

To the Members of the Community and Protective Services Committee:

I'm a Londoner, born and bred!

As a kid, my brothers and I used to light sparklers and set “burning schoolhouses” on fire and put flaming “cannon” crackers under empty tin cans and watch as they blasted into the air! So much fun!!

As an adult, I went to the fireworks displays at the Forks. So loud that I could feel the BOOM! in my body. And as the fireballs erupted over my head, I felt surrounded by the exploding colours. So magical!

And then I began to learn about the harmful effects of fireworks on people, pets, wild animals and birds and the environment. I started to pay attention.

More and more I heard about and read about how frightened some people and pets are because of fireworks. And I personally saw the negative effects of fireworks exploding nearby on nestlings in a bald eagle's nest, while I was watching them live on the internet.

And my attitude toward fireworks changed! I no longer see fireworks as fun and magical.

We need to start phasing out fireworks, especially as there are alternatives now – and because there are so many other family and eco-friendly ways to celebrate! I support Option B: a ban on the sale of consumer fireworks and no backyard fireworks allowed.

As Maya Angelo said, "Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better."

Do better, London!!

Sincerely,

Bobby Hampton