

REAL ESTATE LAW



Fireworks: Dazzling displays but when can they be launched?



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LAW**

With the warmer months, many of us leave our windows open at night for a cooler breeze. Often what comes on the breeze are the sounds of exploding fireworks as festivals end with a bang and backyard party hosts entertain their guests. Seems like almost every week in Ottawa there is a fireworks display somewhere in the City. But who can set off fireworks and when is a fireworks display

permitted?

The Fireworks By-law in Ottawa sets out permitted uses of fireworks for consumer use and special-event use. Consumers can purchase fireworks, but not firecrackers, on Victoria Day and Canada Day and the seven business days preceding these holidays. Once purchased, consumers may set off fireworks on the day before, on the day of, and/or on the day after

Victoria Day and Canada Day. Those setting off fireworks must be 18 years of age or older, or if the person is under the age of 18 the person must be under the direct supervision and control of someone 18 years of age or older.

For other firework displays and pyrotechnic displays, the fireworks cannot be set off without first obtaining a permit from the City of Ottawa. Applications must be submitted to the Fire Chief a minimum of 30 days prior to the event. Once a permit is issued, the permit holder shall supervise the display, discharge the fireworks,

and maintain a fire extinguisher ready for immediate use.

Remember, if you are going to be setting off fireworks and you have obtained your permit, you must also continue to comply with the City of Ottawa Noise By-Law which limits the permitted noise levels after 11 p.m. Have fun, stay safe and enjoy the fireworks show!

Co-authored with Robin Goski, associate lawyer

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