

City of Pitt Meadows Shooting Range Regulation Information Session

welcome!



this event aims to:



- Facilitate conversation and information sharing between the Pitt Meadows Gun Club and members of the community
- Outline steps taken by the City and other agencies to date and present next steps including proposed bylaw changes and their effect on the operation of the Pitt Meadows Gun Club
- Provide opportunity for residents to have questions and concerns addressed by city staff and other resources and regulating bodies



what we've heard

Issues Identified

Issue:

The PMGC has been operating without a permit pursuant to the City's Discharge of Firearms bylaw

Issue:

Residents have expressed safety concerns relating to the PMGC operating near residential properties

Action:

- As the City has not historically issued permits for shooting ranges and few municipalities do, the City has proposed bylaw amendments that would remove the requirement for a City-issued permit for shooting ranges

Issue:

The surrounding community is concerned about contamination of the area's soil and water supply due to the use of lead shot

Action:

- The RCMP have inspected the PMGC range and any potential public safety issues will be addressed prior to issuance of a licence to operate
- The City has suspended its support of the range licence pending a review of the issues

Action:

- The City has submitted a Report All Poachers and Polluters document to the Province and has continued to follow up with the Ministry of Environment regarding the contamination concerns
- The City has encouraged the PMGC to undertake environmental monitoring of the site
- The Ministry of Environment will pursue the situation if it is deemed that there is a risk of off-site contamination

Issue:

Shooting at the Pitt Meadows Gun Club (PMGC) has increased in frequency in recent years beyond historical hours, resulting in increased noise disturbance to nearby residents

Action:

- The City has proposed bylaws that would restrict hours of shooting at the PMGC to historic operating hours
- The City has hired a consultant to undertake acoustic testing at the PMGC to establish the ranges's operating noise levels
- The City has encouraged the PMGC to undertake measures to mitigate noise from the range

sound testing results

Results of Preliminary Sound Testing
From January 2018



Sound Pressure Level dB(A)	Description of Sound Source	Subjective Evaluation
140	Jet engine	Deafening
130	Jet aircraft during takeoff (300 ft away)	Painful
120	“Hard rock” band (with electronic amplification)	Onset of pain
107	Air hammer	Temporary hearing loss
100	Crowd noise at football game	Very loud
92	Heavy city traffic	Very loud
80	Ringling alarm clock (at 2ft.)	Very loud
70	B-757 aircraft cabin during flight	Loud
65	Busy restaurant or canteen	Loud
60	Conversational speech	Moderate
50	Window air conditioner	Moderate
34	Soft whisper (at 5ft.)	Faint
20	Rustling leaves	Very faint
10	Human breathing	Very faint



From RCMP Shooting
Range and Sound

Table 1: Summary of Measured Maximum Noise Levels During Testing

Scenario	Maximum L _{ASmax}	
	Location 1	Location 2
House 1	76 dBA	<70 dBA
House 2	72 dBA	<70 dBA
House 3	70 dBA	<70 dBA
House 4	<70 dBA	<70 dBA



Results using City
Noise Bylaw Criteria

Table 1: Summary of Calculated L at Measured Locations

Scenario	Average Impulse Level (dBA L _{LM})	
	Location 1	Location 2
House 1	85	63
House 2	82	64
House 3	80	61
House 4	77	60
All Houses	85	64

Methodology as described in MOE Guidelines (see Appendix C)



Results using
impulse measurement

roles & responsibilities

Levels of Government Involved

Federal Government RCMP Provincial Chief Firearms Officer

- The RCMP issues licences for shooting ranges
- The approval process addresses public safety issues related to the operation of the Shooting Range
- Range Inspection required

Provincial Government Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy

- The Ministry of Environment regulates site contamination and pollution through the *Environmental Management Act* and *Contaminated Sites Regulation*

Municipal Government City of Pitt Meadows

- Use of the property as a shooting range is a land use and can be regulated by the Zoning Bylaw
- Land uses in existence before the adoption of Zoning may have 'grandfathered' rights
- Municipality can regulate noise and discharge of firearms through bylaws but not to the extent that it restricts lawful land use

timeline of events

Summer 2017

Complaints received from residents regarding noise and environmental concerns



Summer 2017

City submits a RAPP report to the Province and begins correspondence with the Ministry of Environment regarding potential site contamination



Fall 2017

Staff research other jurisdictions and roles and responsibilities of the City and other levels of government



December 2017

Bylaw amendments presented to Council – Staff directed to undertake noise testing and hold open house



December 2017

Pitt Meadows Gun Club holds open house



January 2018

Noise testing completed at Pitt Meadows Gun Club



March 2018

Information page established on City website at pittmeadows.bc.ca/shootingranges



March 2018

Information Session hosted by the City

next steps

Information from
open house and
Bylaw amendments
presented to Council

Bylaw consideration



city response

Proposed Amendments to City Bylaws

Objectives:

- To establish regulation to limit the hours of operation of the PMGC to historical operating hours and have a clear direction for enforcement
- To allow Council input into the frequency of special events
- To update the City's Discharge of Firearms Bylaw to establish a clearer City role in firearms regulation and to bring the bylaw in line with standard municipal practices

The City can regulate:

Noise

Noise Suppression Bylaw 2138, 2003

Under propped amendments:

- Shooting at PMGC would be restricted to historic operating hours
- Special events could be permitted through a noise abeyance approved by City Council
- No maximum noise level is proposed at this time

Firearms Permit

Discharge of Firearms Bylaw 647, 1975

- Generally regulates areas of Pitt Meadows where discharge of firearms is permitted
- Some provisions within the current Bylaw should not apply to a lawful land use such as a shooting range
- Very few municipalities issue firearms related permits
- Under proposed amendments: requirement for issuance of a permit to be removed

Land Use

Zoning Bylaw 2505, 2011

- No changes proposed
- PMGC has 'grandfathered' land use rights
- New shooting range proposals would require a rezoning application and would be subject to City Council approval

frequently asked questions



1. Why does the City allow a shooting range to operate near a residential area?

The PMGC has been at its current location since 1976 where it owns and occupies 20 acres of property. This club predates the City's modern land use regulations. As such, the PMGC has certain "grandfathered" rights under the Local Government Act.

2. Why can't the City impose noise restrictions?

The City is recommending imposing restrictions on the PMGC hours and days of operation. Outside of those restrictions, the Gun Club is legally allowed to use their property as a shooting range.

3. Is my health and safety at risk?

The RCMP addresses public safety issues related to the design and layout of the range prior to issuing a license. Contamination concerns have been brought to the Province's attention. The Ministry of Environment will pursue the matter further if it is determined there is a risk of off-site environmental impacts.

4. What about the Thompson Mountain Shooting Range?

Thompson Mountain has a current license with the RCMP. The City has not received any bylaw enforcement complaints regarding Thompson Mountain Shooting Range.



contact information & resources

Safety Concerns

Pitt Meadows Community
Police Office:
(604) 465-2402.

Environmental Concerns – Site contamination, pollution

BC Ministry of Environment &
Climate Change Strategy
General Inquiries:
1-800-663-7867

Bylaw Infractions:

Noise Complaints:
City of Pitt Meadows Bylaw
Enforcement Department:
604-465-2428
General Inquiries:
604 465 5454

A copy of this presentation and other
related information can be found at
www.pittmeadows.bc.ca/shootingranges