



The Corporation of the Township of Huron-Kinloss

Staff Report

Report Title: Year End Municipal By-law Enforcement Report 2024

Date: Jan. 13, 2025

Report Number: BLE-2025-02

Department: Municipal By-law Enforcement File Number: C11 BLE 25

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

Attachments: N/A

Recommendation:

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report BLE-2025-02, as prepared by Heather Falconer, Municipal By-Law Enforcement Officer.

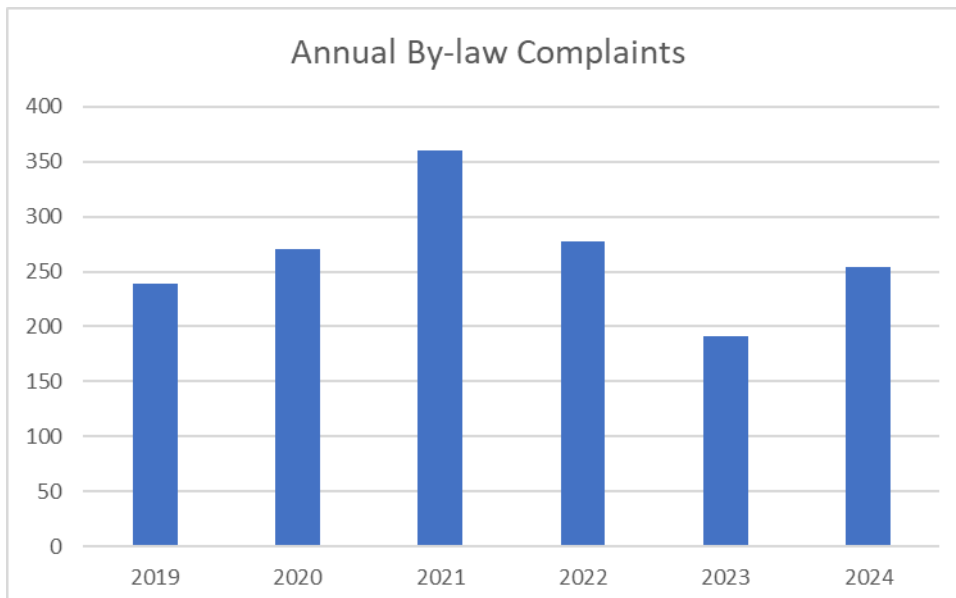
Background:

To update the Committee of the Whole on 2024 occurrences involving Municipal By-Law Enforcement.

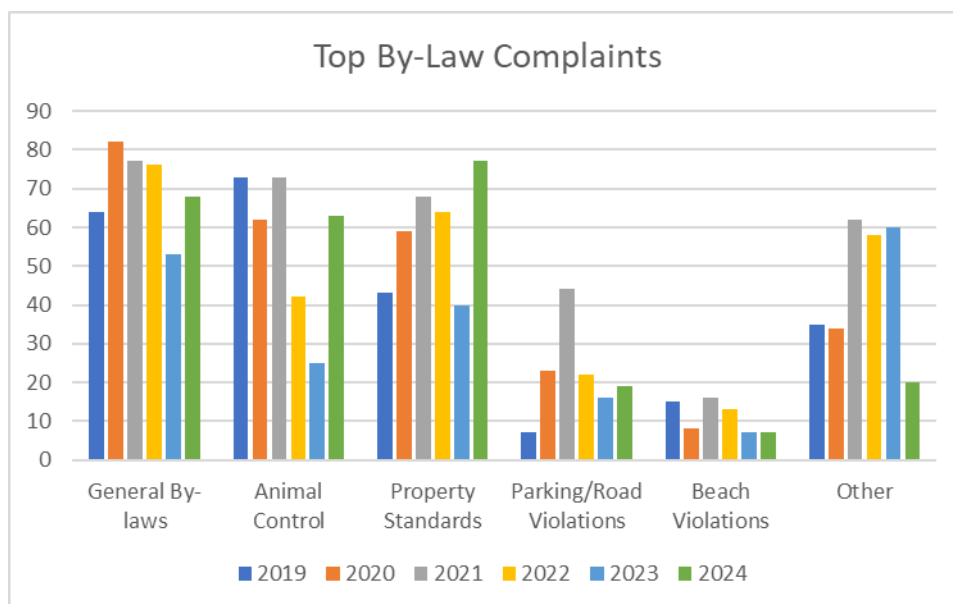
Discussion/Analysis/Overview:

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 6 years.



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 animals other than dogs or concerns with people without homes.

Issued Provincial Offences Certificates and Administrative Monetary Penalties

The Township issued no Provincial Offence Certificates or Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMPS) this year. With AMPS being finalized late 2024, the system will be a new tool for seeking compliance for by-law infractions.

Animal Control

There were 890 dog tags issued in 2024. 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. The is additional kennel used for boarding purposes only.

Four Dangerous Dog Orders were issued for dogs, with three pertaining to dogs that have bitten a person(s). One Order was a result of a dog behaving in a threatening manner and posed as risk to public safety. 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. The Township continues to work closely with the Grey-Bruce Health Unit with cases that involve people.

Property Standards/Clean and Clear Yards

There was a total of 77 complaints received concerning property maintenance. Most complaints were a result of compromised ash trees and the concern of them falling causing damage in residential areas. There were also multiple complaints received regarding the same properties, this contributed to an increase in call volume.

Parking Violations

Six notices were issued for parking related violations. The notices were for being parked on roads during winter maintenance time restrictions and parked within 9 meters of an intersecting roadway.

Beach Complaints

The seven beach complaints that were received were from individuals removing dune grass and cutting and trimming lakeshore trees.

Ontario Wildlife Compensation Program

Four applications were submitted to the Ontario Wildlife Compensation Program that resulted in \$2770.35 being provided back to the farmers for their losses due to wildlife predators.

Zoning Infractions

There were five main reoccurring zoning infractions for 2024. They are:

- trailers and buildings for habitation where it was not a permitted use,
- residential properties being utilized for a commercial use that does not meet the requirements of a home occupation,
- placement of accessory buildings in non-permitted locations,
- shipping containers on residential properties, and
- agricultural animals habiting in residential areas.

Zoning infractions can take longer to resolve compared to other municipal by-laws as set fines or monetary penalties cannot be issued for violations. To remedy zoning offences the Township must get voluntary compliance from the landowner or occupant, alternatively the offence must be brought to the courts. This can contribute to a lengthier time for compliance.

To prevent infractions from occurring, staff utilize different platforms and continues to find ways to educate residents on property uses.

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	2024
Annual Complaints	3	5	5	2

Municipal By-law Enforcement Initiatives

Enhanced Lakeshore Summer Patrol Services

To increase by-law enforcement visibility and to educate the public on by-law matters, the Enhanced Lakeshore Summer Patrol Services program ran for the second year. The program provided additional lakeshore summer patrols on weekends during the summer tourist season. This year there were 16 shifts worked to equal a total of 104 hours patrolling.

The officers noted common concerns related to congested parking on Boiler Beach Road and the Point Clark Lighthouse parking lot. Overall, there were 22 noted concerns that were seen or brought to the officers' attention.

Beach Structures

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 removed each year. This project supports the safety and maintenance of the public beach for the continued use for all.

Financial Impacts:

There are no financial implications at this time.

Strategic Area:

- Embrace a thriving rural lifestyle
- Enhance Municipal Service Delivery
- Prepare for Inclusive Growth
- Ensure Financial Stability

Strategic Goal: Facilitate Community Well Being

Respectfully Submitted By:

Heather Falconer, Municipal By-Law Enforcement Officer

Report Approved By:

Jodi MacArthur, Chief Administrative Officer