



Staff Report

Report Title: Year End By-Law Enforcement Status Report 2023

Prepared By: Heather Falconer, Municipal By-Law Enforcement Officer

Department: Municipal By-Law Enforcement

Date: Jan. 15, 2024

Report Number: BLE-2024-01-2

File Number: C11 BLE24

Attachments: N/A

Recommendation:

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report BLE-2024-01-02, as prepared by Heather Falconer, Municipal By-Law Enforcement Officer [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

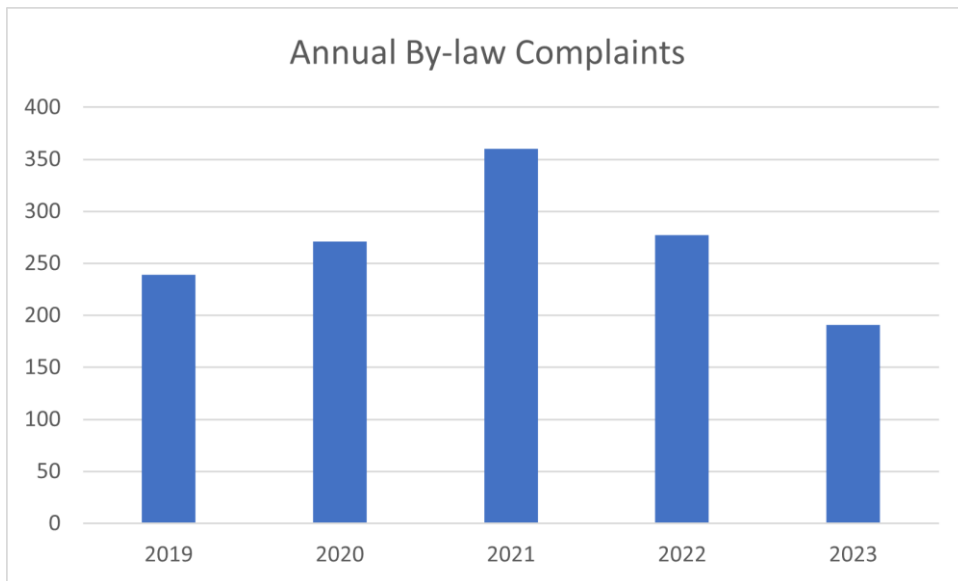
Background:

To update the Committee of the Whole on 2023 occurrences involving Municipal By-Law Enforcement.

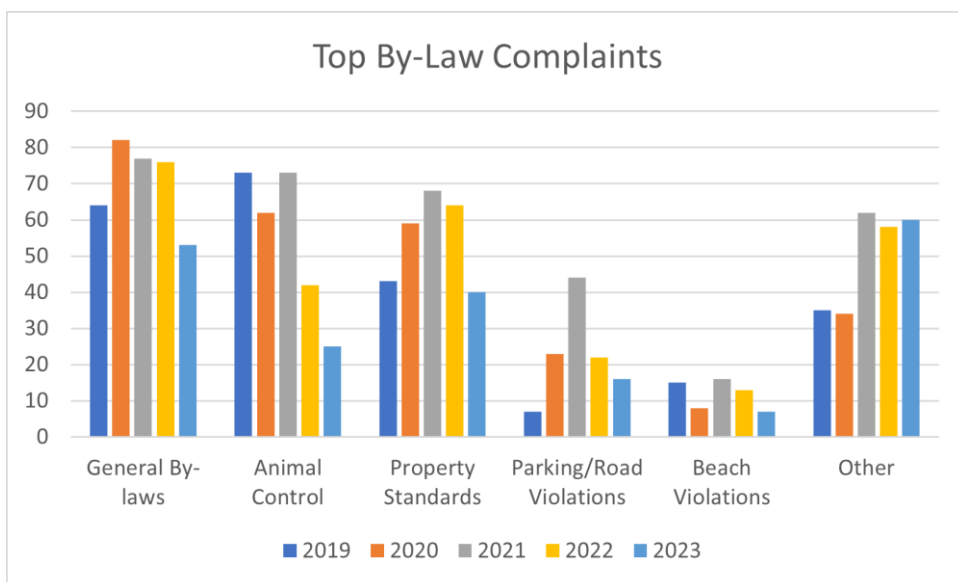
Discussion:

Municipal By-law Enforcement investigates and enforces by-laws enacted by Township Council to uphold community standards and public safety through education and consistent and impartial enforcement. Collaboration with the community and external partners ensures compliance with Township by-laws, which contributes to the safety of our residents and visitors.

