
*For the Sixth Meeting of the Firearms Regulation Task Force
to be held on **Wednesday, October 5th, 2005**
in Committee Room C-40 (Fourth Floor), Tom Davies Square **4:30 p.m.***

(PLEASE ENSURE CELL PHONES AND PAGERS ARE TURNED OFF)

Place Tom Davies Square is wheelchair accessible. Please speak to the City Clerk prior to the meeting if you require a hearing amplification device. Persons requiring assistance are requested to contact the City Clerk's Office at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting if special arrangements are required. Please call (705) 671-2489, extension 2475. Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TTY) (705) 688-3919. Copies of Agendas can be viewed on the City's web site at www.greatersudbury.ca.

SANDWICHES AND DRINKS WILL BE SERVED

1. **Call Meeting to Order.**
2. **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

MINUTES

PAGE NO.

1. Report No. 4, Firearms Regulation Task Force Minutes of June 22nd, 2005 1 - 5
(RESOLUTION PREPARED - MINUTES ADOPTED)
2. Report No. 5, Firearms Regulation Task Force Minutes of September
21st, 2005 6 - 7
(RESOLUTION PREPARED - MINUTES ADOPTED)
3. Reports of the Firearms Regulation Task Force Information Sessions and
Public Input Meetings:
 - a) Ward 1, Minutes of September 7th, 2005 8 - 14
 - b) Ward 2, Minutes of September 7th, 2005 15 - 20
 - c) Ward 3, Minutes of September 8th, 2005 21 - 25
 - d) Ward 4, Minutes of September 8th, 2005 26 - 30
 - e) Ward 5, Minutes of September 12th, 2005 31 - 34
 - f) Ward 6, Minutes of September 13th, 2005 35 - 39**(RESOLUTION PREPARED - MINUTES RECEIVED)**

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Draft 1, Report to Council, Firearms Regulation Tax Force 40 - 47
(FOR DIRECTION)

ADJOURNMENT
(RESOLUTION PREPARED)

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Councillor Bradley (*Ward 2*)
Councillor Dupuis (*Ward 3*)
Gary Lampi
Michael Pilon
Jean (Jack) Rivet
Dr. Darren Stinson
Roy Polsky,
(*Representative, Ontario Federation of
Anglers & Hunters, Zone D and its affiliate
local clubs*)

RESOURCE PERSONS (NON-VOTING)

Bryan Gutjahr, *Manager of By-law
Enforcement Services*

Sgt. Joe Williams, *Greater Sudbury Police
Services*

Steve Massé, *Conservation Officer
(Enforcement - Sudbury District), Ministry
of Natural Resources.*

AGENDA/MINUTES DISTRIBUTION

Mayor and Members of Council
CAO
General Managers
Executive Director, Administrative Support Services
City Solicitor

Angie Haché
Acting City Clerk

Franca Bortolussi
Planning Committee Secretary

**THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE FIREARMS REGULATION TASK FORCE
OF THE CITY OF GREATER SUDBURY**

**Committee Room C-40
Tom Davies Square**

**Tuesday, June 22nd, 2005
Commencement: 4:00 p.m.
Adjournment: 5:23 p.m.**

DR. DARREN STINSON IN THE CHAIR

<u>Task Force</u>	Councillor Bradley (D. 4:55 p.m.); Councillor Dupuis (D. 4:55 p.m.); G. Lampi; M. Pilon, R. Polsky; J. Rivet
<u>Resource Personnel</u>	Bryan Gutjahr; Steve Massé
<u>Others</u>	F. Bortolussi, Committee Secretary
<u>Declarations of Pecuniary Interest</u>	None declared.

DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Brian Ramako Brian Ramakko, Ramakko's Tackle World, gave a presentation regarding the sale of firearms and other sporting equipment and the variety of consumers who purchase equipment from his retail outlet. A copy of his presentation is attached to these minutes.

He indicated that hunters are very avid about the hunting activity and they are very conscience of the rules and regulations. When questioned, he indicated that there are many places in the City of Greater Sudbury where hunting takes place; i.e. Chelmsford, Walden, etc. He also indicated there is hunting near golf courses to rid the course of geese. He indicated that a restrictive by-law would force hunters elsewhere. He indicated there are many hunters from out-of-town and, although they come equipped, they do spend a considerable amount of money for food, gas and licences. His shop sells between \$20,000 and \$30,000 of non-resident licences per year and the three Canadian Tire Stores in the City each sell more than him. He stated that hunters are a dedicated group and they will go elsewhere if they are not allowed to hunt here.

Mr. Ramakko asked the Task Force that they keep the wording simple when preparing any by-law as he very often has to explain the by-laws to hunters.

DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Oliver Barriault

Oliver Barriault gave a presentation regarding safety training. He indicated that he has been teaching the Hunter Education Course for 41 years. He also teaches the Canadian Firearms Safety Course. He is also involved with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters. He indicated that Ontario has the best instructors across America. He stated that all instructors are audited every year.

Mr. Barriault indicated that a person can take the Hunters Firearms Course, which is a 16-hour course, at the age of 12 after which he will receive an apprenticeship licence and can hunt with a licenced hunter and one firearm. At the age of 15, he takes the Canadian Firearms Safety Course and he will receive a minors licence and can carry his own firearm. At 18, he can receive a PAL (possession and acquisition licence). He stated that these courses are intensive hands-on courses.

Mr. Barriault indicated that he will provide the Task Force with the rules and regulations which are very strict.

Mr. Barriault indicated that many people are going back to hunting and many women are becoming hunters and it would be a shame for them not to be able to continue to hunt in the Sudbury area.

Mr. Barriault indicated that in the Province of Ontario in 1967 there were between 130 and 138 hunting accidents with 30 people killed. In the past five years, there might have been one or two accidents with no fatalities.

MINUTES

The minutes were amended by removing B. Gutjahr, Manager of By-law Enforcement Services from the attendance list and by showing the mover and seconder of recommendation 2005-6 as Rivet-Polsky.

The following recommendation was presented:

2005-7 Rivet-Dupuis: That Report #3, Firearms Regulation Task Force Minutes of June 1st, 2005, be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Advertising

The Task Force discussed advertising and the consensus was to advertise in the Northern Life and Le Voyageur now and in the Northern Life, Le Voyageur and the Sudbury Star closer to the time of the public input meetings.

Dates for Public Input Meetings

The Task Force agreed to the following dates for the Public Input Meetings:

Ward 1 - September 7th, 2005
Ward 2 - September 7th, 2005
Ward 3 - September 8th, 2005
Ward 4 - September 8th, 2005
Ward 5 - September 12th, 2005
Ward 6 and General Public - September 13th, 2005

Next Meeting

The next meeting has been set for September 21st, 2005 at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

2005-8 Polsky-Pilon: THAT we do now adjourn.
Time: 5:23 p.m.

SECRETARY

DR. DARREN STINSON

Hello...My name is Brian Ramakko and I've been asked to do a presentation on "Who is Buying Firearms?"

These are my observations based on my position as owner of Ramakko's.... We sell sporting firearms, x-bows, bows....

We also sell, kayaks, canoes, camping equipment, clothing etc.... To clientele that are not hunters.

My first observation is that the two groups are very complimentary.

A large percentage of Hunter's are 'outdoors' people, Who either fish, camp, canoe, hike or do other activities outside.

My second observation is that we are selling product to "new" Sudburians. People coming back to work in Sudbury (i.e. new Hospital)...one of the attractions is lifestyle...the outdoors... and some of these people are buying new firearms.

The firearms consumer right now is 35 to 55 years old and is

- a committed hunter
- has above average income
- is a family person
- a smarter consumer because they have taken courses and has jumped through the hoops
- has limited free time....wants quality experiences
-

What type of firearms...

We sell sporting firearms, rifles mostly (we don't sell handguns or paramilitary type stuff):

- Bolt action (most popular)
- Semi-autos
- Pumps
- Levers

The average price of a rifle is from \$750 - \$850

By the time it leaves the store it's \$1250 - \$1500 with scope, etc...

Shotguns:

- Pumps (most popular)
- Semi-autos

A lot of people are upgrading shotguns to handle 3" or 3½" shells with removable chokes to knock down geese or get into turkey hunting.

Younger hunters generally start out with a 12 GA.pump shotgun...(\$350.00 to \$450.00)

RE: X-Bows

This group here is more diverse in age:

1. Younger guys buying X-Bows who don't have as much time to practice.
2. Older guys buying x-bows who don't want to get a PAL
3. People with physical problems who cannot pull a bow.

4. those disillusioned with the moose draw system...adding a bow hunt for deer instead.

(X-bow sales are going up every year)

RE: Bows

-Mostly younger demographic 20 to 45

Since Saturday, Here is a list of names of people of whom you may know who are buying or using:

Paul Rheault – physician
Brent Zuck – financial advisor
Hub Bray – Lawyer
Hardo Ives – Surgeon
Bert Legault – retired teacher
Pete Bonin – physician
Dan Dion – owner of Basco Collision
Peter Villgreen – Industrial Fabrication (president)
Darryl Rautianen – Industrail Fabrication(vice-president)
Glen Poirier – Carrier Industries –(sales)
Mark Andrews – Carrier Industries (
Harry Chadwick – Maslack (sales)
Rick Giommi – financial advisor
Mark Laberge – accountant
Mark Allen – Drilteck (owner)
Grant McVittie – plumber

Also our clientele includes police officers, judges,miners, sales reps,pharmacists,etc...

My point is that firearms are all over this community.
And, in general, belonging to very responsible people, who are committed to the 'hunting' activity,who arecommitted to it legally.

**THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE FIREARMS REGULATION TASK FORCE
OF THE CITY OF GREATER SUDBURY**

**Committee Room C-40
Tom Davies Square**

**Wednesday, September 21st, 2005
Commencement: 4:10 p.m.
Adjournment: 5:15 p.m.**

DR. DARREN STINSON IN THE CHAIR

<u>Task Force</u>	Councillor Bradley; Councillor Dupuis; M. Pilon, R. Polsky
<u>Resource Personnel</u>	Bryan Gutjahr
<u>Others</u>	F. Bortolussi, Committee Secretary
<u>Declarations of Pecuniary Interest</u>	None declared.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

<u>Report to Council</u>	<p>The Task Force discussed the comments received at the six public input meetings as this meeting was being held to decide what would be included in the Report to Council. The main comments received from the public were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• there was not enough advertising for the public input meetings• things should be left as they are as there are already many regulations• most people were against the proposed by-law• if there is no enforcement now, how will additional regulations be enforced• all firearms should not be dealt with the same• the uniqueness of the City of Greater Sudbury must be taken into considerations; all areas can not be dealt with the same• people want to be able to discharge firearms on their own properties
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Councillor Bradley indicated he told the public that, prior to a new by-law going to Council, it would be brought back to the public.

