



A Complete Guide to  
Frequently Requested By-Laws

A wide-angle photograph of a rocky coastline at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the scene. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds. The water is calm, reflecting the light from the sun. In the foreground, there are several tide pools of varying sizes, some of which are filled with water and others that are empty, showing the dark, wet rocks. The overall mood is serene and peaceful.

# By-law Guide

May 2024



This document is meant for use as an accessible and easy-to-read guide to some of the Town’s most inquired-about by-laws. If there is a discrepancy or possible changes to a by-law, rule or regulation, the official records located at <https://saugeenshores.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/> will be considered correct. This guide is considered a living document and is subject to change.

## Connect With Us



[SaugeenShores.ca](https://SaugeenShores.ca)



[Report a Concern](#)



[News and Notices](#)

### By-law Enforcement Officer

519-832-2008 ext. 138  
[bylaw@saugeenshores.ca](mailto:bylaw@saugeenshores.ca)



@SaugeenShoresON

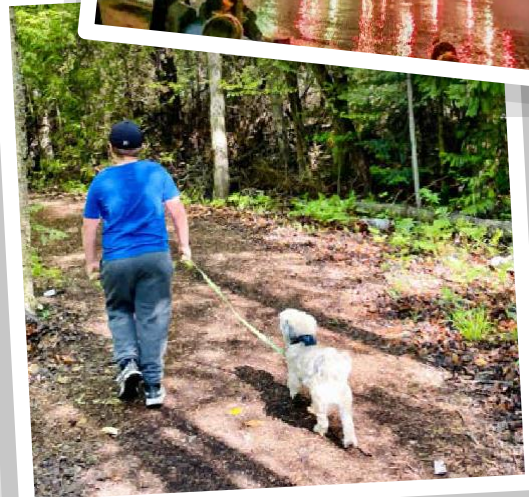


@TownOfSaugeenShores



# Table of Contents

Animal Control By-law .....	4
ATV By-law .....	5
Burning By-law .....	6
Cemetery By-law .....	7
Chicken By-law .....	8
Firearms By-law .....	9
Fireworks By-law .....	10
Parks and Beach By-law .....	11
Noise By-law .....	12
Parking By-law .....	13
Property Standards By-law .....	14
Sign By-law .....	15
Tourist Camp By-law .....	16
Traffic By-law .....	17
Zoning By-law .....	18



# Animal Control By-law



Animal Control By-law regulates licensing for cats and dogs within Saugeen Shores. The By-law also has specific requirements for animals at large, the leashing of animals, as well as general prohibitions.

## Licensing

- Cats 12 weeks and older need to be registered with the Town within 10 days of the owner taking possession of the animal (exception for Agricultural Zone). The Town will issue a cat tag with a registration number after the owner purchases a licence. Cat owners must pay an annual licence fee.
- Dogs 12 weeks and older need to be registered with the Town within 10 days of the owner taking possession of the animal. All dogs must have a durable collar securely fixed around their necks with their registration number. Dog owners must pay an annual licence fee.

## Leashing/Animals At Large

- Dogs are not permitted in prohibited areas within the Town of Saugeen Shores at any time during the period of May 1st to October 1st in each year.
- Dogs must have a leash affixed to its collar and must be under the control of a person to walk on a sidewalk.

- When they are not on their own property, every dog owner must keep their dog leashed and under control of a person unless the dog owner has prior consent from the land owner.

## General Prohibitions

- No one may have more than 2 dogs without a kennel licence.
- No person shall make a false statement on any registration or application required under this By-law.

Please contact the Clerks Department for Licensing 519-832-2008 ext. 100. All other Animal Control concerns please contact the By-law Enforcement Officer at 519-832-2008 ext. 138 or [bylaw@saugeenshores.ca](mailto:bylaw@saugeenshores.ca).

# ATV By-law



The ATV By-law regulates the usage of ATVs within Saugeen Shores and outlines the prohibited areas for ATV usage.

