



TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL INFORMATION ITEM

Committee: Committee of the Whole – Administration & Finance

Date: September 13, 2021

Department: Administration

Topic: Cannabis Plant Odour – Private Property

Background: Under the Mayor's Report at the Committee of the Whole meeting, held on August 16, a concern was raised with respect to the odour emitting from cannabis plants that are growing on a residential private property.

On October 17, 2018, the Cannabis Act came into force. Along with setting regulations to displace the illegal cannabis market, preventing the sale to youth, setting rules about how a person can access cannabis, and permitting the growing of cannabis for personal use. Adults who are 19 or older are able to:

- Possess up to 30 grams of legal dried cannabis, or its equivalent in non-dried form, in public
- Share up to 30 grams of dried cannabis or its equivalent with other adults
- Buy cannabis products from a provincial retailer
- Grow up to 4 plants per residence (not per person) for personal use.

The possession, production, distribution and sale outside of what the law allows remains illegal and subject to criminal penalties. If an individual suspects that someone is growing more than the permitted 4 plants, they should contact the provincial police to conduct an investigation. Additionally, if there is an "offensive" odour in the community, an individual may contact the Ministry of Environment to file a complaint. MOE Eastern Ontario District office: 1-800-267-0974

The Township currently has a bylaw in place to regulate and restrict the smoking/vaporizing of cannabis and tobacco in municipal facilities and public places. The concern is that the smell emitting from cannabis plants on a private property may be smelt by other members of the public on the sidewalk. If an individual was smoking/vapourizing cannabis in/on a public place or municipal facilities, then enforcement is possible.

A limited number of municipalities in Ontario have implemented bylaws to further regulate cannabis production/processing/packaging facilities, which are currently being challenged at the Ontario Superior Court.

Is Committee/Council interested in establishing minimum yard setback requirements for the growing of personal cannabis plant(s) on private property?

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Clerk

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CAO