



**TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE  
COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2001**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
37 SANDIFORD DRIVE, 4TH FLOOR  
7:00 P.M.**

A Council Public Hearing was held at the municipal offices on the above date and time. All members of Council were present (Councillor Sherban retired from the meeting at approximately 7:45 p.m.) Mayor Emmerson was in the Chair.

**CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

MOVED by Councillor Bowes  
SECONDED by Councillor Dunkeld

THAT the agenda be confirmed as circulated.

CARRIED.

**DECLARATIONS**

There were no declarations from members of Council.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

MOVED by Councillor Sherban  
SECONDED by Councillor Carroll

THAT the minutes of the Council Public Hearings held on September 4th, 2001 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

**PROPOSED HUNTING BAN (C10-CL & P09)**

**NOTICE GIVEN:**

The Clerk advised the procedure by which notice was given.

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of the Public Meeting was to consider a complete hunting ban within the municipality. A request had been received that the Town review By-law 96-55-HU being

a by-law to regulate the discharge of firearms. It has been five years since the current by-law was adopted and during this time the residential population has increased and residential and non-residential licenses issued by the Town to hunt rabbit and pheasant has declined.

## PRESENTATION

Representatives from the Ministry of Natural Resources were in attendance and Mr. John Almond gave a presentation on hunting in the GTA. The Ministry's objective with respect to hunting include:

- (a) maintain hunting as an essential wildlife management tool;
- (b) maintain and enhance hunting opportunities in the GTA in order to realize cultural, social and economic benefits of hunting;
- (c) continue hunting's record as one of the safest outdoor activities.

Hunters are an essential wildlife management tool which has proven to be a very safe sport. It was noted that some wildlife populations (coyotes, raccoons, white-tailed deer and Canada Geese) have increased dramatically in recent years in municipalities where hunting is limited or restricted by no discharge by-laws.

The Ministry of Natural Resources recognize the need for no-discharge of firearms bylaws for the purpose of public safety in built up areas. They have reviewed the current Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville by-law relating to the discharge of firearms and their opinion is that the current by-law is more than adequate in providing public safety interest with respect to the discharge of firearms. The by-law defines firearms to include guns, air guns, spring guns, crossbows and longbows. Firearms are limited to shotguns or rifles no greater than .275 caliber.

A hunting ban (discharge of firearms) would not prevent farmers from protecting their crops and livestock. This by-law provides provision for landowners or their agents to discharge a firearm to protect their property from "nuisance wildlife".

Recommendations from the Ministry include:

- define firearm types more specifically in the by-law for shotguns, bows and crossbows, and rifles.
- Define areas by schedules where bows and crossbows only are allowed and where guns are allowed.
- Include buffers around educational facilities and dwellings.
- Provide exceptions within defined areas based on area of land (eg. 10 acre or 50 acre parcels.)
- Exclude centre-fire rifles of all calibre's from use with the exception of farmers on their own lands for protection of property. This allows the use of rimfire rifles (.22 cal) for small game hunters and night raccoon hunters.

## **GENERAL COMMENTS**

The following people addressed Council with comments and concerns:

### **In support of discharge of firearms and hunting in the municipality**

- Dr. Terry O'Connor, 4802 Bethesda Road, Stouffville L4A 7X5, representative for the York Council of Agriculture and York County Crop Improvement Association
- Howard Burkholder, 27 Connaught Street, Gormley L0G 1H0
- Frank Passafiume, 12442 McCowan Road, R. R. #4, Stouffville L4A 7X5
- Neil Cowie, 78 Peter Street, Markham L3P 2A6
- Bob Wood, 13681 Ninth Line, R. R. #2, Stouffville, L4A 7X3
- Chris Kuetell, 3236 St. John's Sideroad, R. R. #3, Newmarket, L3Y 4W1
- Paul Hulshoff, 13682 Kennedy Road, R. R. #4, Stouffville L4A 7X5
- Warren Abbott, 13961 Highway #48, R. R. #2, Stouffville L4A 7X3
- Wayne Sedore, 184 Baldwin Road, Baldwin, Ontario L0E 1A0
- Joe Fiorini, 30 Elm Park Court, Richmond Hill, L4C 9T8
- Jeff Ober, Lakeshore Road, Stouffville, L4A 7X3
- Herb Bell, 3948 Vandorf Road, R. R. #4, Stouffville L4A 7X5
- B.J. Roberts, 4033 Vivian Road, R. R. #1, Cedar Valley L0G 1E0
- Cameron Todd, 2100 2<sup>nd</sup> Concession Road, R. R. #3, Stouffville L4A 7X4

### **Comments:**

- concerns with the impact that no hunting would pose for the agriculture community, as wildlife is a cause of major crop damage and loss (corn fields, fruit trees)
- there is a dramatic increase in deer, geese and raccoon populations and farmers rely on hunters to help control predatory wildlife
- the edges of crop fields are being ruined by deer and raccoons
- the wildlife population needs to be reduced, not allowed to grow
- need to minimize crop damage and poison is not always a viable solution
- hunting has always been allowed in certain areas of Whitchurch-Stouffville and has not caused any major problems
- review by-law and respect local farmers who need to be able to control wild life and cannot always do the hunting themselves.
- Hunters and farmers definitely do not want to see all areas banned from discharge of fire-arms.

