

From: Kathryn Wood

Date: Mon, Aug 21, 2023, 12:39 a.m.

Subject: Fireworks By-Law in support of banning consumer fireworks (Option B)

To: <councilagenda@london.ca>

Hello:

I spent a lot of time listening to the community speakers, on Tuesday August 15th, regarding the fireworks by-law options.

Banning/Preventing backyard fireworks does NOT cancel Canada Day, Victoria Day or any other special day that has previously had Fireworks as part of their festivities. As I understand option B, of the proposed fireworks by-law, people would still be allowed to participate in public firework displays with a valid permit and trained fireworks professionals.

One of the gentlemen who spoke mentioned it was a minor inconvenience for everyone else to endure backyard fireworks. I don't think it is a fair statement to describe backyard fireworks as a minor inconvenience to the neighbours whose houses the fireworks are pointed at (I have never seen backyard fireworks pointed at the homeowners home who are setting the fireworks off.)

It certainly isn't a minor inconvenience to the animals. My family has carefully fostered an environment where many animals can feel safe and our family can coexist with the animals. Backyard fireworks cause some animals to abandon their offspring and fireworks create air pollution and debris. I was pelted with this debris when I was sitting outside, in my backyard, and neighbours set off backyard fireworks pointed towards my home.

Human beings are sharing the planet with each other and with other living beings. Although human beings have consistently believed that they are superior to all other living beings, that thinking is what has caused us to destroy the planet and believe we are entitled to do so.

Human beings are creative. I think that we should all be exploring other ways to celebrate holidays and important milestones. There must be other options that don't cause noise pollution, debris and pit neighbour against neighbour.

It wasn't a minor inconvenience to me when I could not sit outside and enjoy the long weekend because neighbours were setting off fireworks and debris from those fireworks peppered our vehicles, houses and us, as we tried to sit outside in our backyard.

The earth is in danger. Our planet is struggling. There are a record number of forest fires raging through Canada this summer. We can't wait for air pollution to be so bad that we only then begin to ban consumer fireworks. Other places in the world have already banned fireworks - they have been forced to make difficult decisions because the pollution is already toxic. We know the environment is in trouble. We must be proactive where we can be and banning consumer fireworks would be a good first step.

Banning consumer fireworks will not fix every environmental problem facing our planet. Banning consumer fireworks would be a small step that acknowledges we are willing to make small changes that will have a positive impact on our environment.

Please, please ban consumer fireworks. Please pass option B as a by-law and be willing to enforce it.

Thanks

Kathryn