



Date: November 4, 2024

To: Mayor and Council

Author: Natalie Sharp, Deputy Clerk

RE: Repeal of Hunting Licensing By-law 68-1999

RECOMMENDED ACTION

That Council **REPEAL** By-law 68-1999, being a By-law to issue and charge fees for licences to hunt during the open season Pheasants and Rabbits;

And that the fees for a municipal hunting licence for residents and non-residents **BE REMOVED** from the Town's 2025 Fees and Charges By-law;

And that corresponding By-law 81-2024 **BE ADOPTED** during the By-law stage of this Council Agenda.

BACKGROUND

In 1999, Hunting Licensing By-law 68-1999 was passed by Council to authorize the Town of Kingsville to issue licences regulating the hunting of small game (pheasants and rabbits) during open season. The current fees are \$20.00 for residents and \$25.00 for non-residents.

Section 79(1) of the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act*, 1997 (hereafter, the Act") provides municipalities with the authority to pass by-laws (with authorization from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)) for issuing licences to hunt ring-necked pheasants, cottontails, varying hares and European hares during the open season. However, municipal hunting licensing is discretionary and not mandatory.

DISCUSSION

Administration recommends that it is no longer necessary to have a licence for hunting small game in Kingsville. Repealing this By-law will simplify the process for hunters by eliminating additional local licensing requirements. Hunters will still be able to hunt during the open season for small game without the extra layer of municipal licensing. Appendix A is a map obtained from the 2024 Ontario Hunting Regulations Summary and depicts that very few municipalities in Ontario have municipal hunting licensing to hunt pheasant and rabbit. Repealing the Hunting Licensing By-law would align Kingsville with the majority of municipalities in Southwestern Ontario.

It is important to note that repealing this By-law does not change any existing provincial or federal hunting requirements, such as a provincial hunting licence, deer tag, and federal firearm licensing requirements. Should Council repeal By-law 68-1999, the 2024 Ontario Hunting Regulations Summary will be updated by the Province to reflect the change. Non-municipal hunting regulations will continue to be enforced in Kingsville through Conservation Officers and the Ontario Provincial Police.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Repealing this By-law will not have a significant financial impact on the Town. The revenue generated from issuing municipal hunting licences has typically been less than \$300 in recent years.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

None.

CONSULTATIONS

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PREPARED BY:



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John Norton
CAO