Report to Council
(continued)

Councillor Dupuis indicated that this matter is of importance to the public as indicated by the number of people in attendance at the public meetings. The Chair advised that this is an emotional issue for many people and hunters feel they are being marginalised by the proposed regulations and restrictions.

The Task Force discussed different options for recommendations to be included in the Report to Council. After the discussion, it was agreed that the Chair would prepare a draft Report to Council with two options:

Option 1 - repeal all existing by-laws which will result in the discharge of firearms being regulated by provincial and federal laws

Option 2 - prepare a new by-law with definitions for different kinds of firearms and buildings and with exemptions such as for protection of property, trappers, shooting clubs, biathlon clubs, etc.

Next Meeting

The next meeting has been set for October 5th, 2005 at 4:30 p.m.

Adjournment

5:23 p.m.

SECRETARY

DR. DARREN STINSON

**CITY OF GREATER SUDBURY FIREARMS REGULATION TASK FORCE
INFORMATION SESSION AND PUBLIC INPUT
WARD 1**

**T.M. Davies Community Centre/Arena
325 Anderson Drive, Lively**

**Wednesday, September 7, 2005
Commencement: 7:00 p.m.**

<u>Chair</u>	<u>DR. DARREN STINSON, MEMBER, FIREARMS REGULATION TASK FORCE, CHAIR</u>
<u>Present</u>	J. Rivet, Member, Firearms Regulation Task Force; G. Lampi, Member, Firearms Regulation Task Force
<u>City Officials</u>	CJ Caporale, Council Secretary
<u>Welcome and Opening Remarks</u>	Dr. Stinson welcomed the forty-six (46) people in attendance and advised the purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for the public to provide comments and suggestions on the proposed by-law to regulate the discharge of firearms and other weapons in the City of Greater Sudbury. He outlined the purpose of the Firearms Regulation Task Force, what their mandate is and what the timelines are.

PUBLIC INPUT

Submissions were heard in the order that they appeared on
the Speaker's List.

<u>Mr. Alvin Punkkinen Ben St., Lively</u>	Mr. Punkkinen advised that he was the President of the Sudbury Biathlon Club and indicated they were established many years ago. He stated that if the new Firearms By-law came into effect, the Club would cease to exist because it would have to move out of the city limits. He stated that provincial competitions, which has been held in the downtown core of cities such as Edmonton, could not be held in Sudbury. Mr. Punkkinen advised that firearms could be discharged within city limits safely as long as the competition is well organized.
<u>Mr. Peter Lapointe Niemi Rd., Lively</u>	Mr. Lapointe asked for clarification on what the existing By-law states and what the proposed changes are to the new By-law. He stated that hunters do not have a problem with controlled shooting in residential areas and that they are regulated provincially and federally. He indicated that a lot of homeowners who live in rural areas hunt on their properties as

Mr. Peter Lapointe
Niemi Rd., Lively
(continued)

a tradition and he would be opposed to the limiting of that type of activity. He stated that he has no problem with using common sense and having restrictions in residential areas.

Mr. Jim Curry
211 Nepahwin Ave.,
Sudbury

Mr. Curry stated that he had mixed emotions and had no problem with the part of the new by-law where it states no discharging of firearms in residential areas. He stated that camps, farms, a seasonal residence, etc. should be excluded from the 1.6 km limit. He indicated that there are a lot of hunters who have hunted for many years in areas where, according to the proposed by-law, they will not be allowed to hunt in the future.

The Chair outlined that the existing by-laws are still in effect and that the proposed by-law is just a draft. Mr. Curry indicated that the Greater Sudbury Police Service has prohibited individuals from skeet shooting, quoting the new by-law.

Mr. Ross Elliot
15 Power St.,
Copper Cliff

Mr. Elliot stated that this was the first time he heard about this meeting and the subject being discussed. He asked those present if they were sure there was a problem and how many problems have there been in the past that would warrant a by-law which would put more restrictions on hunters.

Mr. Elliot stated that since there hasn't been any problems with the present by-laws, we would be wasting money and building more bureaucracy into the system, by creating anew by-law. He also stated that the easy way out would be to pass a new by-law, which would be a mistake. He hopes that the Task Force will recommend to City Council "what should be done in one way, shape or form". He also stated that citizens are not overjoyed at the prospect of an all encompassing by-law that would restrict their freedom to hunt.

Mr. Gary Lampi advised those present that the police and MNR receive four complaints per year which they investigate. They have established that hunters are doing exactly what they are legally licenced to do.

Mr. John Signoretti
1041 Leedale Ave.,
Sudbury

Mr. Signoretti stated that the whole issue is that the new by-law is too wide spread. His interpretation of the by-law is that there will not be any discharge of firearms within the City of Greater Sudbury and no one seems to know what the boundaries are. He has overheard that no one will be able to discharge a firearm as far north as Levack and as far west as Nairn. He stated that there are a number of safe places within those boundaries and perimeters for people to hunt. He asked where this whole thing is coming from, the police? He feels that hunters are being discriminated against. He gets an impression that people believe hunters are not good people. He stated that everything goes back to gun registration and we might as well hang up our shotguns. He indicated that the range of a shotgun is one hundred yards and that there are safe areas to discharge a shotgun. He stated that there is no need for a new by-law and to leave things the way it is.

The 'Speakers' List' now complete, the Chair asked if there was anyone present who wished to address the Task Force.

Mr. Michael
McConnell
544 Black Lake Rd.,
Lively

Mr. McConnell advised that he just moved to the City of Greater Sudbury and is a member of the Sudbury Rod & Gun Club. He also advised that his son is a member of the Cadets and the Cadet Captain is worried they won't be able to discharge their air rifles in their facility. He indicated that a air rifle is classified as a firearm. Any club using a gun such as a handgun, air rifle, etc. in a safe, contained area should be permitted.

He indicated that the Sudbury Rod & Gun Club has been in existence for thirty years and is located on a dead end road in the bush. He advised that a permanent residence has been constructed near the Club, which will be affected if the by-law is passed.

He stated that shooting a firearm within city limits where there is residential housing, should not be allowed and is currently governed by federal and provincial laws.

He advised that in Kingston everyone would get together and hunt on the farm. If the by-law is passed, this would restrict citizens from hunting on farmland and put a stop to family gatherings. Also, summer cottages used for hunt camps in the winter would be affected.

Mr. Michael
McConnell
544 Black Lake Rd.,
Lively
(continued)

There are many restrictions on gun use now, such as moving a gun from place to place. He stated "keep it simple stupid", keep it away from the cities and towns, use common sense.

He advised that if parents have to transport children who are in cadets or any other gun clubs to areas outside of the City of Greater Sudbury limits, this would put a lot of local clubs out of business. He feels that clubs, where shooting is in an enclosed building, should be exempt.

Mr. Mark Rautiainen
192 Ninth Ave.,
Lively

Mr. Rautiainen indicated that if the police receive four to five complaints a year, how many complaints are received about dogs? He stated he is tired of hunters "getting slammed" in the news. He indicated that he was "kicked out" of the area where he used to hunt and can not skeet shoot there anymore.

Mr. Peter Lapointe
228 Niemi Rd.,
Lively

Mr. Lapointe recommended that the by-law address activities such as cadets, biathlon, etc., which have different practices and areas of concern. He also recommended that areas such as Levack, Capreol, Walden, which also have different issues, be addressed separately. Once these areas of concern are established, implement them into one by-law.

He stated that common sense should be used. If an area is classified as residential or industrial, hunting would not be permitted and if classified as rural, allow hunting.

The Chair asked Mr. Lapointe if the proposed by-law should follow zoning as the boundaries for the discharge of firearms. Mr. Lapointe advised the Task Force that this would minimize certain restrictions.

Mr. Max Battistoni
2545 Blyth Rd.,
Sudbury

Mr. Battistoni questioned whether there was Crown Land in the City of Greater Sudbury. The Chair responded there was Crown Land. Mr. Battistoni stated that the by-law should not address the use of firearms on Crown Land and that the MNR or Crown should be addressing it.

Mr. Leo McLaughlin
256 Tenth Ave.,
Lively

Mr. McLaughlin feels there is no need for any changes to be made to the existing by-laws. He stated that there are few incidents in the City of Greater Sudbury involving firearms and that there are existing laws pertaining to discharging firearms within a residential area. He indicated that with the price of gas increasing, driving long distances to hunt is not feasible.

Mr. Leo McLaughlin
256 Tenth Ave.,
Lively
(continued)

Mr. McLaughlin indicated that if hunting is removed from the entire area around Sudbury and surrounding towns, the City of Greater Sudbury would have to address an increase in the bear population. If this became a problem, the police and conservation officers would have to respond, which is paid out of the "public purse", meaning the people of the City of Greater Sudbury would be paying more to remove bears while having privileges taken away from them.

Mr. Tom Dolan
44 Paul St.,
Whitefish

Mr. Dolan stated he was disappointed the way this meeting has gone. The information they have received was not good. He cannot understand why the City is changing the existing by-laws. He indicated that this room should be full and that this was poorly advertised. He indicated that people could stand here with suggestions, but if the Task Force does not know where they are going, it is a waste of time. Use common sense. He stated that he was always under the impression that the restriction was one mile and not five hundred yards. He also stated that there is no need for any changes. Leave the by-laws alone because the regulations are already in place, and are taught during hunting courses.

Ms. Ethel Kingston
9 Gorman Ave.,
Naughton

Ms. Kingston advised that she is not a hunter but lives in a house where hunting is a religious experience. She thanked the Task Force members for their time. She explained that at times the members might feel like they are getting beat up but this is because people are emotional about their hunting.

She stated that in terms of the proposed by-law, the Task Force should look at the definition of residential areas and what defines a residential area. Also look at the type of weapons being used such as a air gun because it would be nice to see cadets and biathlon continue. It would also be nice to see hunting continue in the Whitefish area which is deemed rural.

