



Report to Council

Report Number: REP-REC-04-2026

Subject: Information Regarding Changes to the Liquor Licence and Control Act

Date of the meeting: April 27th, 2026

Prepared by: Justin Lafrance, *Recreation Director*

Approval: Pierre Leroux, CAO

In agreement with the recommendation based on the contents of this report.

Recommendation

[That Council receives the information provided in this report regarding changes to the *Liquor Licence and Control Act*, and that any requests to designate an event as a cultural or community event for the purposes of a Special Occasion Permit be brought forward to Council for consideration.

Furthermore, that Council designate Limoges Community Day to be held on June 20 as a community event for the purpose of enabling the organizers to apply for a “bring-your-own alcohol” Special Occasion Permit, subject to provincial requirements.]

Financial Considerations

Financial implications have been verified with annual budget and / or approved applicable policy or by-law: NOT APPLICABLE

Context

Council has requested an update regarding the recent announcement by the Province related to “bring-your-own alcohol” at events.

The Province of Ontario has introduced changes to the *Liquor Licence and Control Act* and its associated regulations (O. Reg. 747/21), creating a new framework for “bring-your-own” Special Occasion Permits (SOPs) for outdoor public events.

Effective April 30, 2026, eligible organizations and individuals may apply for these permits through the iAGCO online portal. A key component of the updated framework is the requirement for municipalities to designate events as “cultural” or “community” events for applicants to qualify under this permit category.

This change provides municipalities with a direct role in determining which events may be eligible under this framework and represents an expansion of permitted alcohol consumption at certain outdoor community events.

Report

Under this new framework, event organizers may apply for one of two permit types:

- **No-sale permit:** Attendees aged 19 and over may bring and consume their own alcohol within a designated and controlled area. No alcohol sales are permitted.
- **Sale permit:** In addition to allowing attendees to bring their own alcohol, the permit holder may also sell and serve alcohol purchased under the permit.

To be eligible, events must meet one of the following conditions:

- Be held in connection with and in proximity to a live sporting event; or
- Be designated by a municipality as a cultural or community event.

The introduction of the municipal designation requirement represents a notable change, as it provides municipalities with a role in determining which events may qualify under this framework. Examples of events that may be considered include festivals, markets, outdoor concerts, and other community gatherings.

While permit issuance and enforcement remain the responsibility of the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO), municipalities may receive requests to designate events to support permit applications.

From an operational perspective, this change:

- Expands opportunities for community groups and event organizers to host events involving alcohol consumption
- Introduces a potential administrative role for municipalities in reviewing and designating events
- Requires consideration of compliance, public safety, and alignment with existing municipal and provincial policies and practices

Administration will continue to monitor implementation of this framework and assess any potential impacts to municipal operations, policies, or event approvals.

With the exception of event-specific designations brought forward for Council consideration, no immediate changes to municipal processes are being proposed.

Open Alcohol Consumption in Municipal Parks (Information Only)

In addition to event-based permits, the Province permits municipalities to designate specific public spaces, including parks, where individuals may consume their own alcohol without the need for a Special Occasion Permit.

This approach, commonly referred to as “designated drinking areas,” is separate from the event-based “bring-your-own” framework and would require formal municipal designation through by-law or policy.

From a municipal perspective, designating a park for open alcohol consumption introduces several considerations:

- **Liability and Risk Exposure**
The Municipality assumes increased exposure related to public safety, including incidents involving intoxication, injuries, or property damage.

Additionally, the absence of a controlled or permitted environment limits the Municipality’s ability to manage and mitigate risk in real time.
- **Enforcement and Compliance**
Unlike permitted events, there is no designated organizer responsible for managing the site, resulting in greater reliance on municipal staff.

- **Operational Impacts**
Increased requirements for monitoring, waste management, and potential maintenance may arise, particularly in higher-use parks.
- **Public Use and Community Impact**
Consideration must be given to shared use of parks, including impacts on families, youth, and other user groups.

Currently, Administration is not recommending the designation of any municipal parks for open alcohol consumption. Should Council wish to explore this option further, a separate report would be required to assess policy, enforcement, insurance, and operational implications in detail.

Relevance to strategic priorities

N/A

Communication Plan

Staff will direct organizations or individuals wishing to host these types of events to submit a request to Council for consideration.

Other Option/Options to the Recommendation

N/A

Attachments

O. Reg. 747/21