## General Provisions

- No person shall operate an ATV on the following municipal properties: Community Centre property, parks, playgrounds, and beaches without written consent of the Town.
  - No person shall operate an ATV on any sidewalk in the Town of Saugeen Shores. ATVs shall travel on the shoulder of the road, but may operate on the roadway if the shoulder is unsafe.
  - Operators of ATVs must keep machines away from churches and funeral homes when services are in progress and completely away from hospitals and nursing homes unless absolutely necessary.
  - The operation of ATVs on highways within Saugeen Shores is prohibited between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Hunters are exempt from this provision.
- The speed limit for ATVs is 20 km/hr where the posted limit is 50 km/hr, and an ATV speed limit of 50km/hr where the posted limit is 80 km/hr.
  - ATVs are prohibited in the following areas:
    - Goderich Street from CAW Sideroad to Concession 10
    - High Street from Grenville Street to Huron Street
    - Albert Street N from North Rankin Street to High Street
    - North Rankin Street from Albert Street N to Craig Street
    - Albert Street S from High Street to South Street

Please contact the By-law Enforcement Officer at 519-832-2008 ext. 138 or [bylaw@saugeenshores.ca](mailto:bylaw@saugeenshores.ca) or The Saugeen Shores Police Service 519-832-9200 for ATV related concerns.

# Burning By-law



The Burning By-law regulates the times during which fires may be set in the open air, and the precautions to be observed by persons setting fires.

## Prohibitions

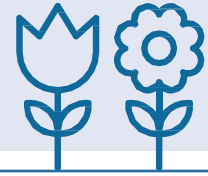
- No person may burn prohibited materials: automobiles, truck bodies tires, oil, grease, paint, rags, plastics, wire, leaves, asphalt singles, rubber, construction materials, insulation and flammable or combustible liquids or accelerants.
- No person may burn leaves.
- No person may set or allow an uncontained fire to burn.
- Fires shall only be set or be allowed to burn in a container, apparatus, or physical construction that is capable of controlling spread of the fire.
- Every person present at a fire shall ensure there is an adequate means of extinguishing the fire available while the fire is burning.

## Prohibited Locations

- The front, side, or rear yard of any commercial or industrial property.
- Less than 3 meters (10 feet) from any building, structure, hedge, tree, fence, highway, or vehicular right of way, overhead wire or combustible material.
- Public highway or Municipal property.
- On any land where construction of a building or structure is ongoing.
- During a Fire Ban.

Please contact the By-law Enforcement Officer at 519-832-2008 ext. 138 or [bylaw@saugeenshores.ca](mailto:bylaw@saugeenshores.ca) or The Saugeen Shores Fire Department 519-389-6120 for Burning related concerns.

# Cemetery By-law



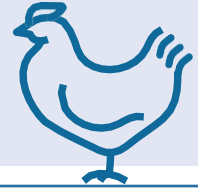
The Cemetery By-law regulates the maintenance, regulation, rules, and control of all owned cemeteries in Saugeen Shores.

## Rules For Visitors

- Visitors are always welcome at the Cemetery during the open hours from 8:00 a.m. to sundown. They are asked to remember and respect the dead.
  - No parades are allowed within the Cemetery unless approved by the Superintendent.
  - An adult must accompany any children, are responsible for their good conduct, and shall ensure those children do not run over lots and graves.
  - Vehicles within the Cemetery shall be driven at a moderate rate of speed and shall not leave the roadways.
  - Owners of vehicles and their drivers are responsible for any damage done by them.
  - Discharging of firearms, other than in regular volleys at burial services is prohibited in and around the Cemetery.
- Picnics are not allowed within the Cemetery grounds.
  - All persons are prohibited from:
    - taking flowers, plants, temporary markers, corner markers or other materials from graves;
    - picking flowers (wild or cultivated), or breaking any tree, shrub or plant;
    - writing upon or defacing any structure in the Cemetery;
    - making paths or short cuts across any part of the Cemetery.
  - No person shall disturb the quiet and/or good order of the cemetery by noise or other inappropriate conduct.
  - No trespassing between dusk and dawn.

