

Township of South Stormont Discharge of Firearms By-law

March 23, 2022



Why do we need a new By-law?

- Discharge of firearms previously regulated under Nuisance By-law
- Complaints received about use of bows, air guns, pellet guns in Urban Settlement Area
- Complaints received that area is too restrictive
- New independent Discharge of Firearms by-law drafted
- Council considered first draft in November, 2022
- Public consultation took place in February, 2022

What Area is Affected?

Urban Settlement Area



Public Engagement Summary

Speak Up South Stormont - February 8 – 28, 2022

Total Visits

(includes all visits to the site under Discharge of Firearms, including repeat visits)

936

Total Aware Visits

(includes visitors to the site eliminating repeat visitors)

768

Total Informed Participants

(includes those who have downloaded documents, clicked on links or otherwise engaged with page information)

299

Total Engaged Visitors

(includes visitors who posted a question or comments on a forum)

32

There were also multiple emails and phone calls over and above the statistics described above.

Summary of Concerns and Recommendations

Question/Concern	Recommendation/Comment
Clarification re: Urban Settlement Area (5) Clarification re: Cornwall Handgun Club (1)	Area has not changed from previous by-law Cornwall Handgun Club is not affected, it is outside Urban Settlement Area
Proposed definition of firearm is too restrictive (5)	Definition has been revised to allow the use of “nerf guns” and firearms with a reduced muzzle velocity
Concern re: Powers of Entry overreaching (6)	Option #1 – no entry into buildings, structures or dwellings (warrant) Option #2 – allow entry into buildings and structures, but not dwellings (warrant)
Federal and Provincial regulations already exist (13)	Promotion of enhanced safety, i.e. stray cross-bow in Urban Area
2.02 hectares (5 acre) minimum should be larger	Experts in the field have been consulted and the proposed size appears reasonable

Additional Recommendations

- Addition of “Agricultural Property” definition and revised exemption to clearly establish that farming practices are permitted
- Consolidation of “Officer” definition to include, Municipal Law Enforcement Officer, Conservation Officer and Peach Officer
- Addition of 2 clauses recognizing Federal and Provincial legislation

Options

1. That Council adopt the proposed Discharge of Firearms by-law as presented.
(this includes the authority for Officers to enter buildings and structures, but not dwellings)
2. That Council adopt the proposed Discharge of Firearms by-law as amended.
(Council may wish to restrict all entry to all buildings, structures and dwellings)
3. That Council defeat the proposed Discharge of Firearms by-law and further, instruct staff to re-enact the firearms regulation in the Nuisance By-law.

Questions – Thoughts?