

Staff Report



To	Committee of the Whole
Service Area	Corporate Services
Date	Tuesday, April 7, 2026
Subject	Delegated Authority By-law Amendment - Bring-Your-Own Events

Recommendation

1. That the Delegation of Authority By-law be amended, as noted in Attachment-1 to report 2026-130, to delegate authority to the City Clerk to designate events as "community" or "cultural" events for the purpose of enabling "bring-your-own-event" applications with the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario.
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Executive Summary

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of updates to the "tailgate event" permits under the Liquor Licence and Control Act, 2019, through amendment to [O. Reg. 747/21](#). Effective April 30, 2026 (see Attachment 2 - Memorandum to Heads of Council – Ontario Municipalities, from the Ministry of the Attorney General), organizations and individuals will be able to apply to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) for permits to host "bring-your-own events". 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 impact of this update requires modifications to the [Delegated Authority Bylaw, \(2024\) 20994, Schedule A, 6.2](#), which is the current mechanism by which the City designates public events as "municipally significant", as required by the AGCO as part of the Special Occasion Permits process. This report summarizes the changes to "tailgate events", which are being renamed as "bring-your-own events", and proposes amendments to the Delegation of Authority Bylaw to enable this change.

Key Findings

- Effective April 30, 2026:
 - "Tailgate events" will be renamed "bring-your-own-events"
 - Municipalities must designate events as "community" or "cultural" events prior to an applicant applying for a "bring-your-own event" permit through the AGCO

- The change from “tailgate” to “bring-your-own events” expands the type of events where adults are permitted to bring and consume their own alcohol
- As indicated in the memorandum from the Ministry of the Attorney General (See Attachment 2), this initiative intends to encourage more community engagement and to benefit businesses, organizations, and local tourism

Strategic Plan Alignment

Foundations: Lead with Accountability objective of the Future Guelph Strategic Plan.

Future Guelph Theme

Foundations

Future Guelph Objectives

Foundations: Lead with accountability

Financial Implications

None.

Report

As of April 30, 2026, municipalities have the responsibility to designate events as “community” or “cultural” events, in order for members of the public to apply for “bring-your-own event” permits through the AGCO. The former “tailgate event” system limited public outdoor events to include only those with close proximity to a professional, semi-professional, or post-secondary sporting event. The “bring-your-own events” program expands the scope of potential outdoor public events, with activities such as:

- Outdoor movie screenings,
- Street markets,
- Arts and craft show,
- Free outdoor concerts,
- Fairs,
- Neighborhood sports tournaments,
- Public performances (i.e. theatre),
- Farmers markets,
- Internal or religious festivals.

The [Delegation of Authority Bylaw](#) delegates to the CAO and the City Clerk the ability to authorize and approve community festivals and special occasions as required by the AGCO. This delegation has been frequently exercised to enable residents to apply for Special Occasion Permits (SOPs) through the AGCO. This proposed bylaw amendment expands the CAO and City Clerk’s authority to include the designation of events as “community” or “cultural” events, in addition to “municipally significant” events, in order to comply with the Ministry of the Attorney

General's regulatory changes. The proposed by-law amendment is included as Attachment 1 – Proposed Delegation of Authority By-law Amendments.

To apply for and secure a "bring-your-own event" permit, applicants must meet a series of requirements imposed by the AGCO as well as any other applicable requirements (zoning, building permits, fire code, etc.). In addition to receiving a designation as a "community" or "cultural" event, applicants must also provide written notice to the Guelph Police Service, Guelph Fire Department and Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health. The designation as a "community" or "cultural" event does not indicate municipal approval for the event, requirements imposed by the departments and local boards noted above still need to be met. The designation is applied simply to indicate that City Council is supportive of these community events in principle.

"Bring-your-own events" take place on private land. Events held on municipal property continue to be subject to applicable municipal approvals and alcohol policies and this legislative change does not alter those requirements.

As part of this delegation, City staff will provide the designation as a "community" or "cultural" event to all applications made in good faith, with a notation that all other approval requirements imposed by the AGCO, the municipality and local boards still apply.

Financial Implications

None.

Consultations and Engagement

Ministry of the Attorney General, Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO)

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Proposed Delegation of Authority By-law Amendments

Attachment 2 – Memorandum to Heads of Council – Ontario Municipalities, from the Ministry of the Attorney General

Departmental Approval

None.

Report Author

Samantha Osborn, Administrative Coordinator, City Clerk's Office

This report was approved by:

Dylan McMahan
General Manager, City Clerk's Office/City Clerk
Corporate Services
519-822-1260 extension 2811
dylan.mcmahan@guelph.ca

This report was recommended by:

Stephen O'Brien

Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Corporate Services

Corporate Services

519-822-1260 extension 2281

stephen.obrien@guelph.ca