Mr. Neil MacDonald
223 Second Ave.,
Lively

Mr. MacDonald stated that there was no need for a by-law because if someone were to shoot in their backyards, the police would respond. If someone was to start shooting downtown Sudbury, they would be arrested.

Joseph

Joseph stated that he was not a hunter but everyone in this room was a hunter. He indicated that the by-laws should be left alone and let the hunters hunt for their own purpose and survival. Hunters do not hunt in residential areas. Hunting is a "sport and a money making thing" and should be organized where it can be a safe and fun sport. All the guns in one area, fishing in one area, residential in another area. If you are going to live near a shooting zone, be prepared to hear the guns. He stated that gun owners should be responsible for their own guns and left alone. The City should figure out where the zone is and if its in a wooded area, five to ten miles in the bush and no one resides there, what is the danger. He stated that the Task Force should get more information, get it right and then bring it to the public.

Ms. Jeannine Aubrie
Francophone and
Metis Nation

Ms. Aubrie stated that there is a lot of people who are against hunting and fishing and if not careful, people will not be able to hunt or fish anymore within the boundaries of City of Greater Sudbury. When gun control first came in, they abolished handheld crossbows and the factory that produced them had to lay off five hundred workers. These regulations are going to put people out of work. She stated that the "City of Greater Sudbury is starting to become the most over regulated city in Ontario". There are enough rules and regulations so keep everything the way it is.

Mr. Daniel Marquis
75 Burr Oak Dr.,
Whitefish

Mr. Marquis stated that we should keep the by-laws the way they are for the youth, so they can go hunting after school. He also stated why pass a by-law that would restrict the youth and have them hanging around town to create mischief.

Mr. Dan Canapini
1101 Soloy Dr.,
Sudbury

Mr. Canapini stated that Council has made up their minds already and no matter what the Task Force recommends, they will not consider it. He advised that the police has prevented him from shooting where he has hunted for the past thirty-five years.

Mr. Bill Young
166 Island Rd.,
Whitefish

Mr. Young stated that the City should be more concerned in getting residents transferred from Ontario Hydro to Greater Sudbury Utilities and having to pay long distance charges within the City of Greater Sudbury. "If it's not broke don't fix it." He stated that we do not even have decent roads anymore.

Mr. Regan Corelli
492 Brenda Dr.,
Sudbury

Mr. Corelli advised that there was a lack of promotion and advertising for this meeting. He stated that the Task Force should bring a draft by-law back to the public, advertise weeks ahead of time, so places can be full with people who have knowledge, experience and a heritage about this law to be drafted. What scares him is that Council does not have to take into consideration what the Task Force brings back to them.

Ms. Jeannine Aubrie
Francophone and
Metis Nation

Ms. Aubrie advised that she is a member of the Archery Club in Estaire and if Estaire becomes part of the City of Greater Sudbury, the owner of the Club will have to close his doors. Keep things the way they are.

Mr. George Canapini
17 Catalina Crt.,
Sudbury

Mr. Canapini agreed with everything that was said at the meeting. He indicated that Council and the Task Force should be aware that shooting, hunting and competitive shooting has a tremendous amount of tradition and historical basis in Northern Ontario and the Sudbury area. This should be considered before the by-law is passed.

Mr. Ken Jewitt
156 Hillcrest St.,
Lively

Mr. Jewitt asked the Chair when the new by-law will be coming into effect.

The Chair advised that the Task Force has been mandated to bring all recommendations to Council in January 2006.

Mr. Alvin Punkkinen
9 Ben St., Lively

Mr. Punkkinen asked that the Task Force ensure there are provisions or allowances in the new by-law to allow for special events to be held.

Mr. Jim Curry
211 Nepahwin Ave.,
Sudbury

Mr. Curry reiterated the point that there is a very strong anti hunting and fishing lobby in this country. He stated that we have heard loud and clear that people do not want to change anything. Changing all the by-laws into one by-law, gives the politicians, police and anti-hunting groups the opportunity to "stick something into that new combined by-law that is going to further limit our ability to hunt and fish".

Closing Remarks

Dr. Stinson advised that minutes of each of the public input meetings will be provided to the Task Force who will review all comments. He expressed appreciation to those present for their attendance and input at this meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Dr. Darren Stinson, Chair

Corrie-Jo Caporale, Recording Secretary

**CITY OF GREATER SUDBURY FIREARMS REGULATION TASK FORCE
INFORMATION SESSION AND PUBLIC INPUT
WARD 2**

**Club 50 Rayside-Balfour
25 Main Street West, Chelmsford**

**Wednesday, September 7, 2005
Commencement: 7:00 p.m.**

Chair

ROY POLSKY, VICE-CHAIR PRESIDING

Present

Michael Pilon, Member, Firearms Regulation Task Force;
Councillor Ron Bradley, Ward 2 and Member, Firearms
Regulation Task Force

Councillor Claude Berthiaume, Ward 2

City Officials

Angie Haché, Acting City Clerk

Welcome and
Opening Remarks

Mr. Polsky welcomed the twenty-four (24) citizens in attendance and advised the purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for the public to provide comments and suggestions on the proposed by-law to regulate the discharge of firearms and other weapons in the City of Greater Sudbury.

PUBLIC INPUT

Submissions were heard in the order that they appeared on the Speaker's List.

Allan Guse
Pilon Crescent
Chelmsford

Mr. Guse advised he has lived in the Sudbury area most of his life. He resides on a hobby farm outside of Chelmsford, where he and his family raise horses and enjoy the outdoors. A big part of his life has been hunting and much of his spare time during the fall as a teenager was spent hunting with family members on his grandfather's farm in Balfour Township. One major reason he lives in the country is, he enjoys going for a walk in the bush with his shotgun and occasionally shooting a partridge or two. He owns rifles, bows, shotguns and a pellet gun. He stated that the proposed by-law will severely restrict his enjoyment and that of his family on their property. They own 78 acres in a rural area, but if the by-law is passed he will not be able to discharge any of his guns or bows anywhere on his property. They would be forced to travel greater distances to enjoy something they have always had in rural and bush areas around Dowling and Chelmsford.

Allan Guse
(Continued)

Hunting and shooting activities are becoming increasingly restricted through changing laws and increased loss of access to traditional hunting and shooting areas. In reviewing literature regarding the proposed by-law, it appears that the proposed by-law has taken the worst and most restrictive of the former by-laws and extended them to the entire Greater Sudbury Area, with little or no thought towards traditional uses of these land areas. The by-law is also being proposed for safety reasons, despite the fact that police and MNR witnesses to your committee have stated that there have been no concerns with firearm use in the area in the past. He sees no basis, either safety related or otherwise for the wording of the proposed by-law. He is extremely upset about the prospect of this by-law being passed as is. There should be major revisions, with input from people who actually know what they are talking about, before any further proposal is made. Consideration should be given as to what the reasons are for the by-law, what safety or other concerns there may be and how to address these matters for specific types of firearms and bows and how they are being used.

Jim Little
Dowling

Mr. Little stated that the public session was poorly publicized. He indicated that hunting season brings in transients who tend to come through his property. As well, during hunting season there is increased traffic on his property. With the increased traffic on bush and camp roads it may increase incidents of theft and vandalism. He indicated that vehicles go cruising by his home, up and down bush roads travelling at considerable rates of speed. He is looking at putting up obstacles, such as speed bumps to reduce speeding. He would like to see signage and some restriction with respect to the discharge of firearms. He indicated that people should be more knowledgeable about what areas they can or cannot discharge firearms. Bears are coming onto his property, as there is a bear baiting station nearby. He is not against bear hunting but is against wounded bears near his dwelling. He suggested that bear baits be moved to at least 2 kilometres to minimize wounded bears from his property. There should also be signage indicating there are active bear baits in the area as well as the trail where the bear baits are located.

Yvon Goudreau
Chelmsford

Mr. Goudreau stated that the previous speaker spoke about bear baits, but reminded him that he built his home in the bush. Mr. Goudreau likes to go in the bush to hunt. He understands concerns regarding safety. He stated that last

Yvon Goudreau
Chelmsford
(continued)

week he was called by a resident of Bonin Street with five bears in his back yard. When someone calls the Greater Sudbury Police regarding the discharge of a firearms they are told by the Police service that they will weigh all the evidence. He stated there should be a by-law for bears, as bears are about the safest hunt there is – set up a bait area and shoot them at the bait area. For safety reasons, it should be taken into consideration that bear outfitters be permitted, when called upon to shoot bears, not moose or birds.

Andy Zandarin
President
Copper Cliff
Gun Club

Mr. Zandarin, President of the Copper Cliff Gun Club sees no reason to change the present by-law, except for discharging a rifle because a bullet can travel 400 yards. The opinion of his club is that for a rifle the distance should move back from 400 to 500 yards.

Kirk Koski
Michael's South
Shore Road
Dowling

Mr. Koski has been hunting in the Dowling area since he was 15 years old. The proposed by-law requires 1.6 km from the nearest residence and agrees with that distance for the City of Sudbury however, it is not the same in the outlying communities. If a 1.6 km circle were drawn around every dwelling in Onaping Falls all areas to hunt would be eliminated.

Tim Burns
Dowling

Mr. Burns asked who is putting forward the proposed by-law.

The Chair responded the Firearms Regulation Task Force is holding public hearings in all wards of the City to collect input concerning the draft by-law.

Mr. Burns indicated that he would not have known about this evening's meeting, if his father had not read about it in the Sudbury Star. He indicated that both sets of his grandparents were homesteaders and everyone had a gun. He stated that this is a God given right in this country. This is bush area, and provided safety is exercised and common sense, the use of firearms should be permitted. He indicated that the proposed by-law will handcuff everyone. Bears in this area have no fear – there were no problems until the spring bear hunt was cancelled. He stated they have a right to protect their cattle and themselves without calling the police or the MNR.

The Chair of the meeting advised that all citizens currently have the right to dispose of an animal for safety reasons.