Please contact the Clerks Department at 519-832-2008 ext. 100 for Cemetery By-law related concerns.

# Chicken By-law



The Chicken By-law regulates the registration, land requirements, hen requirements, and coop and maintenance standards for all chickens and chicken coops in Saugeen Shores.

## Registry

- The registry is maintained by the Chief Building Official.
- Registry must contain, name of the owner, street address, mailing address, and a statement of the owner that all regulations are adhered to.

## Land Requirements

- No more than 5 hens per property.
- All chicken coops must be registered with the Municipality and be zoned R1- Residential, R2- Residential, or PD-Planned Development.
- Land must contain a lawfully existing single detached dwelling unit.
- Chicken coop can only be located in the rear yard.

## Hen Requirements

- Hens must be kept in a fully enclosed coop or run in a manner that contains the hens on the property and prevents their escape from such coop or run.
- All hens shall be tagged with sufficient information to identify the owner of the hens.

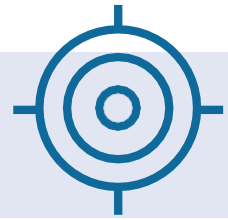
## Coop and Maintenance Standards

- Coops require a minimum setback of 1.5 metres (5 feet) from side and rear lot lines and a minimum of five (5) metres (16.5 feet) from any dwelling unit, excluding the dwelling unit on the property on which the hens are located.
- Owners must ensure coops and runs are maintained in a clean condition and ensure that smells do not cause a nuisance to residents of any neighbouring property.
- Hens must have access to an enclosed outdoor run area.
- More detailed information on the complete Coop and Maintenance Standards in the [Chicken By-law](#) found on the Town website.

Please contact the By-law Enforcement Officer at 519-832-2008 ext. 138 or [bylaw@saugeenshores.ca](mailto:bylaw@saugeenshores.ca) for Chicken related concerns.



# Firearms By-law



The Firearms By-law prohibits and regulates the discharge of guns or firearms in Saugeen Shores.

## Regulations

- No one, except an Officer of the Law carrying out their duties, shall discharge a firearm within Town limits. This includes air guns, spring guns, bow and arrows, or crossbows (or any class or type of thereof).
- Exemptions are provided for the carrying of arms, volleys and gun salutes during veteran services and ceremonial services.
- Exemptions are provided for discharging a bow on school property if it is for:
  - archery instruction
  - an archery competition sanctioned by a board of education, an educational institution, or the school principal

Archery is also permitted in indoor ranges constructed to prevent projectile discharge.

- Exemptions are allowed on agricultural lands (designated in the Saugeen Shores Official Plan) to discharge a firearm or bow, in order to destroy animals that are sick, diseased or a nuisance. It is also allowed to discharge a firearm or bow to slaughter animals for food.

Those exemptions are only allowed for the owner or occupier of that land, or an authorized agent of said owner or occupier.

- The Port Elgin Gun Club (located on Part Lot 11, Concession 9, in the former Town of Port Elgin, Town of Saugeen Shores, County of Bruce) shall be exempt.

Please contact the By-law Enforcement Officer at 519-832-2008 ext. 138 or [bylaw@saugeenshores.ca](mailto:bylaw@saugeenshores.ca) or The Saugeen Shores Police Service 519-832-9200 for Firearm related concerns.

# Fireworks By-law



The Fireworks By-law regulates and licenses the sale of fireworks, prohibit sale and setting off firecrackers, regulating setting off fireworks, as well as obtaining permits in Saugeen Shores.

## Sale of Fireworks

- No one is allowed to sell — or offer to sell — fireworks in Town unless they have a licence. Permit is to be displayed at all times.
- No one is allowed to sell fireworks in Town anytime during the year except on Victoria Day, Canada Day, Civic Holiday, Labour Day and American Independence Day and except on the seven (7) days immediately preceding.
- No one is allowed to sell fireworks in Town to anyone under the age of eighteen (18) years.

