

Township looks into more set fines

By Mark Pavilons

If you're caught breaking the rules in King Township, it's going to cost you.

King council recently gave staff the go-ahead to proceed on implementing set fines for various infractions, where none currently exist. The Township has to apply to the Chief Justice to approve the new set fines for various bylaws in King.

In staff report by Deputy Clerk Nancy Cronsberry, it was noted that set fines offer some benefits for an effective enforcement program.

The fines create a deterrent, but have to be high enough to discourage the public, but not too high to be considered excessive. Fines help convey a message that the infractions are unacceptable. Most of all, it's an efficient way for bylaw enforcement officers to lay charges.

Currently, officers issue tickets and where no fines exist, a Justice of the Peace has to determine the penalty in court.

Issuing a ticket is a much more efficient process for both the enforcing officer and the accused, the report stated. The set fine is effectively pre-approved by the justice and the accused still has the option to contest the fine in court.

Staff noted there are minimal set fines currently approved in King, but some have become out of date and are minimal when compared to other municipalities.

Staff compared set fines with their York neighbours and came up with a new list.

Currently, there's no fine for contravening the noise bylaw, but if approved, it will carry a fine in the \$300 range. Keeping an exotic animal or vicious dog carries a \$500 fine. Site alteration and sign contraventions carry \$500 fines, too. Littering will now cost you \$125 if caught and illegally discharging a firearm will hit you for \$250.

Regarding parking fines, they have been in effect for many years without increases. Staff is recommending to increase parking fines \$10 to \$20.

Councillor Debbie Schaefer said fiscal penalties are need to get the message across.

Councillor David Boyd asked staff to amend the fine for littering, and raise it to \$175, given King's green reputation.