Mark Laberge
Michael's South
Shore Road
Dowling

Mr. Laberge grew up in Levack and has been hunting since the age of eleven with his father and brother. He indicated that the biggest problem he has heard this evening is safety. Mr. Laberge stated that there has not been any shootings or shots through houses – he is baffled at the comments on safety issues. He indicated presently there are so many laws on the books that deal with the unsafe use of firearms and this is just another way to handcuff people. He advised that he provided a written submission to the Task Force. In his written submission he includes articles of what is done in the United States and pointed out they have more open ideas about fire arms. The Americans permit the discharge of firearms within one mile of a dwelling unless the owners allows a closer distance. The biggest restriction in the by-law is the 1.6 km distance from a dwelling, which does not make sense for the use of shotguns and bows. He indicated that hunting is part of why young people want to stay in Sudbury area and why they want to return to the area. He does not believe a by-law is needed. All that is needed is common sense.

Daniel Mainville
Chelmsford

Mr. Mainville pointed out it is not just a question of bears – coyotes are out more and more. He has ducks, chickens and a two year old daughter and bears/coyotes come to his backyard. He requested that the farming aspect be taken into consideration because crops and animals must be protected.

Alymer Guse
Gordon Lake Road

Mr. Guse stated that anyone who is not heard and does not voice his/her opinion is missing an opportunity because at the end of the day, all comments will be counted. He owns a farm and has shot many bears. In subdivision areas there are bears in the back yards. The only good bear is a dead one. He heard of a bear attack yesterday where a lady was killed and stated that people going in provincial parks should have a rifle because there can be a cantankerous bear in the area. With respect to farmers having geese in their fields, there should be no limit on what a farmer can do to protect his crops, using common sense. Why do we need legislation that makes no sense whatsoever? Again he encouraged people in attendance to speak their opinion and exercise their rights otherwise they are being eroded.

The Chair advised that in Rayside-Balfour you can presently discharge a firearm within 400m of a dwelling.

Jim Busch
Walford Road
Sudbury

Mr. Busch stated he heard several people this evening speak regarding protecting themselves from bears and farmers protecting their fields from geese and does not understand how anyone could want to stop that. His concern is the sport of hunting. He grew up hunting, continues to hunt and takes his children hunting. He moved to the Sudbury area because he can hunt and fish just like he did in Fort Frances. The Sudbury area encompasses some of the best waterfowl and woodcock. He pointed out that there have been no incidents of people being shot by hunters.

Aaron Ayotte
Pilon Crescent
Chelmsford

Mr. Ayotte would like the Task Force to consider all the former towns that kept their existing by-law. He understands the by-laws have to be meshed together, but would be happy if Ward 2 could retain its current by-law.

Mark Laberge
Michael's South
Shore Road
Dowling

Mr. Laberge stated that the current Onaping Falls By-law would be better as it permits discharge of firearms within 300m of a dwelling.

Jim Little
Dowling

Mr. Little stated that what is needed is more "hunter education" with respect to signage and respect for people's property. Whatever is proposed in the by-law, Mr. Little and the person who has bear baits will need to discuss problems and come up with a plan. He is a landowner who is concerned about safety. He chooses not to hunt and disrupt the environment he lives in. He has had many encounters with bears and has not had a problem. He stated that everyone should become more knowledgeable about bears and hunting and how to do it safely.

Allan Guse
Pilon Crescent
Chelmsford

Mr. Guse indicated there are already extremely rigid gun laws which make you feel like a criminal. With all these laws and high penalties, he does not do anything illegal with his gun. There are many existing gun laws to protect citizens and they must be used. If a by-law must be passed, the distance factor for a rifle must be different than that of a pellet gun, bow, or shotgun as they are completely different things. With respect to the distance from a dwelling, there should be an exception if the person owns the property or has the permission of the owner. He also referred to the economic impact of hunting pointing out that serious hunters spend a lot of money. He indicated that Dowling and Rayside have by-laws that he can live with.

Claude Berthiaume
Councillor
Ward 2

Councillor Berthiaume advised he was present as an observer to listen to the public's comments. His chance to provide input will be when the final report is submitted to Council. The Task Force will decide on whether there is a need for a by-law and if one is needed what will it include. He has heard the comments this evening with respect to Ward 2 maintaining what currently exists.

Ron Bradley
Councillor
Ward 2

Councillor Bradley indicated that he too has heard the public's comments and that the current by-laws in Ward 2 should be maintained. When Council were discussing the proposed Firearms By-law there were some Councillors that asked why change was needed. Council knew the recommendation might come back that the by-law is not needed but Council agreed that public input was needed.

Closing Remarks

Mr. Polsky advised that minutes of each of the public input meetings will be provided to the Task Force who will review all comments. He expressed appreciation to those present for their attendance and input at this meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Roy Polsky Presiding

Angie Haché, Acting City Clerk

**CITY OF GREATER SUDBURY FIREARMS REGULATION TASK FORCE
INFORMATION SESSION AND PUBLIC INPUT
WARD 3**

**Valley East Citizen Service Centre
4100 Elmview Drive, Hanmer**

**Thursday, September 8, 2005
Commencement: 7:00 p.m.**

Chair **ROY POLSKY, MEMBER, FIREARMS REGULATION TASK FORCE, CHAIR**

Present Councillor Bradley, Member, Firearms Regulation Task Force;
M. Pilon, Member, Firearms Regulation Task Force; G. Lampi,
Member, Firearms Regulation Task Force

Councillor Rivest - Ward 3

City Officials F. Bortolussi, Planning Committee Secretary

Welcome and Opening Remarks Roy Polsky welcomed the approximately twenty-five (25) people in attendance and advised the purpose of the meeting was to give the public an opportunity to provide comments and suggestions on the proposed by-law to regulate the discharge of firearms and other weapons in the City of Greater Sudbury.

PUBLIC INPUT

Submissions were heard in the order that they appeared on the Speaker's List.

Les Henderson
Fire Route O
Azilda Les Henderson indicated he had an objection to the requirements regarding the appointment to the advisory board having to be a member of the Federation of Anglers and Hunters. He indicated that, at this time of year, there are a lot of shotgun blasts in the area. He stated that he is not anti-hunting and feels there are compromises to arrive at an amicable resolution. He lives on a private road which he maintains and has had hunters trespass onto his property. He feels people are hunting freely on private property without permission and there is no enforcement of the laws.

Robert Allen
Hanmer Robert Allen indicated he is a past president of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters. He feels the by-law is written very poorly and questioned some definitions in the proposed by-law (i.e. bow, dwelling) and feels the definitions in the proposed by-law should be the same as federal and

Robert Allen
Hanmer (continued)

provincial definitions. He indicated that bow is not considered a firearm under federal definition and feels that hunt camps should be exempt. He further indicated that hunting is already heavily regulated and should not be made more complex. He understands that people are concerned with trespassing and feels the onus is on the hunting community to educate people.

Gerald Babin
Wilfred Street
Hanmer

Gerald Babin indicated he was a gun safety instructor and has hunted all his life. He feels the proposed by-law is more of a noise by-law than a firearms discharge by-law. He feels a rifle is different than a shotgun or bow which is not reflected in the proposed by-law and suggested a distance of 100 yards for a bow and 200 yards for a shotgun and allowing certain firearms in certain areas. He stated there are problems now with trespassing that can not be enforced and questioned the enforcement of additional laws. He feels 1/4 mile for shotguns and bows is an adequate distance.

The Speakers' List now complete, the Chair asked if there was anyone present who wished to address the Task Force.

Dan Bazinet
Dixon Lake Road
Hanmer

Dan Bazinet indicated he lives in a remote area; his home originally being a hunt camp. He wants a reasonable decision concerning the proposed by-law and feels treating bows and high powered rifles the same is not common sense. He wants to make sure that these public meetings are really for the public's input to the Task Force for their consideration when making recommendations regarding the proposed by-law and not only because they are required by legislation.

Al Dzuirban
Lincoln Crescent
Capreol

Al Dzuirban asked whether "regulating" in the proposed by-law meant "prohibiting" which would take away his right to defend his property. Under the proposed by-law, he would not be able to use his bow which he has for the past thirty years. He can understand if it is in the old City but, not in Capreol, where he feels it would be more of a prohibiting by-law rather than a regulating by-law.

Roy Polsky and Councillor Bradley advised him that his rights would not be taken away.

Gilbert Labre
Blezard Valley

Gilbert Labre has a farm in the Valley and shoots coyotes, etc. that come onto his property as he has lost many chickens. Although he was compensated \$1,000, he lost 700 chickens or \$10,000. Any by-law should allow for the defence of one's

Gilbert Labre
Bleazard Valley
(continued)

property. Also, he feels there are already many laws and sees no reason for additional laws. Existing laws should be enforced. If a by-law is passed, he feel there should be something in it to allow farmers to protect their livestock.

Michel Pilon advised that the task force did not write the proposed by-law. He did advise that Section 31 of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act provides for the protection of property.

Rick Clouthier
Capreol

Rick Clouthier advised he is teaching his two sons how to shoot a pellet gun at a local gravel pit. He advised there are many children with pellet guns in the area and therefore all firearms should not be classified together.

Mark Aubin
Theresa Street
Hanmer

Mark Aubin feels it is a question of zoning. He has been deer hunting on a friend's property east of Whitefish which is zoned rural seasonal. He feels the area is wilderness and there is no danger to anyone. He has also been hunting on the farm for years and can see the house in the background. The proposed by-law would prevent this hunting.

Brian Dzuirban
Sudbury

Brian Dzuirban indicated he is an avid mountain biker. He has biked all around the City of Greater Sudbury and finds each area has its own characteristics. He has never had any problems with firearms or hunters. He feels the proposed by-law could put all areas under the same umbrella. People choose where to live depending on their personal interests. All areas should not be lumped together because of the variety of characteristics within the City.

Chris Lachance
Val Caron

Chris Lachance is a trapper and has a license to trap. Part of his trapping is to get rid of pests which have to be dispensed with on the property and the proposed by-law would disallow. He feels enforcement is an issue regarding trespassing after dark, as people do not respect the laws currently in place.

Jean-Marie Theriault
Hanmer

Jean-Marie Theriault asked the task force to correct the proposed by-law. As some areas of the City of Greater Sudbury are rural and some are urban, he feels that different areas should have different regulations.

Gerard Aubin

Gerard Babin stated he is a member of the Sudbury District Kennel Club which purchased, along with the Sudbury Skeet Club, a 160-acre parcel of land in Worthington. The land was

Gerard Aubin
(continued)

purchased for skeet shooting, train dogs and hunt pheasants. He is concerned how the proposed by-law will affect these activities. He stated that a competition was held on this property which was the largest in Canada and USA. The proposed by-law would end their activities.

