

Greetings Mayor Morgan, all city councillors, including CPSC members, Matt Hepditch and Cheryl Smith,

Attn: Ms. Bunn please see that this letter is added to the Agenda for the August 15, 2023 CPSC meeting.

It is my understanding that after the Fireworks PPM on August 15, the CPSC will take a vote and make a recommendation to council on how to proceed or not with any change(s) to how fireworks are administered in London.

Prior to moving forward and doing so -

I think it is important to pause, remember, and reflect and take into account the fact that -

41.3% of the fireworks survey participants want a complete ban on fireworks in London.

And an additional 8.5% were "not sure whether they would or wouldn't support a full ban"

meaning they would likely be amenable to same once implemented.

It therefore is **incumbent upon each and everyone of you on council** (and those who have provided input and so far offered only 2 options by writing and signing off on the report) to in addition to option 2 (aka B) to **seriously discuss and consider the so called 3rd option of a complete ban on fireworks - which would mean the city would also no longer issue permits for any fireworks displays.**

Said 3rd option was, astonishingly and to the dismay of the many who have advocated against fireworks in London, not included in the Fireworks report tabled to CPSC on June 13, 2023.

The following is only very brief recap summary of the multiple, very well documented negative issues that come part and parcel with any fireworks whatsoever including fire department permitted displays:

1. **Pollution** - serious deterioration of air quality ie. inflated PM 2.5 particulate matter, the same stuff we experienced in a stifling way from woodsmoke pollution plus dangerous chemical residue and heavy metal contamination which are additionally affecting water (eg. Thames River and creeks) and soil which becomes a repository for the toxic fallout when gravity returns it the earth, often sadly where food is grown and wildlife feed.

2. **Excess noise** - that is proven to be extremely detrimental to our **entire range of wildlife**

(reminder it is illegal in Ontario to disrupt nesting birds)

and yet we know that is precisely what happens when fireworks are happening.

3. **Pets** - how many first hand accounts from pet owners about how terrified and unsettled their pets become during and after fireworks of any kind, sometimes even for weeks after as a result do we need to hear?

when do we as a society or governing body realize that enough is enough?

4. **People** - anyone with PTSD, war veterans, those experiencing anxiety, stress, are in need of undisturbed sleep, refugees from any number of war torn countries, pregnant women, babies, and young children - what about them?

does our hubris for a few minutes of spectacle, entertainment, enjoyment, pleasure, tradition, cultural significance take precedence over our the previously mentioned fellow citizens who may be and often are adversely affected by fireworks?

5. **GHG emissions - the city has an emergency climate plan CEAP**, or so we are told.

how can it possibly not be a very good idea to set an example for Londoners, and other communities worldwide, that London city council takes the fast unfolding, greatest existential threat to humankind seriously by taking this golden opportunity to completely ban fireworks?

You might wonder what to do if fireworks are no longer permitted?

How does the community still come together to be entertained (for example) on a July 1 Canada holiday?

One of the solutions (creative thinking leads to others) that is being employed by several communities already including, Wakefield, Winnipeg, and Waterloo are **drone light shows**.

Across the U.S. they are also **opting for drone shows instead of fireworks** this year to celebrate the Fourth of July in Salt Lake City, Boulder, and Lake Tahoe **citing the impact traditional pyrotechnics have on the environment**. What they are all doing is **substituting loud, bombastic rockets with quieter, environmentally-friendly drones**.

Ah, but that seems very expensive, isn't it? Must be?

The Fireworks report quoted a range of \$17K for a 50 drone show to \$196K for a 500 drone show.

A much more realistic number of drones and dollar figure that would be comparative to London's July 1 fireworks show according to dronelightshow.ca is 150 drones for \$35K. Or, for an even larger (more elaborate) show 200 drones for \$40K.

For perspective, Winnipeg used 100 drones and Waterloo used 200 drones for their July 1 drone light shows in lieu of fireworks.

In summary, while London might spend on a Canada Day drone light show approximately double ie. \$35K to \$40K what their fireworks show costs ie. recently \$19K assuming that includes insurance, with so many benefits and multiple upsides, it would certainly seem very worthwhile to spend a bit more.

But, it doesn't by any stretch require spending \$196K to make it happen in a memorable and very satisfactory way.

Again as per **DroneLightshow.ca** - their non-Canada day prices would be slightly lower.

The cost includes everything such as transportation, logistic, design, permission from Transport Canada, insurance and music file. (note: I have absolutely zero financial interest in any drone show company whatsoever).

Drones can fly for up to 18 mins. and would require a space like a large park with a minimum of 30x30 metres for take-off.

Check.

In summary, there is nothing standing in the way of London doing what **Mont-Tremblant ironically did only days after London's Fireworks's report was issued. Their council banned all fireworks - period.**

On Canada Day here is how Mont-Tremblant promoted their celebration activities. Just imagine a celebration *without* having to breathe highly polluted air as the price of admission.

"Enjoy the fresh air for Canada day.

Animation and special activities will be organized in honor of our national holiday: public entertainers, face painting, raising of the Canadian flag, cake tasting and concert will delight the whole family."

I know it is a bad pun, but council making positive change doesn't have to be *rocket science*, especially when said *rockets* are excessively noisy, disruptive, highly polluting, and way past their best before date given what we all already know. Note to self - the Earth is in crisis and people and wildlife are in a fragile state.

I urge each and everyone who might provide input or is voting to do their part in bringing London into the present ie. into the forefront of ending our decades long fireworks addiction by agreeing to a third option ie. no fireworks.

You won't be the first to do so, as it has already been done elsewhere - and there is about to be a domino effect everywhere.

So why not, since the opportunity is literally in your hands right now,
help lead the way,
instead of continuing to force us to be stuck in the past with fireworks.

The people have spoken and are now waiting on your best judgement.

The voiceless and the environment and all that entails are counting on you to
step up and do the right thing.

thank you for reading,

Michael Luce