## Setting off Fireworks

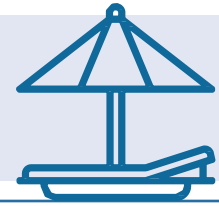
- No one is allowed to set off fireworks:
  - within the travelled portion of a public street or highway (including the sidewalks)
  - within the limits of a shopping plaza
  - within 183 metres (600 feet) of a nursing home, hospital, home for the aged, church, or school
  - within 183 metres (600 feet) of a place where explosives, flammables, or gasoline are stored or sold
- No person shall set off fireworks unless on the above mentioned holidays or on the day immediately before or after that holiday.
- Fireworks are only permitted to go off between dusk and 11:00 p.m.

## Firecrackers

- No person shall sell, retail, or set off firecrackers within the Town.

Please contact the By-law Enforcement Officer at 519-832-2008 ext. 138 or [bylaw@saugeenshores.ca](mailto:bylaw@saugeenshores.ca) or The Saugeen Shores Police Service 519-832-9200 for Fireworks related concerns.

# Parks and Beach By-law



The Parks and Beach By-law regulates the usage and outlines prohibited activities in Town Parks and Beaches in Saugeen Shores.

## Barbeques and Fires

- Barbeques and fires are not permitted on any beaches or parks within the Town of Saugeen Shores. Instead, please try one of the local beachfront restaurants or head into town for more options!

## Organized Gatherings and Picnics

- Events or gatherings of more than 25 people within a Town park or at the Beach require a permit/permission from the Town.

## Tents

- Tents, and structures are not permitted on Town Beaches or Parks. However, you should consider umbrellas and sunshades.

## Dogs

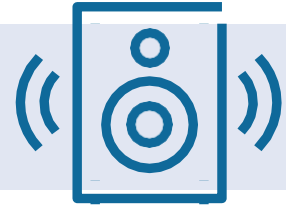
- From May 1st - October 1st dogs and other animals are not permitted on Town beaches or parks unless they are designated service animals.
- Following exceptions:
- Southampton - Saugeen River to the High Street Flagpole. From May 1st to October 1st, owners can only exercise their dogs between 6 p.m. to 9 a.m.
- Port Elgin - 538 Izzard Road to Concession 6/Bruce Road 25. From May 1st to October 1st, owners can only exercise their dogs between 6 p.m. to 9 a.m.

## Alcohol

- Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on any Town beaches or parks. Please be mindful and respectful of those also trying to enjoy these Town amenities and leave the alcoholic beverages at home.

Please contact the By-law Enforcement Officer at 519-832-2008 ext. 138 or [bylaw@saugeenshores.ca](mailto:bylaw@saugeenshores.ca) or The Saugeen Shores Police Service 519-832-9200 for Parks/Beach related concerns.

# Noise By-law



The Noise By-law regulates and prohibits unusual noises or noises likely to disturb inhabitants in Saugeen Shores.

## General Prohibitions

No person shall, at any time, emit, cause or permit any noise created by:

- the persistent barking, calling or whining of any domestic pet or any animal, except an animal used for and located on agricultural property used for livestock, as set out in the Town's Zoning By-Law.
- the squealing of motor vehicle tires.
- the use of a horn, whistle, alarm, bell, gong or the detonation of explosives.
- the operation of an air conditioner, pool, or filter, heat pump or the like that are not in proper working order.
- the operation of a combustion engine without an effective exhaust or muffling device in proper working order.
- operation of a vehicle radio, stereo, or the like.
- the use of a drive-thru speaker where the volume allows conversation to be clearly audible from a "Point of Reception".
- selling or advertising by shouting, yelling or amplified sound.
- the operation of any tool including a hammer, saw, nail gun, lawnmower, staple gun, hedge trimmer, drill, or the like between the hours of 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. in all residential and other areas.
- the operation of construction equipment between the hours of 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. (to 9:00 a.m. on Saturdays) and all hours on Sundays in all residential and other areas.