Councillor Bradley requested that Mr. Aubin send his concerns to the task force in writing.

Sean McGlade

Sean McGlade lives in Hanmer and has a camp in Rathbun Township. He feels distances have to be dealt with in this proposed by-law.

Councillor Andre
Rivest, Ward 3

Councillor Rivest stated that, although all areas are part of the City of Greater Sudbury, all areas should not be imposed with the same regulations. He indicated people in agricultural areas do not want to lose their rights for agricultural activities. He stated that this would also apply to people in rural as some have agricultural uses.

Andre Bertrand
Hanmer

Andre Bertrand indicated he hunts on the back of his property. He was concerned that a decision would be made without the public. He wants to be certain that the public's concerns are taken into account when a decision is made. He asked that, if the task force developed a by-law similar to existing provincial and federal regulations, would they realize there was no need for a by-law.

Councillor Bradley confirmed that the task force will look closely at the public comments. He also indicated that there will be another public meeting at Tom Davies Square before the report goes to City Council.

Les Henderson
Azilda

Les Henderson stated that there is a by-law in force and, whether it is obeyed or not, it is a mental reminder to the public. He feels this is not only a safety issue. He does not want to be walking on his property with his children and see a hunter on the property carrying an animal he shot. People should have respect for others. He feels a by-law will not be enforced.

Bill McCaffrey
Hanmer

Bill McCaffrey stated that one of the reasons he stayed in Sudbury is because of lifestyle - the outdoors with hunting and fishing. It is a form of relaxation. This is a big attraction for the residents of Sudbury and for people who come to Sudbury. He

Bill McCaffrey
Hanmer (continued)

feels the proposed by-law could be so restrictive as to cause people to consider leaving. He feels federal and provincial regulations are sufficient. He also feels it makes a difference in which direction someone is shooting. He stated that if the neighbours are informed, and the shooting is in a safe direction, this activity would be safe. He stated that most hunters are ethical who follow all the laws and regulations in a safe and legal manner.

Closing Remarks

Dr. Stinson advised that minutes of each of the public input meetings will be provided to the Task Force who will review all comments and make a report to Council. He expressed appreciation to those present for their attendance and input at this meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Dr. Darren Stinson, Chair

Franca Bortolussi, Recording Secretary

**CITY OF GREATER SUDBURY FIREARMS REGULATION TASK FORCE
INFORMATION SESSION AND PUBLIC INPUT
WARD 4**

**Garson Community Centre
100 Church St., Garson**

**Thursday, September 8, 2005
Commencement: 7:00 p.m.**

Chair **DR. DARREN STINSON, MEMBER, FIREARMS
REGULATION TASK FORCE, CHAIR**

Present J. Rivet, Member, Firearms Regulation Task Force; G. Lampi,
Member, Firearms Regulation Task Force

City Officials CJ Caporale, Council Secretary

Welcome and
Opening Remarks Dr. Stinson welcomed the twenty-two (22) people in
attendance and advised the purpose of the meeting was to
provide an opportunity for the public to provide comments and
suggestions on the proposed by-law to regulate the discharge
of firearms and other weapons in the City of Greater Sudbury.
He outlined the purpose of the Firearms Regulation Task
Force, what their mandate is and what the timelines are.

PUBLIC INPUT

Submissions were heard in the order that they appeared on
the Speaker's List.

Mr. Harvey
Quackenbush
William St., Garson

Mr. Quackenbush advised that his camp is located on
Bonanza Lake in MacLennan Township. He asked the Chair
if the new by-law will prevent the discharge of firearms within
the City of Greater Sudbury.

The Chair advised that currently there is no new by-law, that all
existing by-laws are still in effect.

Mr. Quackenbush stated that when the (former) Town of Nickel
Centre brought in a new firearms by-law, they wanted to
restrict the discharge of firearms by one mile for shotguns,
two/three miles for rifles in a residential area. If this new by-
law is passed, he would have to sell his camp, because he is
only two-three miles from Skead. The City of Greater Sudbury
has to understand our location. There is a lot of hunting and
bush country towards Kukagami. How are they going to
prevent no discharge of firearms within the City of Greater
Sudbury?

Mr. Harvey
Quackenbush
William St., Garson
(continued)

He stated that he does not agree with the proposed by-law, that the existing by-law for Nickel Centre, which has a restriction of 1.5 miles from residential areas, should stay in effect. "If its not broken, don't fix it".

Mr. Rod Jarmovitch
Stacey Cres., Garson

Mr. Jarmovitch suggested that the Task Force look at all the various parameters of the existing by-laws, combine them, and bring back to the public for input. He stated that he has property on Red Deer Lake Road, which is well within the City limits, and the new by-law will deny him hunting or if a bear threatens his property, what is he suppose to do? He stated that he was amazed at the quality of the meetings, with nothing concrete to present to the public. He indicated that everything is being left to the public and that Council does not have to consider their recommendations, that this was an insult.

Mr. Don Boyer
O'Donaghue Dr.,
Garson

Mr. Boyer questioned whether or not native rights to hunt on Crown Land within the City of Greater Sudbury would be taken away once the new by-law is in effect.

The Chair advised that a municipal by-law does not supercede any provincial or federal laws.

Mr. Boyer indicated that Whitson and Garson Lakes are surrounded by a lot of Crown Land and is an area where many hunt bear, deer, moose and duck. With the new by-law, hunters would have to go further into the bush.

Mr. Boyer stated that it would not be right having a by-law that would remove BB guns and air guns from our young hunters. This type of gun teaches youth how to operate weapons and are more forgiving than a shotgun.

He also stated that the current by-law is a good by-law and should stay in effect. One mile is a reasonable distance for the discharge of firearms.

He also indicated that Nickel Centre has a gun range along Garson-Coniston Road, and a shooting range (Garson Rod & Gun Club) on Goodwill Drive, which would be affected.

The Chair advised that all organizations licensed or authorized by the appropriate Authority would be exempt.

Those present agreed that the discharge of a firearm within 1.6 km of five permanent residences was reasonable and that a greater distance be permitted for camps and hunt camps.

The 'Speakers' List' now complete, the Chair asked if there was anyone present who wished to address the Committee.

Mr. Hearley Hinds
Garson

Mr. Hinds indicated that there are areas within the City of Greater Sudbury that will require different rules, such as trappers' camps, which should be exempt, and allow residents to register their summer camps as hunt camps.

Mr. Robert Roy
Bowland's Bay

Mr. Roy advised that there should be exemptions for shotguns which do not carry far. Federal regulations allow hunters to fire lead shots if he is further than 400 meters, approximately 1500 feet, from any body of water. There is no reason why a shotgun can not be fired within 400 meters of any dwelling. Anyone who has a shotgun, rifle or any kind of weapon used for the purpose of hunting, knows through their training not to shoot in or near a residential area. These laws are regulated by the Federal and Provincial governments.

Mr. Roy indicated that the City of Greater Sudbury "has really put their foot into this". They are dealing with the Federal government, Canadian Firearms Centre (CFC), the Provincial government who regulate their hunting licences, and the Wildlife Management Units (WMU) which regulates where and when they can hunt.

Mr. Roy stated that if a "carte blanche" by-law is passed he would have to hunt in Gogama or further.

Mr. Andre Menard
Wahnapitae

Mr. Menard agreed with Mr. Roy's comments regarding the use of shotguns. He indicated that he has hunted partridge, rabbit, ducks, etc. for the past twenty years. Regarding safety, he indicated that when using air rifles and air pistols, if the proper backdrop is used in their backyard, there should not be a problem with someone getting hurt. In regards to shotguns, the distance in a residential area should be less than a rifle, this is safe. Rifles should have a farther area. The shooter is responsible for knowing what his backdrop is. Again the question is, has there been any accidents in the City of Greater Sudbury? One mile is too far for most firearms.

Mr. Mike Curran
Garson-Coniston
Rd.,
Garson

Mr. Curran stated that this Task Force is looking for common sense and different ways to determine what everyone has said. The Task Force will have to define rural and residential and determine the difference and also the difference between Crown Land, private land and public land and whether it is in a residential area or not. They will have to determine a safe distance for shotgun and for rifles. He indicated that in Southern Ontario, the different counties allow only rifles or shotguns because of the distance and power. The Task Force will have to consider the speed and velocity of the bullet and firearm concerned. When living in a rural area, the Task Force will have to determine the safe distance from the lot line. The City of Greater Sudbury has no right to dictate to landowners whether or not they can hunt on their own property.

Mr. Curran stated that roads will have to be considered regarding distance. Is the road paved, gravel, the distance from the centre line, etc. Use common sense.

He indicated that the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and the Greater Sudbury Police Services have no problem with status quo.

He stated that a buffer zone has to be created and considered a safety zone for both the resident and the hunter.

During amalgamation, the City of Sudbury advised Nickel Centre that all firearm by-laws would remain in effect.

A discussion with those present continued regarding distance, zoning, safety, responsibility, and whether or not existing by-laws have been upheld.

Mr. Haven Hinds
Skead Rd., Garson

Mr. Hinds indicated that Southern Ontario firearm by-laws should not be considered when determining the by-laws in Northern Ontario. These are two different areas.

Mr. Hinds stated that the provincial government does not require him to obtain a Firearms Acquisition Certificate (FAC) for a BB gun, airgun, etc., so why would the City require a permit?

Mr. Andre Menard
Wahnapiatae

Mr. Menard questioned why no has considered by-laws in areas that have not amalgamated? He stated that the City of Greater Sudbury should consider the Federal/Provincial laws.

Mr. Robert Roy
Bowland's Bay

Mr. Roy stated that status quo has suited everyone for many years and that the need for a firearms by-law is not required. He indicated that exemptions should be for farmers, trappers, protection of property, etc. He is afraid we have an "urbanite Council and the people advising these Councillors will go with a big city attitude that firearms should be banned outright". He stated that the provincial and federal regulations have been good four many years.

He also stated that if you are in a safe zone and shooting away from a road, house, and have a proper backdrop, there is no reason why you can not hunt on your own property. The regulations are already in place. The City should take the best of the by-laws and amalgamate them for the greater good. He doesn't want to be told he can not hunt partridge in an area where there is no one.

