

August 7,2024

By email

Mary Ellen Truelove

Clerk, Rideau Lakes Township

1439 County Road 8

Delta, Ontario

K0E 1G0

Dear Ms. Truelove,

I am writing to request the town council consider passing a bylaw to limit the use of firearms on or around residential properties.

In our neighbourhood ( Lombardy, Ontario) we have an individual who uses his backyard as a rifle range several times per week. The activity is disruptive to all of the neighbourhood. Safety practices are non-existent.

As a result we have parents who will not let their children leave their property. There is a path in the woods behind where the range is located. People who wish to walk their dogs have to ask this owner to cease fire so they can pass safely.

I believe this is an issue that has arisen because the neighbourhood has, over time, gone from being very rural to being much more residential.

The lot in question is around 75 feet by 150 feet and has neighbours all around it.

I don't wish to limit gun use for farmers or for sport. I think something that distinguishes between large areas of land and more residential areas would be appropriate. The link here <https://king.civicweb.net/document/36448/> references a bylaw that looks to achieve this aim by identifying, among other things, the size of the property necessary before a gun can be discharged. In this case the minimum lot size before a gun may be fired is 5 acres.

While I would certainly support a bylaw limiting firearms on any property under 5 acres, I think even 2 acres would be more than sufficient to protect the safety and peace of people living in residential areas.

I would ask that the council consider passing a bylaw that prohibits firing a rifle except for protection of livestock on any land under 2 acres. Furthermore that the bylaw include escalating penalties for repeat offences and that there be a much more severe fine imposed when evidence of intoxication is present.

I would certainly be glad to attend a council meeting to discuss, as would most of my neighbours.

I am grateful for your consideration;

Sincerely,  
Alan Macdonald