Please contact the By-law Enforcement Officer at 519-832-2008 ext. 138 or [bylaw@saugeenshores.ca](mailto:bylaw@saugeenshores.ca) or The Saugeen Shores Police Service 519-832-9200 for Noise related concerns.



# Parking By-law



The Parking By-law regulates and controls parking in Saugeen Shores.

## Parking Prohibited – Signage Not Required

No person shall park a vehicle:

- on or over a sidewalk or posted bike path.
- on or within a crosswalk or pedestrian crossover.
- within nine (9) metres (30 feet) of any non-signalized intersection. Nine (9) metres (30 feet) shall be measured from the end of the curb or asphalt on the road with the parking restriction.
- on a median strip or on any boulevard on a bridge or approaches thereto; within three (3) metres (10 feet) of a fire hydrant.
- on a highway in such a position as to obstruct traffic.
- within 30 metres (100 feet) of a crosswalk or pedestrian crossover that is not at an intersection.
- in front of the entrance or exit to a lot or building where a fire department vehicle, public utility emergency vehicle, police vehicle or other emergency vehicle is parked/stored.
- that blocks a driveway.
- in a public park or beach between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 6:00 a.m.
- on any highway between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. commencing November 1st and ending on March 31st.
- in such a position so as to interfere with the removal of snow from any Highway, sidewalk or Parking Lot in the Municipality.
- on public property without valid vehicle registration with the Ministry of Transportation.

Please contact the By-law Enforcement Officer at 519-832-2008 ext. 138 or [bylaw@saugeenshores.ca](mailto:bylaw@saugeenshores.ca) for Parking related concerns.

# Property Standards By-law



The Property Standards By-law prescribes the standards for the maintenance and occupancy of property within the municipality.

## Yards

Yards must be free from:

- rubbish, debris, or hazardous conditions. This includes wrecked, dismantled, or abandoned machinery, vehicles, trailers, or boats.
- brush, and noxious weeds.
- collapsed or partially collapsed structures.
- insects, rodents, vermin.
- dead, decayed, or damaged trees.

## Accessory Buildings, Fences, and other Structures

- Accessory buildings, fences and other structures shall be maintained in structurally sound condition and be protected from deterioration and kept in good repair.

## Residential Standards

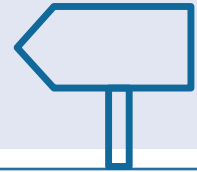
- Every tenant, or occupant or lessee of a residential property shall maintain every floor, wall, ceiling and fixture, under their control — including hallways, entrances, laundry rooms, utility rooms, and other common areas — in a clean, sanitary and safe condition.

## Vacant Buildings/Lands

- Vacant buildings shall be kept cleared of all garbage, rubbish and debris and shall have all water, electrical and gas services turned off except for those services that are required for the security and maintenance of the property.
- Vacant buildings shall be boarded up by covering all openings through which entry may be obtained.

Please contact the By-law Enforcement Officer at 519-832-2008 ext. 138 or [bylaw@saugeenshores.ca](mailto:bylaw@saugeenshores.ca) for Property Standards related concerns.

# Sign By-law



The Sign By-law prohibits and regulates the erection and maintenance of signs, advertising devices, awnings and canopies in the Town of Saugeen Shores.

## Prohibited Signs:

- a sign attached to a tree, fence, or a gate.
- a sequential sign (multiple signs where the message in each sign is dependent on the message before it (ex. “Eat.” “At.” “Fred’s!”)).
- a sign erected or painted on a vehicle.
- a corporation flag or emblem exceeding two (2) square metres (21.5 sq. ft.) in area and every corporation flag or emblem exceeding three (3) per premises.
- signs on any accessory buildings, except:
  - a facial wall sign
  - a projecting wall sign that relates to how that accessory building is being used
- a roof sign.
- a projecting wall sign that is primarily supported by braces, cables, rods, guy wires or other structural supporting components that are external to the sign face or sign box.
- a sign that is located on a road allowance and attached to any utility pole or to any other official sign structure, unless such attachment is authorized by the Town.
- a billboard sign.
- a sign attached to any part of municipal property or road allowance.
- signs displaying profanity, nudity, hate messages or other similarly offensive content.
- a sign which uses flashing illumination or is otherwise animated.
- a sign displayed without a valid permit.