Mr. Denis Michaud
Falconbridge

Mr. Michaud indicated that having different areas with different regulations, such as distance, location, etc. might be confusing.

Closing Remarks

Dr. Stinson advised that minutes of each of the public input meetings will be provided to the Task Force who will review all comments and prepare a report for Council. He thanked those present for their input at this meeting. He reminded everyone of the meeting at Tom Davies Square, Tuesday, September 13th, 2005.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Dr. Darren Stinson, Chair

Corrie-Jo Caporale, Recording Secretary

**CITY OF GREATER SUDBURY FIREARMS REGULATION TASK FORCE
INFORMATION SESSION AND PUBLIC INPUT
WARD 5**

**Coniston Community Centre/Arena
1 Government Road, Coniston**

**Monday, September 12, 2005
Commencement: 7:00 p.m.**

Chair

**DR. DARREN STINSON, MEMBER, FIREARMS
REGULATION TASK FORCE, CHAIR**

Present

R. Polsky, Member, Firearms Regulation Task Force; J. Rivet, Member, Firearms Regulation Task Force; G. Lampi, Member, Firearms Regulation Task Force; Councillor Caldarelli - Ward 3; Councillor Craig - Ward 5

City Officials

F. Bortolussi, Planning Committee Secretary

Welcome and
Opening Remarks

Dr. Darren Stinson welcomed the approximately ten (10) people in attendance and advised the purpose of the meeting was to give the public an opportunity to provide comments and suggestions on the proposed by-law to regulate the discharge of firearms and other weapons in the City of Greater Sudbury.

PUBLIC INPUT

Submissions were heard in the order that they appeared on the Speaker's List.

Gerry Duhaine

Gerry Duhaine felt that the public input meetings were not very well advertised otherwise there would have been more people in attendance. He feels notices should have been posted in public places like general stores. The meetings should also have been advertised on the television and radio. He is concerned that City Council is trying to make a decision without public input.

The Chair advised that tomorrow night's meeting for Ward 6 will be open to all the public. He also advised that Council realized the importance of this matter and therefore decided to create a task force.

The Speakers' List now complete, the Chair asked if there was anyone present who wished to address the Task Force.

Warren Wheatfield

Warren Wheatfield asked if the by-law was passed and was advised that it had not. He indicated that public safety is protected under the Criminal Code of Canada and questioned the City's authority to deal with public safety. He stated that air guns under a velocity of 500 feet per second are not considered a weapon under the Criminal Code of Canada and asked what definition of air gun the task force would use. He also feels that the phrase 'anyother weapon' is too inclusive.

Doug Cross

Doug Cross, a member of Sudbury East Property Owners, indicated that, looking at the maps, he noted that Wanup was not included.

The Chair explained that these are old maps and not maps for the proposed by-law.

Liette Duhaine

Liette Duhaine stated that if the by-laws work now why not leave this issue alone. There is a difference between people living in the country and people living in the City. She also stated that where they live, close of Wanup, the police can not decide whether it is under OPP or Greater Sudbury Police Service jurisdiction. She questions how anyone will be able to enforce the by-law.

Andre Menard
Wahnapitae

Andre Menard indicated he was also at the Garson meeting. He liked the fact that the members gave their hunting backgrounds as it alleviated some of the concerns of the public. He also stated that air guns are not firearms under the Criminal Code of Canada and should not be considered in this proposed by-law. He stated that hunting is a heritage activity in Ontario and the City should not be doing anything to restrict it. We should look at the least restrictive firearm laws that are currently in the region and, if there have not been any instances under that law, it should be good for everyone. The City should not be restricting its citizens because, once privilege is lost, it is very difficult to get it back. He further indicated that he moved to Wahnapitae because he wanted to hunt and was very disappointed once he found out what the restrictions were in the area.

Introductions

At this time, the task force members introduced themselves and gave their background.

Gerald Geoffrey

Gerald Geoffrey asked about the Councillors on the Task Force and if they were hunters.

Gerald Geoffrey
(continued)

The Chair advised that the Councillors probably had other commitments tonight. He indicated they were not hunters but were very interested in this matter because they represent area where there is a large amount of hunters.

Warren Wheatfield

Warren Wheatfield indicated that, in reading the proposed by-law, he noted that there is no provision for exemption for industrial use. If this proposed by-law is passed, that would preclude the use of a ramset gun anywhere in the City or Inco's use of 10 gauge charges for blowing out plugs when tapping.

Doug Cross

Doug Cross indicated he is not happy with the 1.6 kilometre distance requirement in the proposed by-law which would mean he would have to hunt outside his own property. The same is also true for some of his neighbours. This will severely limit people. He feels the by-law is too restrictive unless the parcel is very large. He feels that if a person owns property they should be able to hunt on their own property and also be able to encroach onto Crown land.

Andre Menard

Andre Menard indicated that when he found out about the restrictions in Nickel Centre, he was not sure where he could hunt. Therefore, for the last ten years, most of his hunting has been out of the region and that is where he spends his money.

Warren Wheatfield

Warren Wheatfield asked how this proposed by-law would affect existing gun clubs within the City due to the encroachment of residential buildings. He is concerned that someone will build close to a gun club and then complain.

Jack Rivet advised that all gun clubs are governed under Chief Firearms Officer. There has been no problem with the public. He indicated that in their report to Council, they will recommend that there be an exemption for existing gun clubs that are in good standing with the Chief Firearms Officer.

Gerald Geoffrey

Gerald Geoffrey asked whether there will be anything in the proposed by-law to protect a homeowner who shoots a bear in his back yard. He feels there should be something in the report to Council to protect homeowners.

The Chair advised that the protection of property falls under the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Fish & Wildlife Act.

Liette Duhaine

Liette Duhaine stated that although she is aware that City Council may not agree with the recommendations of the Task Force, she wants to be sure that the Councillors take the comments of the public into consideration.

The Chair advised that Councillors will receive copies of all minutes of the Task Force and therefore will see all the public comments.

Closing Remarks

Dr. Stinson advised that minutes of each of the public input meetings will be provided to the Task Force who will review all comments and prepare a report for Council. He thanked those present for their input at this meeting. He reminded everyone of the meeting at Tom Davis Square tomorrow night, Tuesday, September 13th, 2005.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Dr. Darren Stinson, Chair

Franca Bortolussi, Recording Secretary

**CITY OF GREATER SUDBURY FIREARMS REGULATION TASK FORCE
INFORMATION SESSION AND PUBLIC INPUT
WARD 6**

**Council Chamber, Tom Davies Square
200 Brady Street, Sudbury**

**Tuesday, September 13, 2005
Commencement: 7:05 p.m.**

Chair **DR. DARREN STINSON, MEMBER, FIREARMS
REGULATION TASK FORCE, CHAIR**

Present Councillor Bradley, Member, Firearms Regulation Task Force;
R. Polsky, Member, Firearms Regulation Task Force; J. Rivet,
Member, Firearms Regulation Task Force; Councillor Reynolds
- Ward 6

City Officials F. Bortolussi, Planning Committee Secretary

Media Sudbury Star, MCTV

Welcome and
Opening Remarks Dr. Darren Stinson welcomed the approximately ten (10)
people in attendance and advised the purpose of the meeting
was to give the public an opportunity to provide comments and
suggestions on the proposed by-law to regulate the discharge
of firearms and other weapons in the City of Greater Sudbury.

PUBLIC INPUT

Submissions were heard in the order that they appeared on
the Speaker's List.

Gord Slade
Sudbury Gord Slade advised he has had experience with firearms since
he was 12 years old. He stated, in his opinion, a by-law is not
necessary because of the existing federal and provincial
regulations and the Criminal Code of Canada. He is not aware
of any charges laid under any of the existing firearms by-laws.
He indicated that Manitoulin Island does not have a firearms
by-law although they have 25,000 deer hunters using high
powered rifles during deer season.

Mr. Slade stated that if it is decided that a by-law is necessary
there should be some changes. He feels the word 'firearms'
should be changed to 'rifles' allowing for shotguns and bows to
be used in a proper way and a discharge distance of 200 yards
is adequate for shotguns, pellet guns and bows. Also, 'within

Gord Slade
Sudbury (continued)

1.6 kilometres of any dwelling house' should be replaced by 1.6 kilometres towards any dwelling house'. Another change would be, rather than one regulation for the whole City, maps be provided outlining specific areas where hunting is not allowed. He does not feel Sudbury hunters need a code of behavior.

Mr. Slade also indicated that there is a problem which geese in the City and feels that any new by-law should deal with controls hunting. This would reduce the problems on lakes, playing fields, golf courses, etc. and geese can be harvested for food kitchens. He also feels there could be an economic benefit if hunters are allowed to come into the City to hunt geese in farmers' fields.

Jerry Laframboise
Robin Street,
Sudbury

Gerry Laframboise is a member of the Nickel District Skeet & Trap Club. She wants to make sure that, if there will be a new by-law, the task force takes into consideration existing clubs already regulated by other shooting regulations.

Brad St. Jean
Naughton

Brad St. Jean stated that with respect to the Walden area, 1.6 kilometre distance near a major highway can be considered. However, in more wilderness areas such as behind Creighton where everyone shoots and no one complains, this distance should not apply.

Joanne Dowdall
Worthington

Joanne Dowdall belongs to the Crean Hill Gun Club and feels it should have a special exemption being in Worthington. She is a hunter who provides for her family by hunting wild game. She stated there are still many people who hunt to eat as they feel it is a healthier choice. The proposed by-law would prevent this. They have been hunting for years and now because they have become part of the City of Greater Sudbury this privilege will be denied them if the proposed by-law is passed although they will not receive other benefits such as transit service. She feels a discharge distance of 500 feet from a building is adequate.

Dan Canapini
Soloy Drive
Sudbury

Dan Canapini stated he is disappointed in the way the public input meetings were scheduled saying they are too close together, during hunting season and not well advertised. There should be more people at this meeting as this is a very important issue.

Dan Canapini
Soloy Drive
Sudbury (continued)

The Chair advised that as the Task Force has to have a report to Council by January or February of 2006, this was the best time for meetings. If meeting were held in the summer, attendance would be poor because of vacations. If they were held later, it would be in deer, moose and bear hunting season.

