
To: Mayor and Council

From: Sasha Helmkey-Playter, Clerk/Director of Legislative Services

Meeting Date: April 27, 2026

Subject: Report # LS-012-2026 – Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) “Bring-Your-Own” Events Updated Regulation

Recommendation

Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Clearview hereby receive report # LS-012-2026 (AGCO “Bring Your Own” Events Updated Regulation) dated April 27, 2026, for information.

Background

Over the past few years, the Provincial government has made numerous changes to the Liquor Licence and Control Act, 2019, and its regulations to modernize the alcohol market in Ontario.

In 2019, a significant change to the Act was the ability for municipal councils to designate by by-law a public place, including parks, for personal alcohol consumption. The City of Toronto’s pilot program is the most known, identifying specific park locations where alcohol can be consumed in the park, in accordance with certain guidelines. Clearview Township received a request from the Creemore Village Green last summer, requesting a similar pilot project for Village Green Park. Council maintained its status, with personal alcohol consumption not being permitted in any Clearview parks.

In late 2025, the Province introduced further updates to Ontario Regulation 747/21 under the Liquor Licence and Control Act, which replaced “tailgate events” with “bring-your-own events” (BYOB). This update will come into force on April 30, 2026, and it allows attendees of “municipally designated” cultural and community, outdoor events to bring alcohol for personal consumption, where Council has passed a by-law authorizing the use of alcohol in public. Previously, permissions were limited to events connected to live sporting events.

For context, the AGCO defines “bring-your-own event” as the following:

A bring-your-own event must be a public event, held at an outdoor premises that is at ground level, and is either:

- held in connection with, and in proximity to, a professional, semi-professional or post-secondary sporting event; or
- an event that has been designated by a municipal council or its delegate as a cultural or community event.

For both types of events, attendees 19 years and older are allowed to bring their own liquor for consumption at the premises. Permit holders also have the option of allowing for the sale of alcohol under a Sale Bring-our-own Permit.

Comments and Analysis

Municipal participation in BYOB is entirely voluntary. BYOB is not automatically permitted and may only occur where:

- The municipality has enacted appropriate bylaw authority;
- The municipality has formally designated the event as eligible; and
- The event organizer has obtained a valid BYOB permit from the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO).

Municipalities retain full discretion over whether to participate in the BYOB framework and how BYOB-designated events are regulated locally.

Although Clearview Township has a municipally significant event (MSE) designation policy, it has not enacted the appropriate by-law to permit personal alcohol consumption. Therefore, organizers cannot obtain a BYOB permit from the AGCO for events in Clearview. However, the Township will continue to provide MSE designations for organizations to obtain Special Occasion Permits (SOPs) from the AGCO. This process has been in place since 2013.

Provincial Rationale on BYOB

The expansion of the legislation and regulations to permit bring-your-own events is an initiative to help support local tourism and drive economic growth. The Province advises that it allows communities more flexibility to responsibly enjoy cultural, outdoor events with the ability for attendees to save money and lower overhead costs to event organizers.

Insurance Considerations

Whenever there's changes in alcohol related policy, risk and liability are main considerations. Through the Simcoe County Insurance Pool, BFL Canada has provided municipal guidance on BYOB events, highlighting key responsibilities, compliance considerations and operational risk controls. This document has been attached as Appendix A to this report.

Allowing BYOB events may increase uncertainty and reduce organizer control over alcohol consumption. Municipalities should not assume that participant-supplied alcohol lowers risk, in many cases it may heighten liability exposure. BFL provides suggestions to mitigate risks, which puts more onus on the municipality to ensure protocols are in place for safety. The key takeaway is that municipalities are encouraged to carefully assess local readiness before authorizing BYOB-designated events.

With this being new to municipalities, remaining status quo in Clearview provides the opportunity to see if, and how other municipalities may integrate this into their municipally significant event policies and the resources required to ensure the health and safety of the public attending these types of events.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications as this is an information report on updated Provincial legislation.

Clearview's Strategic Plan

The above initiative supports the following strategic pillars:

- Communication

Report Appendices

Appendix A – BFL Canada Municipal Guidance: Bring-your-own Alcohol at Outdoor Public Events

Approvals

Submitted by: Sasha Helmky-Playter, B.A., Dipl. M.A., AOMC,
Clerk/Director of Legislative Services

Reviewed by: Emma Coleman, Deputy Clerk

**Financial Implications
Reviewed by:** Kelly McDonald, Treasurer

Approved by: John Ferguson, CAO