Please contact the By-law Enforcement Officer at 519-832-2008 ext. 138 or [bylaw@saugeenshores.ca](mailto:bylaw@saugeenshores.ca) for Sign related concerns.

# Tourist Camp By-law



The Tourist Camp By-law provides rules and regulations for the Port Elgin and Southampton Municipal Tourist Camps.

## General Provisions

- Campfires are allowed when they are confined in the fire pit or container approved by the Camp Manager, and must be extinguished before retiring or during high winds, or upon the request of the Camp Manager, and must not be left unattended.
- Campground quiet time hours commence daily at 11:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m.
- No camper(s) shall occupy a campsite without a current valid camping permit.
- Trailers / Mobile Home / Cottage RV Lifestyle may only be occupied between May 1st and October 31st.
- Visitors staying overnight must register at the camp office upon arrival.
- No leaching pits are permitted for the disposal of grey water. All toilet, human body waste and grey water must be disposed of in the municipal sewer sanitary system.
- Fireworks are prohibited in all areas of the Port Elgin Tourist and Southampton Tourist Camp, including the Ball Diamond Area.
- Camper(s) are required to keep their campsite tidy and neatly groomed. Trailers / Mobile Home / Cottage RV Lifestyle on site must be well maintained and must be capable of being moved at any given time. Untidy and messy campsites will not be tolerated. All sites must be free of garbage and debris.

Please contact the Municipal Tourist Camp Office at 519-832-2008 ext. 154 for Tourist Camp related concerns.



# Traffic By-law



The Traffic By-law regulates and/or controls traffic in the Town of Saugeen Shores.

## Traffic Prohibitions

- Self-propelled devices are not permitted on a public sidewalk.
  - Motor or power assisted devices are not permitted on public sidewalk.
  - Snow vehicles must not be operated between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.
  - Motorized snow vehicles are not permitted on a public sidewalk.
- Debris, construction materials, snow or ice must not be deposited on sidewalks or highways.
  - Vehicles are not permitted on any beaches within Saugeen Shores.

Please contact the By-law Enforcement Officer at 519-832-2008 ext. 138 or [bylaw@saugeenshores.ca](mailto:bylaw@saugeenshores.ca) or The Saugeen Shores Police Service 519-832-9200 for Traffic related concerns.

# Zoning By-law



The Zoning By-law regulates the usage of lands situated within the defined areas, as designated, for the purpose of regulating and prohibiting development of particular lands that would create an adverse effect on The Town of Saugeen Shores.

## Prohibited Uses In All Zones:

- the making or establishment of pits and quarries.
- the tanning or storage of uncured hides or skins.
- the boiling of blood, tripe, bones or soaps for commercial purposes.
- the manufacturing of glue or fertilizers from dead animals or from human or animal waste.
- an abattoir, livestock yard, livestock exchange, or dead stock depot, except where specifically listed herein as a permitted use in a specific Zone.
- a track for the driving, racing or testing of automobiles, motorcycles, snowmobiles or any other motorized vehicles.
- a salvage or scrap yard, or the collection, storage or sale of vehicles except where there is permitted automotive use.
- occupying a vehicle for human habitation other than a mobile home where specifically permitted.
- the keeping or raising of any livestock or poultry, including a kennel, on any lot or in any building or structure except where agriculture is a permitted use.
- undertaking any but minor repairs and servicing on any automobile, such as the changing of tires or oil, outside of a garage or other suitable building.

Please contact the By-law Enforcement Officer at 519-832-2008 ext. 138 or [bylaw@saugeenshores.ca](mailto:bylaw@saugeenshores.ca) or the Zoning Coordinator 519-832-2008 ext. 163 for Zoning related concerns.