John Signoretti
Leedale Avenue
Sudbury

John Signoretti feels that it is important that City Council understand there is no reason to change the way things are and a change would not make common sense. The present laws are sufficient. He indicated it is a very emotional issue. He also indicated that the gun clubs will probably have to close if no provision for exemption is made for them.

The Speakers' List now complete, the Chair asked if there was anyone present who wished to address the Task Force.

Lorne Romanko, Jr.
Agincourt Avenue
Sudbury

Lorne Romanko, Jr. stated that the ranges of different types of weapons have to be looked at; 1/4 mile being an adequate discharge distance for a shot gun and one mile for a high powered rifle. He also feels that the laws should stay the way they are.

Tom Dolan
Paul Street
Whitefish

Tom Dolan also feels things should be left as is. There are laws already in place: the provincial and federal laws, the Criminal Code of Canada and trespassing laws. It is important that people post their property to prevent trespassing and hunting. Hunters have knowledge, respect and common sense. He feel complaints are mainly for noise.

Lorne Romanko, Sr.
Downland Avenue
Sudbury

Lorne Romanko, Sr. indicated he feels this issue has been generated by the legal department and is not so much for safety as it is for management or administrative purposes. At amalgamation, the City became a large entity and the flexibility that existed in the smaller local communities disappeared. He stated that hunters are reasonable people who know they can not hunt in a residential area or near roads and there are already federal and provincial regulations. He indicated that if there is a decision to pass a by-law, it should deal with different firearms and different areas separately and should make exceptions for gun clubs and controlled hunts.

Dick Stewart
Gemini Crescent
Sudbury

Dick Stewart indicated he is the past president of Sudbury Games & Fish Protective Association. They have a shooting range on their property and club members are concerned that a new by-law may infringe on their activities. The club is

Dick Stewart
Gemini Crescent
Sudbury (continued)

governed by the regulations of the Chief Firearms Officer. He indicated that people are moving into the area of their property and they are concerned this will jeopardize their situation. If a by-law is passed, he feels signs should be posted to indicate no discharge areas. Also, traditional hunting areas in the City of Greater Sudbury should be identified. Hunters will be upset if areas where they have hunted for years become no discharge areas.

Rolly Coulombe
Cuthbertson Drive
Lively

Rolly Coulombe indicated that it will be hard to develop one for the whole City of Greater Sudbury. He feels things should remain the way they are.

Dan Johnson
Chicago Line Road
Worthington

Don Johnson has been a bear guide for over 20 years. He baits bears in the City of Greater Sudbury. He indicated most of his concerns have already been covered; however, he is concerned this will affect his guiding business.

Kevin Moxam
Kusk Road
Whitefish

Kevin Moxam indicated that the proposed by-law will make the City of Greater Sudbury a restrictive City. People move to the outskirts and people move to the Sudbury area to enjoy hunting and fishing and the proposed by-law will take this away from them. He is also concerned about how the proposed by-law will affect the gun clubs and skeet clubs. Also, he indicated that there is archery in some schools and this proposed by-law would prevent this activity. If hunting is restricted in the Sudbury area, it will affect shop owners who cater to the hunting community economically. He asked if the public would have a chance to view the proposed by-law before it goes to City Council and asked if it would be sent to interested parties.

The Chair advised that the Task Force's report to Council would be made available to the public before it is brought to Council for a vote. It could be made available at the Citizen Service Centres.

Councillor Bradley advised that this matter would be brought back to the public before it is brought to City Council for a vote at which time the public can provide additional input.

Mark Laberge
Windy Lake

Mark Laberge indicated that he also attended the public input meeting in Chelmsford. He indicated that he only heard one person speak in favour of stronger by-laws and more restrictions.

Randy Skippen
Garson-Coniston
Road, Garson

Randy Skiffen indicated that areas around rifle ranges should not be allowed to be developed for safety reasons. He feels that distances can be different depending on whether or not the hunter is aware of where a dwelling is located. He also feels that the Walden area should not be so restrictive. He is a member of the army reserve and moved from Timmins three and one-half years ago. Members of the army reserve in Timmins come to Burwash to shoot as they could not find a safe place in the Timmins area. If the laws are too restrictive, people will not come to the Sudbury area. He also feels that if, the laws are too restrictive, there will be an increase in animal-vehicle strikes, geese population and bear population.

Jeff Laberge
Oakridge Road
Lively

Jeff Laberge indicated he is a member of Ducks Limited, Nickel District Skeet Club and several other organizations. He grew up in the Sudbury area, moved to Toronto for three years and came back because of family and lifestyle. He feels the proposed by-law is following Southern Ontario rules and Greater Sudbury is a unique area and does not want to see it jeopardized. He also feels there is no need for a by-law as present provincial and federal regulations cover unlawful use of firearms. His first recommendation is to have no by-law. His second recommendation is to deal with each firearms individually.

It was requested that copies of the Task Force's report be sent to all hunting and fishing associations.

Dan Canapini

Dan Canapini indicated that distance is irrelevant in the woods.

Joe Lapierre
Penache Lake Road
Whitefish

Joe Lapierre asked if there will be a time limit when the Task Force's report is brought back to the public and a decision is made. He would like a period of thirty days.

Closing Remarks

Dr. Stinson advised that minutes of each of the public input meetings will be provided to the Task Force who will review all comments and make a report to Council. He expressed appreciation to those present for their attendance and input at this meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Dr. Darren Stinson, Chair

Franca Bortolussi, Recording Secretary

FIREARM DISCHARGE TASK FORCE REPORT TO COUNCIL DRAFT 1

BACKGROUND:

As a result of the amalgamation of the former municipalities that made up the former Regional Municipality of Sudbury and several previously unorganized townships into the City of Greater Sudbury, the Province of Ontario has ordered the City of Greater Sudbury to begin the process of creating one bylaw to replace all of the bylaws of the former municipalities.

In February 2005, a draft Firearm Discharge Bylaw was provided to Council for their consideration. As a result of the extremely large volume of negative comment towards the Bylaw as written, the Council of the City of Greater Sudbury struck a task force to research such a bylaw and to obtain public comment of such a Bylaw.

The Mandate of this task force is as follows:

The members of this task force included.

The Task Force met several times over the spring and early summer of 2005. It held public input meetings in every ward in September 2005.

The following report is a culmination of all of the presentations made to the Task Force as well as recommendations from the Public Input Meetings.

THE ISSUES:

- 1) The Task Force assumed that the primary issue for the need for a Firearm Discharge Bylaw is public safety.
- 2) The use of firearms by trained licensed individuals (i.e. hunters and trappers) is legal and moreover is a protected legal activity under the Hunting Heritage Act, R.S.O. .
- 3) The City of Greater Sudbury is a very unique municipality in Ontario. The City likes to refer to itself as a "City of Lakes" with hundreds of lakes within its boundaries. It must be recognized that along with the large number of lakes there goes along with it a vast amount of Crown Land that traditionally has been hunted by law abiding hunters since long before the inception of the Greater City or even its predecessors. Large tracts of this Crown land lay outside a reasonable distance from residences, industrial, or commercial properties and must stay available for hunting.

4) The City of Greater Sudbury is made up of seven former municipalities that each had very different firearm discharge bylaws and several unorganized townships that had no bylaw whatsoever. As a result the Task Force must consider what is in the best interest of all residents of all of these areas.

THE RESEARCH:

The Task Force invited the non-voting resources members to make presentations to the Task Force representing the concerns of the organizations/ institutions that they represent.

The City of Greater Sudbury Bylaw Enforcement Manager, Mr. Brian Gutjhar advised the task Force that his department refers all complaints regarding the discharge of firearms to the Greater Sudbury Police Service.

Sergeant Joe Williams of the Greater Sudbury Police Service did a presentation advising the Task Force of the particulars of the ballistics of the various common calibers and types of firearms used by most hunters. An overview of the firearm section of the Criminal Code of Canada was discussed. Sergeant Williams also advised that there are on average 2-3 firearm discharge complaints annually and that these occur in areas traditionally used by hunters and most occur during the beginning of the hunting season. To his recollection there has not been any fines laid as a result of contraventions of any of the bylaws in the former municipalities that now make up the City of Greater Sudbury.

Mr. Ken Moxam, the president of the Sudbury Trapper's Council, addressed the Task Force and advised that his organization would require exemptions in the bylaw for "trapping cabins" just as there are exemptions for "hunting cabins" in the "draft bylaw". He also noted that his organization is contracted by the City of Greater Sudbury for the purpose of trapping nuisance animals that may be causing damage or threatening damage to City infrastructure. As such, they would need an exemption to be able to dispatch an animal humanely if necessary during the course of their duties under contract by the City.

Mr. Steve Masse, conservation officer for the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and Acting Enforcement Supervisor for the Sudbury District of the MNR advised the Task Force of the importance of the large tracts of Crown Land within the boundaries of the City of Greater Sudbury that is used by a large segment of the population. He also discussed the protection of property issue, especially of golf courses from nuisance species such as geese and the legal issuance of permits to reduce the population of such species on these properties that fall within the boundaries of the City of Greater Sudbury. Any restrictive bylaw could prevent such property owners from protecting their property.

Mr. Greg Farrant of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters gave the Task Force an overview of the safety of hunting and recreational shooting. He discussed the training that hunters must go through before becoming licensed. Mr. Farrant continued to advise

the Task Force of the implications of a restrictive bylaw not only on restricting a legal and protected heritage activity (hunting) but also on the economy.

Mrs. Gilles Goudreau and Ken Lynn representing the Bear Outfitters discussed that a restrictive bylaw would significantly restrict the ability of many bear guides to continue their work as many bear baits are located within the restricted zone in the "proposed bylaw". The outfitters advised that task Force of the significant economic impact to the Community of the influx of thousands of bear hunters that would leave Sudbury and move on to other more welcoming communities.

Mr. Vance McPhee, President of the Crean Hill Gun Club made a presentation to the Task Force on behalf of the shooting sports enthusiasts. He advised that the proposed bylaw with no exemptions for shooting clubs would prevent members of the shooting clubs in the City of Greater Sudbury from pursuing there activity despite the stringent rules that they must adhere to in order to maintain their permits to operate. Another issue brought up was the continued encroachments on these establishments by new residential properties that then could make some of the clubs in contravention of any restrictive bylaw.