- the majority of hunters have permission to hunt in Whitchurch-Stouffville and would like to be able to continue. Money is spent in the municipality when people visit the area.
- trespassing must stop and hunters be required to have written permission of the land owner. Hunter's are valued but some land owners also have had problems with hunters not always respecting private property. Land owners must know who is on their property. Permission to one doesn't mean bringing a group with them. All concerned need to assist with a crack down on illegal hunters and trespassers.
- the majority of hunters do ask permission from the farmers and take the responsibility of hunting seriously.
- want to be able to continue trap shooting with clay pigeons and target practice as recreation
- In Aurora where there is no hunting the coyotes are a problem. Need to keep hunting open in some areas as cattle farmers have trouble with coyotes.
- suggestion that farmers identify problems and open their properties to hunters at specific pre-arranged times. A registry could be compiled of farmers who want assistance with the wild animals. Their names and addresses would be on a list and when there is a problem hunters could be sent out from a pre-arranged list with an identification badge.
- Should be able to find a workable solution by upgrading the by-law and allowing only bow hunting in some areas. Firearms are a necessary tool as there is a need to dispose of nuisance wildlife and cannot always rely on trapping or poison.

**In opposition to the discharge of firearms and hunting in the municipality**

- Gerri Robertson, 12221 Tenth Line, Stouffville, L4A 6B6
- Paul McCutcheon, 27 Lobraico Lane, R. R. #4, Stouffville L4A 7X5
- Christel Vonrichter, 4352 Faulkner Avenue, R. R. #3, Newmarket, L3Y 4W1

**Comments:**

- love nature but know there is an over population of deer and many get killed on the road and become a safety factor
- disagrees with hunting and would like to see it banned
- enjoys watching wildlife on property and that is a recreation for many. A total ban is requested.

- concern that the Town is growing to large to still allow hunting areas. People moved into this area to be able to enjoy the wildlife.

Written comments were received from the following:

- Mervin and Jacqueline Turner, 13064 Highway #48, Stouffville L0H 1L0  
Wish to support a hunting ban and do not feel that hunters are respecting private property and are invariably shooting before daybreak and shooting in the dark in the evening.
- M. Covington, 24 Baker Street, Stouffville, L4A 5Z3  
Would like a complete hunting ban within the municipality
- Larry Gilroy, President & Gary Fraser, Secretary, Durham Wolf Hound Association  
516 Rupert Avenue, Stouffville L4A 1V1  
requests information from this meeting and would gladly attend future meetings to provide input
- David W. Meyers, 359 Meyers Road, R. R. #1, Zephyr, L0E 1T0, Director Ontario Fur Managers Federation (zone 7a) & President of South Lake Simcoe Trappers Council  
Concerned with problems for hunters or trappers in the municipality and would like to assist with answering questions and providing input relating to trapping.
- Wayne Nesbitt, R. R. #2, Stouffville, L4A 7X3  
Has concerns if hunting is banned. Trespassing with ATV and horses is a problem also. Wild life is causing stress to farm animals and there is a proliferation of wild animals.
- Lorna Butler, 17408 Warden Avenue, R. R. #3, Newmarket, L3Y 4W1  
Has concerns with hunting close to her property which is very stressful and gives a sense of danger hearing all the firing of shots and finding casings on her property.
- Ed Reid, Wildlife Biologist, Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters  
P.O. Box 2800, 4601 Guthrie Drive, Peterborough, K9L 8L5  
The O.F.A.H. is strongly opposed to a proposed total hunting ban and they recommend that the following areas be considered:
  - enforce existing by-laws on trespassing and illegal hunting areas
  - hunting ban proposal not justified by growth trends
  - review participation of hunting in the municipality
  - impact of deer population management - deer damage to private property and reduce public safety
  - the social/cultural/economic impacts on hunters and farmers

**Conclusion:**

Town staff will meet with the Ministry of Natural Resources, and farm/agriculture associations to discuss these issues. A staff recommendation will be presented to Council at a future public meeting.

MOVED by Councillor Bowes  
SECONDED by Councillor Pliakes

THAT all documentation be received;

AND THAT this item be referred back to staff to consult with the Ministry of Natural Resources, the local Agriculture Association, the York Country Crop Improvement Association ;

AND THAT a public meeting be arranged and advertised in the local newspapers for further discussion and recommendations.

CARRIED.

**CONFIRMATORY BY-LAW**

MOVED by Councillor Dunkeld  
SECONDED by Councillor Dobrich

THAT Confirmatory By-law 2001-188-MS read a first, second and third time.

CARRIED.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Councillor Carroll  
SECONDED by Councillor Pliakes

THAT there being no further business, the Council Public Hearing be adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

CARRIED.

DATED at the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville this            day of            , 2001.

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Mayor

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Clerk

