



**LaSalle Police Service**  
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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Mayor Ken ANTAYA and Members of LaSalle Town Council  
**From:** Staff Sergeant Kevin BEAUDOIN  
**CC:** Chief John LEONTOWICZ  
**Date:** November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
**Re:** TOL Discharge of Firearms By-Law #5304 – Proposed Amendments

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Sir:

This report has been prepared at the request of Members of LaSalle Town Council in order to provide information regarding the discharge of firearms within the municipality of the Town of LaSalle. Currently, the Town of LaSalle does have a By-Law regulating the Discharge of Firearms (# 5304) which is valid and has been in force since October 24<sup>th</sup>, 1995.

The information contained in this report reflects calls for service to the LaSalle Police Service relating to the discharge of firearms complaints from 2013 - 2018 inclusive. Below are the calls for service by year:

2013 - 10  
2014 - 8  
2015 - 5  
2016 - 11  
2017 - 6  
2018 - 3

Many of these calls for service are in fact categorized as noise or hunting complaints (“nuisance” type) however a number of them involve complaints where errant pellets from shotguns have struck or landed on homes, structures, vehicles, vessels and unfortunately people.

In 2014, one of the identified cases above involved a male who was discharging his firearm (.22 calibre rifle) and nearly struck two other people walking near the waterfront. The male was subsequently located, identified and while cooperative and remorseful, was cautioned and had his Firearm seized which was later destroyed.

In a 2013 case which was well publicized in the local media, 2 males were identified and charged after discharging their firearms from a vessel in the Detroit River during which errant pellets struck a Front Road resident in the face. The female resident was gardening in her rear yard which abuts the Detroit River when she was struck but thankfully suffered only minor injuries.

Most recently, in September 2018, a male who was working at his moored vessel at a local marina, reported a firearm being discharged in the area followed by a “burst of a few pellets” which struck some metal items in the marina. Upon investigation, the LaSalle Police officer could see two “hunters” in a duck blind nearby (approximately 300 meters) but was unable to identify or make contact with them from land.

It should also be noted that residential development in the Town of LaSalle along or abutting the Detroit River has increased over the past number of years. Further, our beautiful waterway is regularly enjoyed by many residents as well as transient visitors who partake in recreational activities such as boating, rowing, kayaking, canoeing, stand up paddle boarding (SUP), etc. The LaSalle Rowing Club and its members are regular users of our waterway which again promotes healthy, vibrant, active living which our Town is predicated on.

During my research for this report, I once again spoke with officials from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry who enforce the Fish & Wildlife Conservation Act (provincial legislation) as well as the Migratory Bird Conventions Act (federal legislation). It was again confirmed that there is no provincial or federal legislation that restricts the Discharging of Firearms on or near the water.

Further, I also met with and conducted collaborative research with Councillor Mike AKPATA regarding what other municipalities have done in response to concerns, complaints and in the overall interest of public safety. Attached below are by-laws from other Ontario municipalities which have in fact restricted the discharge of firearms within their municipalities whether over or near water as well as on land. Further, these By-Laws support the position that a municipality can in fact regulate the distance from a structure whereby a firearm can be lawfully discharged.

[https://guelph.ca/wp-content/uploads/Firearms\\_by-law.pdf](https://guelph.ca/wp-content/uploads/Firearms_by-law.pdf)  
200 Meters

[https://documents.ottawa.ca/sites/default/files/2002\\_344\\_en.pdf](https://documents.ottawa.ca/sites/default/files/2002_344_en.pdf)  
450 meters

<https://www.milton.ca/MeetingDocuments/Council/bylaws2016/062-2016%20Firearms%20Discharge%20By-law.pdf>  
150 Meters

[https://www.essex.ca/en/townhall/resources/Discharge\\_of\\_Firearms\\_By-law\\_1070\\_acc.pdf](https://www.essex.ca/en/townhall/resources/Discharge_of_Firearms_By-law_1070_acc.pdf)  
greater than 100 meters

<https://www.brant.ca/en/resources/Consolidated-Firearms-By-law-58-11.pdf>  
100 meters speaks to water

<https://thorold.civicweb.net/document/5687>

150 meters

While many of these municipalities have had such restrictions in place for several years, others like the Town of LaSalle have made amendments more recently to address their changes in population and demographics as well as in the spirit of risk mitigation.

While the LaSalle Police Service and its members are in no way attempting to alter or stifle the enjoyment of residential, commercial or public property, we nonetheless are bound by our oaths to protect life and property. Further, we are often asked to be advisors to the Town of LaSalle Administration and Council in areas of risk mitigation and public safety.

It is for these reasons that we recommend that Council consider making amendments to the Discharge of Firearms By-Law #5304 to include a distance restriction in areas not already identified where firearms may currently be legally discharged within the Town of LaSalle.

In closing, should you have any questions, concerns or require further information, please contact me at your convenience.

Most Respectfully,



Kevin J. BEAUDOIN  
Staff Sergeant #205  
Operations & Corporate Support