Mr. Brian Ramakko discussed with the Task Force the economic importance of hunting to the businesses in the City of Greater Sudbury. This included outdoor stores, restaurants, gas stations and automobile maintenance shops, hotels and motels, grocery stores, convenience stores, etc. A restrictive bylaw may cause much of this money to flow to other communities that are more receptive to the shooting sports. He commented that Sudbury is in a unique position to become more inviting to people that participate in the shooting sports rather than to turn them away through restrictive bylaws. Mr. Ramakko also advised that it precisely this lifestyle that Sudbury can offer (hunting and fishing opportunities within the City) that is helping to recruit and retain much needed professionals (especially physicians) to the City.

Mr. Oliver Barriault, a much respected hunting and firearm educator, advised the Task Force in detail the training that hunters in Ontario must go through in order to be licensed. He also advised of the training that Canadian citizens must go through in order to be able to own a firearm.

The Task Force also accepted and received several written submissions from citizens during its investigation.

The Task Force also held public input meetings in every Ward. During these meetings it was very evident that the hunting population is very emotional when it comes to attempts to restrict their activity. This emotion is understandable given the large number of real or perceived restrictions on this demographic be it the federal gun registry or the cancellation of the spring bear hunt or the moose tag allegation system.

Approximately 137 citizens attended the meetings. Generally the most common sentiment was frustration towards the perceived further restrictions on hunting activities.

There were many comments regarding what was considered to be poor advertising of the public information meetings. Other comments included:

- request for exemptions for the registered biathlon teams for their training and that restrictive bylaws would prevent the City of Greater Sudbury from being a potential host city for district, provincial, national and international biathlon events
- any discharge bylaw should not affect the tracts of Crown land within the City of Greater Sudbury
- many requests at all the meetings requested that all existing bylaws remain as is
- distance limitations from, homes, buildings, structures etc. should be defined depending the types of firearm being used, i.e. different distance for shotgun and rifle
- bows and crossbows, pellet guns, paintball guns (air guns), should be excluded from any bylaw
- present laws in Ontario and Canada adequately cover the discharge of firearms, another level of "bureaucracy is unnecessary
- any bylaw should not restrict a residence from enjoying the use of his property (i.e. acreage in the rural areas that the resident currently hunts on)
- signage should be erected to advise residents of a restricted hunting area and active hunting areas
- many concerns regarding the encroachment of dwellings into traditional hunting areas
- farmers must be able to protect livestock and crops
- exemptions should be made for dog training
- there were many comments suggesting that 1.6 km for a rifle and 400m for a shotgun were reasonable distances to consider for an all encompassing bylaw
- encroachment of dwellings near registered ranges and shooting clubs was discussed and therefore exemptions should be considered if the club was pre-existing and has met all the requirements of the Chief firearms Inspector of Ontario
- exemptions should be made for archery classes in schools

DISCUSSION:

The Task Force considered carefully all of the comments and recommendation of all of the concerned parties that it met with. It is the opinion of the Task Force that reasonable due diligence has been exercised in collecting information to provide reasonable advice to Council.

The Task Force has been very sensitive to the uniqueness of the City of Greater Sudbury not only in terms of its geography with large tracts of Crown Land within it boundaries but also to the fact that every former municipality that has been amalgamated into the City has had very different discharge bylaws as well as the fact that several unorganized townships that have entered the City had no bylaw whatsoever.

It was very interesting to note that no citizen of any of the previous municipalities received a Provincial Offences Act fine regarding the discharge of a firearm in recent memory. This raises the question as to whether or not there is a safety issue with regards to firearm discharge within the City of Greater Sudbury.

The number of Complaints to the Greater Sudbury Police Service is a very small number and after investigation no charges have been laid as the complaints are mostly due to the start of hunting season after a long summer of not hearing firearms being discharged. The non hunting public is usually not aware of the opening dates of most hunting seasons. It is conceivable that if awareness of these dates were increased then these complaint numbers would probably be reduced further.

The Task Force was educated in the Criminal Code of Canada sections relevant to firearms and their use. We also became further acquainted with the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act S.O. 1997 of the Province of Ontario as well as the firearms discharge bylaws of all the former municipalities.

It is the opinion of the Task Force that these bylaws added a further unused and unnecessary level of control and bureaucracy to the discharge of firearms. This opinion was formulated after it became evident that firearm complaints made to the City of Greater Sudbury are referred to the Greater Sudbury Police Service due to the nature of the complaint. It is apparent that after investigation by a police officer that if the discharge of a firearm was dangerous to the public then Criminal Code charges would be laid.

There are those though, that say a firearms discharge bylaw could allow for a police officer to use a lesser punitive measure in the example of an adolescent who inappropriately discharges a pellet or BB gun. This would only be true if air guns would be included in the definition of firearm in the bylaw. The Task Force considered this scenario and felt that although there is some merit it does not warrant a bylaw by itself.

The Task Force began to realize that even the present bylaws are ambiguous at best. The drafting of a new bylaw would require an intimate knowledge of the geography of the City of Greater Sudbury. When this is taken into account, it is the opinion of the Task Force, that there would need to be so many exemptions that the bylaw would be extremely difficult to interpret and enforce.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The mandate of the task Force is as follows:

This report will deal with part 6 first then parts one to 5 in two separate recommendations.

The sixth item in the Task Force's mandate is to consider the development of a Code of Behaviour for Hunters and other recreational users in farming and Wildlife habitats. The task Force considered this item and is of the opinion that the provincial Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act adequately covers the concern regarding the behaviour of hunters during the activity of hunting. Moreover the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters has a Code of Ethics for its members to abide by. It is the belief that the City of Greater Sudbury has no place recommending what is reasonable behaviour for hunters.

RECOMMENDATION #1

After considering all of the submissions provided to the Task Force, the task Force has concluded that the most reasonable option for the Council of the City of Greater Sudbury to consider is to repeal all existing bylaws with no new firearms bylaw to be implemented.

The Task Force has concluded that the Criminal Code of Canada adequately covers the discharge of firearms in public places through several sections including but not limited to:

- a) Section 86.(1) Careless use
- b) S. 87.(1) Pointing firearm
- c) S. 88.(1) Possession of weapon for dangerous purposes
- d) S. 175. (1) Discharging in public place

The Task Force also has been advised that the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act has sections in it that provide for protecting the public safety including but not necessarily limited to:

- a) Section 14 ...a person may not hunt with a firearm in an area prescribed by regulation as being unsafe
- b) Section 16 ...a person that is in the possession of a firearm for the purpose of hunting or trapping shall not discharge or handle the firearm or cause it to be discharged or handled without due care and attention or without reasonable consideration for people or property
- c) Section 17 ...restricts firearms to be loaded within or on vehicles in game inhabited areas

Considering that the Task Force has been advised that there has not been any fines levied by police or bylaw enforcement officers for the discharge of firearms in the former municipalities contrary to their respective bylaws, the Task Force feels that a municipal bylaw is a redundant form of legislation that truly is not necessary in the City of Greater Sudbury.

The concern of public safety, the Task Force believes, is more than adequately covered by the existing laws of the land. The Task Force considered the following scenario:

A complaint is lodged regarding a resident discharging a firearm in his back yard during the activity of target shooting pop cans off of his fence that separates his and the neighbour's property. It is inconceivable to the members of the Task Force that such a blatant disregard for the safety of the neighbourhood that an investigating police officer will only give a prescribed fine under the Provincial Offenses Act for a contravention of City bylaw. In fact the Task Force feels that that resident would be charged with Criminal Code infractions.

The same scenario can be used for a hunter that is shooting game within a distance of a residence that would be considered unsafe. The investigating conservation officer would not lay a City ordinance infraction but would instead lay a charge prescribed in the Fish and Game Conservation Act under its safety provisions.

RECOMMENDATION #2:

The second and last recommendation of the Task Force would be to repeal all existing bylaws and replace them with one bylaw with a very long list of exemption.

This new bylaw would require an acceptable definition of a firearm. The Task Force recommends using the Criminal Code definition for standardization purposes. The definition is found in Sec. 2. A barreled weapon from which any shot, bullet or other projectile can be discharged and that is capable of causing serious bodily injury or death to a person, and includes any frame or receiver of such a barreled weapon and anything that can be adapted for use as a firearm.

Any such bylaw would have to have a separation of distances from residences for shotguns and rifles. Hunting educators submitted to the Task force indicate that 300-400 metres for shotguns and 1.6km for rifles are reasonable.

If bows and crossbows are to be considered and the Task Force recommends that they not be, the distance should be the same as that for shotguns.

Council would have to consider the type of buildings that would have to describe as those which the distance is measured from. The Task Force recommends that the Council consider residences, commercial and industrial buildings within the City of Greater Sudbury. Council must consider exemptions that include but are not restricted to:

- i) seasonal residences
- ii) hunting camps
- iii) trapping cabins
- iv) shooting ranges and clubs

- v) Own home i.e. Provided that prescribed distances are met from neighbouring buildings then the bylaw would not restrict property owners from using their own property for the purpose of shooting sports

Council would have to consider exemptions for the discharge of firearms for the purpose of protection of property and person either private home (considering the ever increasing nuisance bear problems).

Agricultural exemptions must be made for farmers to protect livestock and crops. These exemptions should include such businesses as golf courses as well.

Exemptions must be considered for police officers, Conservation officers, animal control officers, and nuisance trappers under contract by the City in the performance of there prescribed occupations.

Further exemptions should be made for trappers to be able to humanely dispatch animals that are trapped on legally registered trap lines within the prescribed distances.

Council needs to further exemptions for licensed shooting clubs as well as protection from further encroachment by residential building.

Council should take a leadership role to ensure that biathlon clubs are assisted in finding training facilities with licensed clubs.

Exemptions must be considered for dog training purposes so that Greater Sudbury can continue to host regional, provincial and national trials.

If bows and crossbows are to be included then exemptions must be made for archery lessons held in schools and summer day camps in the City of Greater Sudbury.

Any bylaw must be easy to understand and enforceable. It must be fair to all residents by not being too restrictive to those residents from former unorganized townships and those from municipalities with very liberal bylaws yet is more lenient for those from municipalities with fairly restrictive bylaws (i.e. Nickel Centre).

Council should make provisions for signage to assist residents to conform to any new bylaw.

If Council were to consider a single bylaw then there must be an opportunity for oversight and review as it is highly likely that the need for further exemptions will come to light after such a bylaw is passed.