



# The Town of Niagara-On-The-Lake

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<b>Report:</b>	<b>FES-20-008</b>	<b>Committee Date:</b>	<b>June 15, 2020</b>
		<b>Due in Council:</b>	June 22, 2020

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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Fire &amp; Emergency Services</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Updated Fire Department Establishing &amp; Regulating By-law</b>

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## 1. RECOMMENDATION

It is respectfully recommended that:

- 1.1 the draft by-law attached as Appendix A, being a by-law to establish and regulate a fire department to provide fire, rescue, and emergency services be forwarded to Council for adoption, and that by-law 4628-13 be repealed.

## 2. PURPOSE / PROPOSAL

To repeal by-law 4628-13 and approve the recommended by-law that better reflects the Department structure, services provided, and expands the recovery of costs.

## 3. BACKGROUND

The Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA) requires that every municipality provide fire prevention and public education programs and other fire protections services it deems necessary, based on local needs and circumstance. The Establishing and Regulating By-law (E&R By-law) serves as the means to clearly identify these Council approved levels of service of the Fire Department. The attached E&R Bylaw has been developed based on a model by-law currently recommended by the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management.

## 4. DISCUSSION / ANALYSIS

### Approved Services and Program

The services and programs are recommended by the Fire Chief. The legislated responsibilities are up to Council to set based on the needs and circumstances in our community. This recommended by-law more clearly defines the level of services, and limitations of service delivery that the Fire Department provides. Furthermore, this by-law reflects the recent change in level of service for Rope Rescue.

### Reporting Structure

A reporting structure is now included as Schedule A which illustrates the organization of full-time staff in relation to volunteer firefighter and officers.

### Recovery of Costs

Preventable false fire alarm responses continue to be a significant driver of increased call volume for the Department. In order to encourage property owners to take measures to limit preventable false fire alarms, two changes have been made to the E&R By-law. The defined term, "Preventable False Alarm" has been revised to include nuisance alarms caused due to improper placement of detection equipment. Additionally, the Malicious Act Responses have been included in "Schedule C" as property owners can take measures to prevent the incidences of malicious false fire alarms such as the installation of pre-alarm pull-station covers.

Approximately 1/3 of the 642 incidents that the Fire Department responded to in 2019 were categorized as Fire Alarm Activations. Over 25% of these incidents occurred at a single facility representing potentially \$30,000 in annual cost recovery through these recommended changes. Based on the experiences of other municipalities (Toronto, Burlington, Edmonton, Vancouver, Calgary) that have enacted similar cost recovery measures, the Fire Department could expect to see a significant reduction in the incidence of false fire alarms, reducing annual operating costs associated with these responses while improving fire safety.

### **5. STRATEGIC PLAN**

Find innovative ways to protect our heritage, agriculture and other assets that ensures our community remains distinctive and sustainable.

Deliver smart balanced growth that results in improved positioning as it relates to the eight strategic pillars of the community vision.

### **6. OPTIONS**

Option #1 (recommended) is that Council approve and enact the draft by-law, attached as Appendix A, and repeal by-law 4628-13.

Option #2 is that Council receive this report as information only.

### **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

### **8. COMMUNICATIONS**

N/A

### **9. CONCLUSION**

The proposed E&R By-law provides more detailed information relating to the approved services and programs. The changes to the recovery of costs better positions the Town as it relates to the delivery of fire and emergency services through the volunteer firefighter service delivery model.

**Respectfully submitted,**



**Jay Plato  
Deputy Fire Chief**



**Nick Ruller  
Fire Chief**



**Sheldon Randall  
Chief Administrative Officer (I)**

ATTACHMENTS



Appendix A.pdf



4628-13 (Fire Dept).pdf

WEB ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENTS FOR LINK

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First Capital of Upper Canada - 1792