

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GEORGINA

REPORT NO. LS-2024-0012

**FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF
COUNCIL**

May 8, 2024

**SUBJECT: AMENDMENTS TO EXOTIC PETS BY-LAW NO. 2003-0072 (PWE-1)
AND ANIMALS AT LARGE BY-LAW NO. 2003-0073 (REG-1) FOR THE KEEPING OF
PIGEONS**

1. RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council receive Report No. LS-2024-0012 prepared by the Municipal Law Enforcement Division, Legislative Services dated May 8th, 2024 respecting the keeping of pigeons.
2. That Council approve the amendments to By-law No. 2003-0072 (PWE-1) and By-law No. 2003-0073 (REG-1) to permit the keeping of pigeons in Pefferlaw and the Hamlet Areas.
3. That Council approve the process for owners of property outside of the approved areas to apply for permission to keep pigeons.

2. PURPOSE:

This report seeks Council's approval of amendments to By-law No. 2003-0072 (PWE-1) and By-law No. 2003-0073 (REG-1) to permit the keeping of pigeons in Pefferlaw and the Hamlet Areas, and to create a process whereby owners of property outside of those areas may apply to Council for permission to keep pigeons.

3. BACKGROUND:

On September 14, 2022 Council received a deputation from Henry Radder requesting an exemption from Animal Control By-law 2003-0072 to permit pigeon-keeping on his property. At the September 14, 2022 meeting, Council adopted Resolution No. C-2022-0318 as follows: "That Council receive the delegation provided by Henry Radder requesting the exotic animal by-law be amended to permit residents to raise pigeons as a hobby and a sport and refer the request to the Chief Administrative Officer's office for discussion concerning the open by-law file on this issue."

On February 15, 2023, Council received Report No. DS-2023-0011, which presented background information, issues, policies and regulations, other municipal practices

and options associated with permitting pigeons in residential areas. At the meeting, Council, through Resolution No. C-2023-0091, directed staff to conduct a public consultation process concerning the permissibility of pigeons in residential areas.

On May 9, 2023, a Public Information Centre (PIC) regarding Pigeons in Residential Areas was held in the Council Chambers at the Town of Georgina Civic Centre. To gain further feedback from residents regarding the permissibility of pigeons in residential areas, an online survey using Survey Monkey was conducted from April 27, 2023 to May 25, 2023.

On July 12, 2023, Council passed Resolution No. C-2023-0259 to approve the proposed regulations in Report No. DS-2023-0068 in principle, and directed staff to return to Council with the necessary by-law amendments and a process to consider site-specific requests for by-law amendments to permit pigeon-keeping in other areas of the Town, namely Keswick, the Serviced Lakeshore Areas and Sutton/Jackson's Point.

4. ANALYSIS:

Municipal Law Enforcement staff have brought forward proposed regulations for the keeping of pigeons through the amendments to the Exotic Pets By-law No. 2003-0072 (PWE-1) and the Animals at Large By-law No. 2003-0073 (REG-1) that are before Council today. As mentioned above, Council approved in principle these proposed regulations, which will allow the keeping of pigeons in Pefferlaw and the Hamlet Areas of Belhaven, Ravenshoe, Baldwin, Brown Hill, Virginia and Udora, on July 12, 2023.

In addition to the by-law amendments for keeping pigeons, staff are proposing a process to consider site-specific requests for further by-law amendments to permit the keeping of pigeons in other areas of the Town, namely Keswick, the Serviced Lakeshore Areas and Sutton/Jackson's Point. Based on the experience of Municipal Law Enforcement staff, we are not expecting to receive a large quantity of requests to keep pigeons in those areas.

Municipal Law Enforcement staff are proposing an application process similar to the process for by-law relief under Town of Georgina Sign By-law No. 2006-0062 (PUT-1). Any person who lives outside of Pefferlaw or the Hamlet areas, but within Keswick, the Serviced Lakeshore Areas or Sutton/Jackson's Point, and who can meet the requirements of the regulations for keeping pigeons that are set out in the By-law, may make application to the Municipal Law Enforcement Division to keep pigeons on their property. Staff are proposing a fee of \$250 to be submitted with the application, which will offset some of the administrative costs associated with processing the application, while not posing an unreasonable impediment to those wishing to apply. The applicant will be required to submit a detailed site plan which depicts all property lines and structures on the property. If the applicant is not the landowner, they will require permission from the landowner. Upon receiving an application, Municipal Law Enforcement staff will inform all property owners within a

one hundred metre radius of the subject property and collect public comments. After receiving public comments, Municipal Law Enforcement staff will prepare a report for the consideration of Council, which may then, by resolution, either provide permission to keep pigeons on the subject property until the applicant ceases to be an occupant, or refuse such permission. Staff are proposing as well that Council delegate authority to the Manager of Municipal Law Enforcement to revoke such permission in cases where Council has granted such permission, but the grantee is not complying with the regulations set out in the proposed Schedule 'B' to By-law No. 2003-0072 (PWE-1).

5. RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

Delivering Service Excellence

- Commit to citizen-centric service delivery

Creating a Vibrant, Healthy and Safe Community for All

- Support a safe, healthy and inclusive community

6. FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY IMPACT:

Not applicable.

7. PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND NOTICE REQUIREMENTS:

Although not statutorily required, the public has been consulted throughout this process, which led to the recommendations before Council today.

8. CONCLUSION:

This report seeks Council's approval of recommendations to enact by-law amendments for the keeping of pigeons and to create a process whereas owners of property outside of the approved areas may make an application to Council to keep pigeons.

APPROVALS

Prepared By: Mike Hutchinson, Manager, Municipal Law Enforcement

Recommended By: Michael Bigioni, Director, Legislative Services

Approved By: Ryan Cronsberry, Chief Administrative Officer