

**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.**

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 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.

Mr. Alvin Punkkinen
Ben St., Lively 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.

Mr. Peter Lapointe
Niemi Rd., Lively 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 a new 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. Aubrie stated that there is a lot of people who are against hunting and fishing and if not careful, people will

Ms. Jeannine Aubrie
Francophone and
Metis Nation

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