Complaints and concerns from the community are responded to, investigations are then conducted, and followed by steps to correct infractions through education and/or enforcement.



The annual by-law complaints chart shows the complaint call volume for the past 5 years. During the Pandemic (2021), call volume increased by 34% compared to the pre-pandemic level in 2019. Now post pandemic, by-law complaints have returned to typical levels.



Under the heading "general by-laws" includes by-law complaints related to zoning, noise, pool fences, off road vehicles, and public nuisance. The "other" heading is for complaints that are not directly by-law related but have significance and/or are of public interest. These complaints can be related to cats, homelessness, farm fertilizer, or wildlife.

Issued Provincial Offences Certificates

The Township issued three Provincial Offence Certificates after by-law compliance was not met through education and formal warning. All certificates resulted in convictions with those convicted having to owe the combined amount of \$1132.00.

Animal Control

There were 857 dog tags issued in 2023. The Township is currently selling dog tags at: Country Depot, Kincardine, Hodgins' Home Hardware, Lucknow and Township Office, Ripley. Residents are also able to buy their dog tags online by submitting their application through the Township's website. There are different avenues to pay for the dog tags when using online services such as: online or telephone banking, mail, place in Township drop box at the office and e-transfer.

The Township currently has 12 licensed dog kennels used for breeding with two of them being registered members of the Canadian Kennel Club. There is an additional kennel used for boarding purposes only.

Three Dangerous Dog Orders were issued for dogs that have bit either a person or another animal. The Orders reflect the precaution requirements listed within the Dog Owners Liability Act (DOLA) and are used for the purpose of keeping public safety a top priority. If there is a further incident after an Order is delivered, a fine can be issued or the Township can pursue court proceedings under DOLA. The Township continues to work closely with the Grey-Bruce Health Unit with cases that involve people.

Property Standards/Clean and Clear Yards

There were a total of 40 complaints received for concerns with property maintenance. This is a 34% decrease in call volume from 2022. Many of the previous year's complaints were a result of compromised ash trees from contracting the ash borer disease. Most of the trees affected have now been removed resulting in fewer complaints this year.

Parking Violations

Five parking notices were issued for parking related violations. The notices were for being parked for a period longer than 12 hours, parked on roads during winter maintenance time restrictions, and parked within 9 meters of an intersecting roadway.

Beach Complaints

As an ongoing project, the Township continues with the removal of unlawful built structures on the public beach. As this can be time consuming, the Township aims to have 5-6 structures be removed each year. This project supports the safety and maintenance of the public beach for the continued use for all.

Ontario Wildlife Compensation Program

Two applications were submitted to the Ontario Wildlife Compensation Program. Through the investigation process it was determined that one of the deceased livestock was from a raven attack and the other was from coyotes.

Zoning Infractions

There were two types of zoning infractions that were reoccurring in 2023. The first was people using trailers and buildings for habitation where it was not a permitted use. Looking at statistics and what is occurring in other municipalities, this may be the

result of lack of affordable housing, economic changes, and unavailable resources for those needing support.

The second type of zoning infraction was dwellings and/or residential properties being used for commercial use that extended beyond the parameters of what is considered a home occupation, according to the Township’s Zoning By-law.

Short Term Rental Accommodations Annual Reporting

The concerns that the Township has received for Short Term Rental (STR) accommodations are complaints related to existing by-laws. The complainant has stated through the process that the property was used for STR. The Township has procedures in place to deal with these concerns on a comprehensive level as they are not unique to STR properties. The by-law infractions that are associated with STR can be excessive noise, habitation where it is a non-permitted use, open air burning, and garbage in yards.

	2021	2022	2023
Annual Complaints Related to STR	3	5	5

Summer Pilot By-law Enforcement Program

To increase by-law enforcement visibility and to educate the public on by-law matters, Council directed staff to develop the Summer Pilot By-law Enforcement Program. The pilot program provided ten separate 4-hour shifts worked during the summer months along the lakeshore. Of those shifts, four were worked on holiday long weekends. The program will be part of the 2024 budget considerations.

Financial Impacts:

There are no financial implications at this time.

Strategic Alignment / Link:

We are an accessible community that offers opportunities for everyone by being open and transparent.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Heather Falconer, Municipal By-Law Enforcement Officer

Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer