

**Protection**  
**Chapter 799 Firearms - Discharge**

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## **Article 1 - Short Title**

### **799.1.1 Citation**

The short title of this Chapter is the "Discharge of Firearms and Bows By-law."

## **Article 2 - Interpretation**

### **799.2.1 Air-gun - defined**

"air-gun" means a firearm that is commonly known as a BB gun, pellet gun, spring gun or air soft gun and that uses air (pneumatic system), spring (spring-air) or gas (CO<sub>2</sub>/nitrogen) and is capable of causing bodily injury or death to a person.

### **799.2.2 Bow - defined**

"bow" means a curved or re-curved, stave of a resilient material strung taut from end to end and used to launch an arrow, a bolt, a quarrel or any similar projectile and that is capable of causing bodily injury or death to a person and includes but is not limited to crossbows, re-curve bows, long-bows and compound bows.

### **799.2.3 City - defined**

"City" means The Corporation of the City of Woodstock.

### **799.2.4 City limits - defined**

"City limits" means the geographic area of The Corporation of the City of Woodstock.

### **799.2.5 Compound bow - defined**

"compound bow" means a bow that uses a levering system, usually cables and pulleys to bend the limbs.

### **799.2.6 Crossbow - defined**

"crossbow" means a device with a bow and a bowstring mounted on a stock that is designed to propel an arrow, a bolt, a quarrel or any similar projectile on a trajectory guided by a barrel or groove.

### **799.2.7 Firearm - defined**

"firearm" means a barreled weapon from which any shot, bullet or other projectile can be discharged and that is capable of causing serious bodily injury or death to a person, and includes but is not limited to, any frame or receiver of such a barreled instrument and anything that can be adapted for

use as a firearm and includes, but is not limited to, an air-gun.

**799.2.8 Highway - defined**

“highway” means highway as defined in the *Municipal Act, 2001* as amended and includes, but is not limited to, a common and public highway, street, avenue, parkway, driveway, square, place, bridge, viaduct or trestle, and part of which is intended for, or used by the general public for the passage of vehicles and includes the area between the lateral property lines thereof.

**799.2.9 Long-bow - defined**

“long-bow” means a bow that is tall, roughly equal to the height of a person which allows a fairly long draw, with limbs that are relatively narrow so that they are circular or D-shaped in cross section.

**799.2.10 Occupier - defined**

“occupier” includes a person who is in possession of property, the owner of the property, a person who has responsibility for and control over the property or activities there carried on, or control over persons allowed to enter the property, even if there is more than one occupier of the same property.

**799.2.11 Peace officer - defined**

“peace officer” means a police officer as defined in the *Police Services Act* a conservation officer appointed to enforce the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997* a peace officer as defined in the Criminal Code of Canada, or a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Force.

**799.2.12 Re-curve bow - defined**

“re-curve bow” means a bow that has tips that curve away from the archer when the bow is unstrung.

**Article 3 - General Provisions**

**799.3.1 Discharge - unauthorized - prohibited**

No person shall fire or discharge any bow or firearm of any description within City limits except as authorized by this Chapter.(See Set Fines).

**Article 4 - Exemptions**

**799.4.1 Peace officer - duty**

This Chapter shall not apply to the discharge of a firearm or bow by a peace officer in the performance of his/her duty.

**799.4.2 Animal control officer - duty**

This Chapter shall not apply to the discharge of a firearm or bow by a person appointed as an animal control officer or as an agent for the City or

for the provincial or federal government agency for the purpose of destroying sick, injured or vicious animals in the performance of the stated duty, under the applicable licence.

#### **799.4.3 Gun club - legal**

This Chapter shall not apply to the discharge of a firearm or bow on property legally operated as a *bona fide* gun club, archery club, paintball facility, rifle range or trap or skeet shooting club in a specific area zoned for that purpose and, if applicable, only with the prior approval of the Chief Firearms Officer as required by the *Firearms Act, 1995*.

#### **799.4.4 Police force - facility**

This Chapter shall not apply to the discharge of a firearm or bow at a facility operated by or for a municipal, provincial or federal police force;

#### **799.4.5 Blank ammunition - lawful**

This Chapter shall not apply to the discharge of a firearm or bow by a person firing blank ammunition for, or in connection with, a lawful use in a motion picture, television, stage production or historical display or education programs of a public museum.

#### **799.4.6 Blank ammunition - training**

This Chapter shall not apply to the discharge of a firearm or bow by a person firing blank ammunition for animal training purposes or for the purpose of starting or controlling a sporting event.

#### **799.4.7 Hunting - legal - in season - conditions**

This Chapter shall not apply to a person discharging a bow at a game species on private property, provided that the discharge is during the legal hunting season for that species, the discharge is within the property, there is no residential dwelling or occupied building within the range of the bow, the game species is located a distance from the nearest property line which exceeds the range of the bow and the person has obtained permission from the occupier of the property.

#### **799.4.8 Target practice - conditions**

This Chapter shall not apply to by a person discharging a bow at a target on private property, provided that the discharge is within the property, the discharge is at a target, there is no residential dwelling or occupied building within the range of the bow, the target is located a distance from the nearest property line which exceeds the range of the bow and the person has obtained permission from the occupier of the property.

#### **799.4.9 Educational purposes - instruction - authorized**

This Chapter shall not apply to a person discharging a bow on a property used for educational purposes if it is for the purpose of archery instruction or archery competition that is authorized by a board of education, an educational institution or the principal of a school that occupies the property.

#### **799.4.10 Hunting - area - specific - conditions**

This Chapter shall not apply to the discharge of a firearm or bow by a person hunting within the geographic area that is bordered by County Road 4 to the West, Township Road 3 to the North, Dundas Street to the South and Blandford Road to the East provided that:

- a) the discharge is at a game species during legal hunting season for that species;
- b) the discharge is not on, over, across or within 100 metres (328 feet) of any highway or portion thereof;
- c) the discharge is not within 100 metres (328 feet) of any building;
- d) the discharge is not within 100 metres (328 feet) of land on a registered plan of subdivision or plan of condominium once an application for a building permit has been received by the City,
- e) the discharge is not on, over, across or within 100 metres (328 feet) of any recreational trail, owned, operated or maintained by or on behalf of the City; and
- f) if on privately owned property, the person has obtained written permission from the occupier of the property.

### **Article 5 - Enforcement**

#### **799.5.1 Fine - for contravention**

Every person who contravenes any of the provisions of this Chapter is guilty of an offence and upon conviction is liable to a fine or penalty as provided in the *Provincial Offences Act*.

### **Article 6 - Repeal - Enactment**

#### **799.6.1 By-law - previous**

All previous by-laws pertaining to this matter are hereby repealed.

#### **799.7.1 Effective date**

This Chapter shall become effective as of the third and final reading of the enabling by-law. By-law 8831-13, February 21, 2013.