is enforced in each case does not change this fact.

**Concern:** *“If people cannot purchase consumer fireworks in London, then they will instead purchase them online or visit another municipality, and the restrictions are pointless.”*

**Response:** Under Option B, if selling consumer fireworks in London were restricted, it would indeed still be possible for Londoners to acquire fireworks through other means. However, there would be additional barriers to purchasing fireworks (e.g., cost and delays associated with shipping, travel) that will help to reduce overall consumption of fireworks. Furthermore, restricting selling and advertising of fireworks in London would help to limit impulse purchases by people who otherwise would not think of it or take the initiative. Selling of fireworks in parking lots and along roadsides, as is currently practised, plants the idea of fireworks in the minds of passersby. Government-imposed restrictions on point-of-sale marketing of harmful substances, such as restrictions on cigarettes under the Tobacco and Vaping Products Act (1997)<sup>28</sup> have helped to shift patterns in consumer behaviour over time. Lastly, other municipalities surrounding London such as the City of Woodstock<sup>29</sup> are increasingly looking to regulate sales of consumer fireworks. If there is concern about surrounding municipalities continuing to sell fireworks, and that limiting the efficacy of restrictions in London, then perhaps Council could correspond with other municipalities to inform them of its decision about the Fireworks By-law and emphasise the desire for a united regional approach.

**Concern:** *“Attending fireworks displays is culturally important to Londoners. We should not deprive families or specific cultural groups of opportunities to host traditional celebrations.”*

**Response:** Fireworks are not being subjected to an outright “ban” as some have suggested. Under Option B, Londoners would still have numerous opportunities each year to attend fireworks displays at events sanctioned by the City, in alignment with recommendations of the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs to leave fireworks up to professionals. This is more aptly described as “phasing out” specific types of fireworks in a way that balances the desire for traditions to continue with public safety and limiting harms to the environment. The City can also continue to support families and cultural celebrations by promoting comparable alternatives to fireworks, such as light shows and outdoor concerts, that more closely align with its objectives while respecting the environment and people who live in neighbourhoods surrounding events.

Danita Allick  
26 July 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with regret that I tender my resignation from the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee, effective August 1, 2023. Ultimately, the time commitment during regular business hours has made it difficult to continue and I can no longer guarantee that I can balance my personal, professional and educational commitments with my duties to the committee.

I am grateful for having had the opportunity to serve as a member of the committee for the past two years and offer my best wishes for its continued success.

Sincerely,

Danita Allick, P.Eng.