



Staff Report

Community Services – By-law Enforcement

Report To: COW- Admin, Corp and Finance, SI, Comm. Services
Meeting Date: February 24, 2025
Report Number: CS.25.015
Title: Georgian Hills Vineyard Amended 2025 Noise By-law Relief Requests
Prepared by: Emily Beauchamp, Administrative Assistant, By-law Services

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report CS.25.015, entitled “Georgian Hills Vineyard Amended 2025 Noise By-law Relief Requests”;

AND THAT Council authorize the amended requests (from Council’s motion dated March 11, 2024) for relief from the provisions of the Noise By-law for the 2025 events as specified in this report.

AND THAT submitted requests for Noise By-law relief in 2026 and subsequent years provide detailed information of events.

B. Overview

This report provides the details of an amended request for relief from the provisions of the Noise By-law from Georgian Hills Vineyard for Council’s consideration for 2025.

C. Background

On February 26, 2024, staff report FAF.24.032 “Georgian Hills Vineyard 2024 and 2025 Noise By- law Relief Requests” was presented at the Committee of the Whole meeting. This report included Noise By-law relief requests for multiple dates at Georgian Hills Vineyard throughout 2024 and 2025. These requests were approved by council, with conditions (Attachment 5) on March 11, 2024.

At the time, there were no 2025 events scheduled aside from a charity event on Sunday July 20, 2025. Now that Georgian Hills has their 2025 events scheduled, they have requested some changes to the previously approved dates. The following table shows the previously approved dates in black, and the newly requested dates/times in red. There are a total of six new dates requested, with one of the previously requested dates no longer needed (this is shown as crossed out in the table). The requested time frames and

sources of sound, which were not included in the previous request, are now noted.

DATE	EVENT TYPE	TIME (MUSIC PLAYING)	MUSIC TYPE	GUEST COUNT
Saturday, June 7	Wedding	4pm to 12am	DJ	80
Saturday, June 14	Wedding	4pm to 12am	DJ	65
Friday, June 20	Wedding	4pm to 12am	DJ	90
Saturday, June 21	Wedding	4pm to 12am	DJ	80
Saturday, June 28	Wedding	4pm to 12am	DJ	80
Saturday, July 5	Wedding	4pm to 12am	DJ	100
Saturday, July 12	Wedding	4pm to 12am	DJ	85
Saturday, July 19	Wedding	4pm to 12am	DJ	100
Sunday, July 20	CHARITY EVENT	11am to 6pm	Live	250
Friday, July 25	Wedding	4pm to 12am	DJ	70
Saturday, July 26				
Saturday, August 9	Wedding	4pm to 12am	DJ	100
Saturday, August 16	Wedding	4pm to 12am	DJ	110
Friday, August 22	Wedding	4pm to 12am	DJ	80
Saturday, August 23	Wedding	4pm to 12am	DJ	80
Friday, September 5	Wedding	4pm to 12am	DJ	80
Saturday, September 6	Wedding	4pm to 12am	DJ	70
Saturday, September 13	Wedding	4pm to 12am	DJ	50

It is noted in the application that a decibel monitor with pre-set limits will be used on-site. By 9:00 p.m., tent walls will be put up to buffer noise, the bass will be turned off, and there will be no further use of microphones. Decibels will be further reduced at 11:00 p.m.

The same “responsible person” system will be in place, per condition one of council’s March 11, 2024 resolution, which is as follows: “Georgian Hills Vineyard shall designate a responsible person that can be contacted real time during events for response and corrective action within 30 minutes, and with municipal enforcement response contact information being provided by the Town to the residents within one hundred and twenty (120) meter radius of the Georgian Hills Vineyard property”.

The above-noted events are taking place on a commercial property and the decision of whether to approve or deny these requests must be made by Council.

The submitted request to amend the 2025 dates also includes a list of requested 2026 dates for potential future bookings that have not yet been confirmed (Attachment 3). By-law staff have informed the applicants that 2026 requests will not be processed as a blanket request a year in advance as the inevitable date changes lead to duplication in sending notices, presenting reports of the requests at Committee of the Whole and Council meetings, and significant staff time. Staff recall that the blanket request was an issue brought up by residents within 120 metres of Georgian Hills.

D. Analysis

Georgian Hills has submitted similar Noise By-law exemption requests in previous years and Council resolved to grant these requests. By-law services did receive concerns about multiple exemptions and complaints about noise from a nearby resident in 2024. However, no formal noise complaints were received during any of the events in 2024.

Section 3 e) of the Noise By-law permits the making of noises or sounds related to the non-residential use of land permitted by a by-law enacted by the municipality pursuant to the applicable Zoning By-law from 07:00 to 19:00.

It is noted that outdoor events in themselves outside of 07:00 to 19:00 are not prohibited. The making of noise is prohibited in the instance where such events are likely to disturb the peace, quiet, comfort or repose of any inhabitant.

In accordance with the procedures set out in our Policy & Procedures for Noise By-law Relief Requests, notice to the residents within 120 metres of 496350 Grey Road 2 was circulated on February 5, 2025. The deadline for residents to submit comments is February 13, 2025. We received comments from one resident which are summarized below:

- This is an unreasonable request for “an exemption”, which by definition would not include most of the summer weekends. Thirteen weekends of the precious summer are threatened with invasive noise levels; we welcome the measures to be taken but nevertheless sound travels and is especially noticeable in an area which is normally peaceful.
- Two nights per week is too much and would prefer a restriction to one night per week at most. We hate to disappoint prospective couples but feel Georgian Hills Vineyard have been irresponsible to propose all these extra dates without any permission.

E. Strategic Priorities

1. Communication and Engagement

We will enhance communications and engagement between Town Staff, Town residents and stakeholders

F. Environmental Impacts

N/A

G. Financial Impacts

N/A

H. In Consultation With

Debbie Young, Manager of By-law & Licensing

Ryan Gibbons, Director of Community Services

I. Public Engagement

The topic of this Staff Report has not been the subject of a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. However, any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Emily Beauchamp, Administrative Assistant, By-law Services bylawinfo@thebluemountains.ca.

J. Attached

1. Noise By-law 2002-9, Office Consolidation
2. Copy of the application from Georgian Hills Vineyard
3. List of requested dates for 2025 and 2026
4. Map showing Georgian Hills event location and properties within 120 metres
5. Council Resolution from March 11, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Beauchamp
Administrative Assistant, By-law Services

For more information, please contact:
Emily Beauchamp, Administrative Assistant, By-law Services
bylawinfo@thebluemountains.ca
519-599-3131 extension 258

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	CS.25.015 Georgian Hills Vineyard Amended 2025 Noise By-law Relief Requests.docx
Attachments:	- Att. 1 2002-9-Noise-By-law-Office-Consolidation.pdf - Att. 2 Application.pdf - Att. 3 List of Requested Dates.pdf - Att. 4 Map.pdf - Att. 5 Council Resolution.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Feb 14, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Debbie Young - Feb 12, 2025 - 9:32 AM

Ryan Gibbons - Feb 14, 2025 - 9:22 AM