



April 14, 2016

Mr. Murray Fearrey  
Reeve  
Municipality of Dysart et al,  
P.O. Box 389,  
Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0  
By email: mfearey@dysartetal

Ms. Susan Norcross  
Councillor – Ward 4  
Municipality of Dysart et al,  
P.O. Box 389,  
Haliburton, Ontario K0 1S0  
snorcross@dysartetal

Dear Reeve Fearrey and Councillor Norcross:

We are writing to request that Dysart join many other municipalities in the area in establishing a by-law which imposes some restrictions on the use of fireworks in our community to address environmental, safety and noise concerns.

The Kennisis Lake Cottage Owners' Association (KLCOA) represents 600 property owners. In addition to numerous environmental, social, recreational and cultural programs organized by the Association, we also sponsor a community fireworks display to celebrate Canada Day. In addition, there is a second community fireworks display on the August Civic Holiday weekend which is sponsored privately. Both these fireworks displays are set up and set off by knowledgeable, trained and licensed pyro-technicians, and insurance coverage is obtained. Admission is free and they are open to KLCOA members, non-members, visitors and neighbours. People arrive by boat and automobile, or sit on their dock/deck if they live nearby, to enjoy the show. The fireworks are set up with safety as the first priority and so as to have minimal impact on the lake water. Residue is collected and disposed of properly. They are scheduled for immediately after sunset so that they disturb as few people as possible.

These fireworks displays are long-standing traditions on our lake and are enjoyed by many, many people. One of the key reasons that the Association continues to sponsor these displays is to satisfy the interest in the community for this type of display in a safe and environmentally responsible manner and in the hope that by having good quality, expert-run displays, people on the lake will be dissuaded from launching their own fireworks, often with less regard for safety and the environment and at all hours of the night.

As you are aware, KLCOA developed a Lake Plan several years ago with the objective of recognizing and protecting the unique character of the watershed, which Dysart Council received and accepted. The Lake Plan highlights the need to protect water quality and the quiet enjoyment of the natural environment, and minimize undue light pollution in the night skies.



Unfortunately it seems that there are a few people who continue to set off fireworks in an undisciplined manner. We note that setting off fireworks from a general-use dock or near the shoreline may introduce pollutants that impact the water quality. Unfortunately, rather than collecting up and disposing of any residue, some people may brush it into the lake. Detonating fireworks is loud and inconsistent with the quiet enjoyment of the natural environment and night skies, particularly late at night. And given our distance from emergency services, we are concerned about the potential health and fire risks from fireworks that are not properly detonated.

For these reasons, we request that Dysart put in place a bylaw which restricts, to some degree, the setting off of fireworks by private individuals and perhaps requires those who wish to set off fireworks to file a plan in advance (possibly with fire services) and/or obtain a permit. Our objective is not to ban fireworks altogether but rather to have some reasonable restrictions around their use to promote safety and to protect the environment and night-time tranquility. We believe restrictions which prohibit their use after 11 pm, place limits on the locations from which fireworks are set off and require them to be handled and disposed of in generally accepted safe and environmentally-friendly ways would be appropriate.

Other municipalities in the neighbouring townships and counties have implemented such restrictions. From our research these include Algonquin Highlands, Minden Hills, Huntsville, Muskoka, Oro, Medonte, Bracebridge, Lake of Bays and Kawartha Lakes. Others, including Highlands East and Muskoka Lakes, have related discussions underway.

We would welcome the opportunity to participate in any public consultation process that Council might undertake in developing a bylaw related to fireworks. Public consultation would allow other cottage associations, businesses and the general public to offer input on a reasonable and appropriate set of restrictions around the use of fireworks in Dysart et al going forward.

We respectfully request consideration of this issue by Dysart Council.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tayce Wakefield". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Tayce Wakefield  
President  
Kennis Lake Cottage Owners' Association