

**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 'any other 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.

Liette Duhaine

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

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.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Adjournment

Dr. Darren Stinson, Chair

Franca Bortolussi, Recording Secretary