



Staff Report

Operations – Water & Wastewater Services

Report To: Special Meeting of Council
Meeting Date: July 8, 2026
Report Number: OPS.26.041
Title: Outfall Noise By-Law Relief
Prepared by: Allison Kershaw, Manager of Water & Wastewater Services

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report OPS.26.041, entitled “Outfall Noise By-Law Relief”;

AND THAT Council grant relief from Noise By-Law 2002-09 from July 11, 2026, to September 30th, 2026, for Saturdays from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., for work related to the construction of the Effluent Outfall;

AND THAT approval of this request be subject to construction works not occurring on Sundays.

B. Overview

This Staff Report requests relief from Noise By-Law 2002-09 to permit construction work on Saturdays from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. between July 11, 2026, and September 30, 2026, allowing the Contractor to work a full day on Saturdays.

Previously, Staff Report OPS.26.024, *Outfall Construction Update*, was presented to the Committee of the Whole on April 28, 2026. At that time, staff requested relief from Noise By-Law 2002-09 to permit weekend construction related to the Effluent Outfall project, specifically from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays and from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays. Council approved relief from the By-Law for a total of three (3) weekends, excluding long weekends, during the summer construction period, subject to appropriate notification being provided to nearby residents.

Since that approval, the Contractor has requested that the Town reconsider the relief granted. The Contractor has advised that working full days on Saturdays, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., would improve construction efficiency and help maintain the project schedule. While the Noise By-Law currently permits construction only until 1:00 p.m. on Saturdays, this report seeks Council's approval to extend the permitted construction hours from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays for the duration of the project. In turn, work on Sundays for the duration of the project would be avoided.

C. Background

On April 28, 2026, Staff Report OPS.26.024, *Outfall Construction Update*, was presented to the Committee of the Whole. At that time, staff requested relief from Noise By-Law 2002-09 to permit weekend construction related to the Effluent Outfall project. Council approved relief from the By-Law for a total of three (3) weekends, excluding long weekends, during the summer construction period, with appropriate notification provided to nearby residents.

Since that approval, the Contractor has requested that the Town reconsider the relief granted. The Contractor has advised that working full days on Saturdays, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., would improve construction efficiency and help maintain the project schedule. However, Noise By-Law 2002-09 currently permits construction only until 1:00 p.m. on Saturdays. This report requests relief from the By-Law to allow construction between 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays until the in-water work is completed.

Construction of the Effluent Outfall is subject to environmental timing restrictions. The shoreline of Georgian Bay provides protected fish habitat, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada permits in-water and shoreline work only between July 1 and September 30 each year. As a result, the available construction window is limited.

If the in-water and shoreline work cannot be completed within the 2026 construction window, the remaining work cannot resume until July 1, 2027. This delay would significantly increase project costs due to remobilization, winter protection measures for partially completed works, and extended project administration.

In addition to the regulatory timing window, installation of the Effluent Outfall is dependent on favourable weather and water conditions on Georgian Bay. Providing additional construction hours on Saturdays will improve the Contractor's ability to complete the work within the permitted environmental window while accommodating weather-related delays. Sundays would be committed as non-working days which previously was not the case, providing residents with a full day of respite from construction activity.

D. Analysis

Due to environmental timing restrictions associated with fish habitat protection, there is a limited window each year to complete shoreline work within Georgian Bay. As a result, staff are requesting an exemption from the Town's Noise By-Law 2002-09 to permit construction on Saturdays from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The requested exemption would apply to work associated with the Effluent Outfall on the unopened Grey Street road allowance, Lora Bay Park, and the Harbour.

Noise By-Law 2002-09 prohibits construction activities and the operation of construction equipment between 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on weekdays and permits construction on Saturdays only between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Council may, by written approval, extend or

alter these permitted construction periods. In addition, By-Law 2002-60 amends By-Law 2002-09 to permit noises and sounds authorized by the municipality.

The Town's environmental approvals restrict in-water and shoreline construction activities to a limited period each year to protect fish habitat. This narrow construction window, combined with the unpredictable weather conditions on Georgian Bay and the need to coordinate the Effluent Outfall installation with the Bay Street Reconstruction Project within a constrained road allowance, creates significant scheduling challenges. Extending construction hours on Saturdays will provide additional flexibility to complete the work within the permitted environmental window, reduce the risk of weather-related delays, and help ensure the timely completion of both projects.

E. Strategic Priorities

1. Communication and Engagement

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

2. Organizational Excellence

We will continually seek out ways to improve the internal organization of Town Staff and the management of Town assets.

3. Community

We will protect and enhance the community feel and the character of the Town, while ensuring the responsible use of resources and restoration of nature.

4. Quality of Life

We will foster a high quality of life for full-time and part-time residents of all ages and stages, while welcoming visitors.

F. Environmental Impacts

The new effluent outfall will reduce the impacts of the effluent on the receiving waters of Georgian Bay by being located farther offshore in deeper water, where improved dilution and mixing conditions will enhance dispersion.

G. Financial Impacts

The budget for this project was approved as part of the 2022 Town Approved Budget, and all costs remain within the approved amount.

H. In Consultation With

Adam Smith – CAO

Jason Petznik – Communications Coordinator Capital Project

Mike Humphries – Senior Infrastructure Capital Projects Coordinator

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 Allison Kershaw, Manager of Water & Wastewater Services managerwww@thebluemountains.ca .

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Kershaw,
Manager of Water & Wastewater Services

Alan Pacheco
Director of Operations

For more information, please contact:
Allison Kershaw, Manager of Water & Wastewater Services
managerwww@thebluemountains.ca
519-599-3131 extension 226

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	OPS.26.041 - Outfall Noise By-Law Relief.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jun 30, 2026

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

Allison Kershaw - Jun 30, 2026 - 1:35 PM

Adam Smith - Jun 30, 2026 - 1:41 PM