



Date: February 24, 2025
To: Mayor and Council
Author: Shelby Gault
RE: Fantasy of Lights & Migration Festival 2025 Parade Road Closures

RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. That Council **APPROVES** the following streets be closed to vehicle traffic on Saturday, October 18, 2025, for the Migration Festival Parade;
 - a. Staging area at 8 am: Wigle Ave from Main St to Lakeview Ave
 - b. Parade route at 10:00 am heading north on Wigle Ave, turning west onto Main St E, turning south onto Division Rd S, turning east onto Park St
 - c. The parade will end on Division St at Park St; Float traffic will disperse eastwards on Park St
 - d. Destaging area for 30 minutes after the parade end: Park St from Division Rd to 140 Park St

2. That Council **APPROVES** the following streets be closed to vehicle traffic on Saturday, November 16, 2025, for the Fantasy of Lights Parade;
 - a. Staging area 2:00 pm: Wigle Ave from Main St to Lakeview Ave
 - b. Parade route at 5:00 pm: heading north on Wigle Ave, turning west onto Main St E, turning south onto Division Rd S, turning east onto Park St.
 - c. The parade will end on Park St.
 - d. Destaging area for 30 minutes after the parade end: Park St from Division Rd to 140 Park St

BACKGROUND

Migration Festival

2025, marks the 56th year the Migration Festival will have occurred. Hosted by the Migration Festival Committee of Council (Committee) and supported by the Recreation Programs and Special Events Manager and staff from multiple other departments. The event will be held from Thursday, October 16, to Sunday, October 19, 2025.

Community members, school or service groups and businesses are encouraged to enter the parade. In 2024, there were 28 floats/parade participants. There were 27 participants in 2023.

Other activities that will be occurring include the following.

Thursday, October 16, 2025

- 'En Plein' Artists Around Town

Friday, October 17, 2025

- 'En Plein' Artists Around Town
- 6 pm to 9 pm – Great Migration Kick-off featuring a concert and chili dinner at the Grovedale Arts and Culture Centre

Saturday, October 18, 2025

- 'En Plein' Artists Around Town
- 10 am - Migration Festival Parade
- 10 am to 12 p.m. - Quick Paint Competition at Mettawas Park
- 10:30 am to 2 pm – Children's Activities at Lakeside Park, including pumpkin carving, scavenger hunt, Kingsville Express rides, Birds of Prey demonstration, and children's entertainers.
- 10 am to 4 pm - Migration Festival Market at Lakeside Park Pavilion
- 1 pm to 3 pm - Bike Tour by Bike Kingsville
- Events at Jack Miner Migratory Bird Sanctuary

Sunday, October 19, 2025

- 1 pm to 5 pm - Art Show & Sale at the Grovedale Arts and Culture Centre, with the awards ceremony at 4 pm
- 1 pm to 3 pm - Bike Tour by Bike Kingsville
- Events at Jack Miner Migratory Bird Sanctuary

Registration for the parade or market and further details can be found at www.migrationfestival.ca

Fantasy of Lights

Since it began in 1992, the Fantasy of Lights Christmas Festival has been a community event that has included celebrating the season and lighting up the Town. The Fantasy of Lights Committee of Council (Committee) supports this event while working with the Recreation Programs and Special Events manager and staff and multiple departments to make the event a success.

The Fantasy of Lights parade is one of the signature events for children and adults of all ages as they watch Santa Claus arrive in Kingsville. The 2025 Fantasy of Lights Parade is scheduled for Saturday, November 15 starting at 5:00 pm.

Following the parade, everyone is invited to Lakeside Park to watch the Lighting of the Lights Ceremony, free hot chocolate and cookies, live music, and a visit from Santa Claus. The Fantasy of Lights season will continue with the following events.

November 21 – December 20 (Each Friday, Saturday and Sunday)

- Kingsville Express Train Rides
- Hot Chocolate, Cookies
- Businesses, organizations, and families are encouraged to host an evening. In 2024 over 300 hours were volunteered over the course of 15 events.

December 1 - 25

- Light Up the Town - Decorate your house or business

December 2

- Paws & Claus - Bring your four-legged friends for a picture with Santa

December 6 and 7

- Christmas Market
- Bonfires and marshmallows

December 14

- Breakfast with Santa
- Crafts with Santa by the Optimist Club of Kingsville

Select Fridays in November and December

- Free Christmas Concert at Lakeside Park Pavilion

December 31 (New Year's Eve at the Kingsville Arena)

- Free Skating
- Fireworks

Registration for the parade, market and further details can be found at www.fantasyoflights.ca.

DISCUSSION

In 2025, we are proposing the same route for both parades.

The parade will stage at Wigle Ave. It will leave from Wigle Ave/Remark Ave/Main St intersection and head west. It will turn south at the intersection of Main St/Division. It will then 'end' at the intersection of Division St and Herrington St. Parade traffic will be directed to turn east onto Park St to access their assigned destaging areas.

When the parade begins, we will close most of the side streets from accessing Main St and Division St. The exception will be Herrington St and Park St. These two roads will remain open for as long as possible during the parade.

There will be a barricade on Division St south, preventing traffic from heading north onto the parade route, with traffic being directed through to Herrington St or Park St

Once the front car of the parade turns the corner onto Division St, the barricades will be set up at Park St and Herrington St to stop incoming traffic and barricades will be pulled off Division St southernmost entrance to allow the parade floats to continue their southbound path.

Delaying the closures of Herrington St and Park St. allows for the east-west flow of traffic in the southernmost part of Kingsville Centre for as long as possible, which has been encouraged by emergency services in past years.

This method helps improve traffic's ability to navigate around the parade and alleviates congestion around the parade area. In previous years, traffic on Lansdowne Ave and its adjacent streets was trapped until the parade passed them, which resulted in road rage incidents and distress for staff, volunteers, and participants.

When the parade must close off Park St/Herrington St, the barricades blocking Spruce St are expected to be cleared shortly thereafter, meaning Lansdowne Ave can be used to bypass the final leg of the parade route.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no financial considerations outside of the 2025 dollars allotted by Council.

The Migration Festival Event has a budget of \$20,450.

The Fantasy of Lights Event has a budget of \$36,200, which includes the parade and all events, including the New Year's fireworks.

The Recreation Programs and Special Events Team provides significant human resources for both events, as well as support from Parks, Recreation and Facilities, and Public Works.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

All events strive to abide by the single-use plastic policy implemented by the Town.

CONSULTATIONS

- Fantasy of Lights Committee
- Migration Festival Committee
- Senior Management Team

PREPARED BY:

Shelby Gault

Shelby Gault
Community Events Coordinator

REVIEWED BY:

Karen Loney

Karen Loney, MA
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