



The Corporation of the Township of Huron-Kinloss

Staff Report

Report Title: Liquor Licence Updates from the Province

Date: Apr. 8, 2026

Report Number: CS-2026-11

Department: Community Services

File Number: C11 CS 26

Prepared By: Mike Fair, Director of Community Services

Attachments: Ministry Letter, Comparison of Permit types

Recommendation:

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report CS-2026-11 prepared by Mike Fair, Director of Community Services.

Background:

Liquor Licence and Control Act, (LLCA)

On January 13, 2026, the Ministry of the Attorney General sent a letter (Attachment) to all Ontario Municipalities advising that "effective April 30, 2026, amendments (via O. Reg 1/26) to Regulation 747/21 expand eligibility for tailgate event permits to include events that have been municipally designated as cultural or community events."

Staff has prepared the following report for background information and anticipate little to no impact for the Township of Huron-Kinloss from the amendments.

Since 2011, depending on the event and permit type the AGCO may require a letter or resolution from the Municipality declaring the event as Municipally Significant for Special Occasion Permits (SOPs).

In 2014 the Township of Huron-Kinloss made application and received a permanent Liquor Licence for the Ripley-Huron Community Centre along with a catering endorsement for the purpose of serving other municipally owned property as required. At that time if someone wanted a SOP, they could request an exemption as per the Alcohol Risk Management Policy for approval to host an SOP for a particular event.

Since 2017 there have been no requests for a SOP to Council or a Council request to declare a Municipally Significant Event on Municipal property.

In 2019 the Provincial requirements for SOP's were amended to include a tailgate event (for sporting events) as a new type of public event for which a SOP can be obtained. Eligibility for a tailgate event are found at

<https://www.agco.ca/en/book/export/html/383971>

Applicants for Tailgate Event SOPs to be held on Municipal Property are still required to comply with all Liquor related laws, Municipal By-laws and permit terms and conditions. Since 2019, there has not been a request for a Tailgate Event submitted to Township of Huron-Kinloss.

Discussion/Analysis/Overview:

Liquor Licence and Control Act, 2019 (LLCA)

The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) has advised of upcoming changes relating to “tailgating events” and “bring-your-own events” coming into effect April 30, 2026.

The change expands the existing “municipal designation” role used for Special Occasion Permits and applies it to a new class of permit, Bring-Your-Own Events.

The changes that will take effect on April 30, 2026, are:

New permits for “bring-your-own-events” for organizations and individuals. The bring-your-own permit is for outdoor public events and can be either “Sale” or “No-Sale” depending on whether alcohol will be sold and served or just served at the event. Attendees aged 19 or older are allowed to bring and consume their own alcohol at all bring-your-own events.

The term “tailgating events” has been revoked and changed to a new definition, “bring-your-own-events” to mean a public event that is held at an outdoor premises that is at ground level,

(a) where the event,

(i) is held in connection with and in proximity to a professional, semi-professional or post-secondary sporting event, or

(ii) has been designated by a municipal council or its delegate as a cultural or community event, and

(b) at which individuals may possess and consume liquor brought to the premises by attendees

NOTE: With the above change, municipal designation for Bring-Your-Own Events will apply only where the event is not tied to an eligible sporting event.

Applicants for “bring-your-own events” must obtain a letter, or resolution, from the municipality in which the event will take place, designating the event as a “cultural, or community event” before submitting their application to the AGCO.

The Province has provided the following examples of outdoor community or cultural events:

- outdoor movie screenings
- street markets
- arts and crafts shows
- free outdoor concerts
- fairs
- neighbourhood sports tournaments

- public performances (i.e. theatre)
- farmers markets; and
- international or religious festivals.

The Province does not require municipalities to designate events, and it does not prescribe procedures for designations.

In summary the Township of Huron-Kinloss may designate an event as a significant event for a "Bring Your Own" BYO application to the AGCO permit purposes. A comparison chart attached demonstrates the differences between a Municipally Significant Event SOP and a Municipal Designation of BYO Event.

Limiting factors for getting a permit from the AGCO would include a person or organization to host such an event, meet the criteria set by the AGCO for the event, permission from the property owner and be able to get the amount of liability insurance required for all parties involved while meeting all requirements of the AGCO and the Township of Huron-Kinloss permits and by-laws.

The Township of Huron-Kinloss has a Liquor Licence with Catering Endorsement which has provided the local organizations and individuals in Huron-Kinloss the ease to host events that provide safe and responsible service of alcohol.

Financial Impacts:

There are no financial impacts

Performance Measurement:

N/A

Strategic Area:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Embrace a thriving rural lifestyle | <input type="checkbox"/> Enhance Municipal Service Delivery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare for Inclusive Growth | <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure Financial Stability |

Strategic Goal: Facilitate Community Well Being

Respectfully Submitted By:

Mike Fair, Director of Community Services

Report Approved By:

Jodi MacArthur, Chief Administrative Officer