

Deputation: to The Town Of The Blue Mountains.

May 1st/2019

From: Gibraltar Families Against Excessive Noise

Subject:

To underline our concerns and objections preemptively, in the event that any application for exemption to the Noise Bylaw may come before Council, allowing "Cowboy Mounted Black Powder Shooting" activities on a Gibraltar property individually, or in groups as in a tournament.

We would like to take this opportunity to familiarize our current Council and the Mayor of the events in the last two years that have brought us here, and the steps that have been taken thus far.

What is "Cowboy Mounted Black Powder Shooting?"

An activity where riders on horseback complete a circuit at galloping speed, while using a handgun that shoots black powder (no bullets) at various balloon targets around the course. There must be enough black powder in the guns to propel far enough in order to strike the targets. Because of the amplified noise from the gun, both the horse and rider wear ear protection.

Timeline of our objections:

July 2016 - application made by individual to rezone property to allow for gatherings with the intention of Black Powder competitions and practicing.

August 2016 - Public meeting as application is before Council. Petition against presented, signed by 38 members of the community around subject property.

September 2016 - Application by individual turned down by council.

Summer & fall 2017 - occasional noise continues from Black Powder shooting. Individual charged with violation of Noise Bylaw after a competition was held on his property.

September 2019 will be the next court date.

How it affects our lives:

The sounds produced by the Cowboy Mounted Black Powder Shooting on this individual's property are extremely loud, jarring, and alarming. The percussive nature of the explosions were also audible inside our homes with all windows and doors closed. It is particularly disturbing to those of us with children.

Conclusion:

We are a family oriented community that for the most part choose to live in and around Gibraltar in the Town Of The Blue Mountains for the peace and quiet of the countryside. Our area is now enjoyed by many people from the nearby towns who come to ride bikes, hike the Bruce trail, cross country ski, and enjoy the country surroundings on a daily basis. Our desire is to keep it a peaceful, family orientated community.

Gibraltar Families Against Excessive Noise

Represented by: Michael Storey and Karen Kelly