

From: Danielle Atwood [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 10:41:52 AM
To: Angie Shand <angie.shand@municipalityofshelburne.ca>
Subject: Submission of Proposed Amendment – Drew’s Law (Dangerous Dog By-Law)

CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender.

Dear Councillor Angie Shand (District 4) of the Municipality of Shelburne,

I am writing to formally submit the attached proposal entitled “Drew’s Law: Proposed Amendment to the Dangerous Dog By-Law” for your consideration.

This proposal has been developed in response to a preventable tragedy in which a young boy in our community, Drew, lost his life as the result of a dog attack involving aggressive dogs that were repeatedly not properly secured. This loss has had a profound and lasting impact on our family and community. The intent of this submission is to honour Drew’s memory by advocating for meaningful improvements to public safety, accountability, and preventative enforcement measures.

The proposed amendments are not breed-specific. Instead, they focus on strengthening owner responsibility, enhancing enforcement tools available to the Municipality, and improving transparency so that residents are better informed when dangerous animals are present within their community.

In addition, the proposal introduces a community safety notification framework to ensure that residents are appropriately aware of dogs that have been formally deemed dangerous and remain in the community. This is intended to address gaps in public awareness that may place residents at risk.

I respectfully request that Council receive this submission, direct staff to review the proposed amendments, and consider initiating the formal by-law amendment process for further discussion and consultation.

Thank you for your time, attention, and consideration of this important matter. I appreciate Council’s ongoing commitment to public safety within the Municipality of Shelburne.

Sincerely,

Danielle Atwood
[REDACTED]

DREW'S LAW

Proposed Amendment to the Dangerous Dog By-Law Municipality of the District of Shelburne

Submitted Proposal Package

Submitted by: Danielle Atwood

Date: April 13, 2026

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1. Executive Summary

This proposal recommends targeted amendments to strengthen public safety and responsible dog ownership within the Municipality of the District of Shelburne.

The proposed changes are not breed-specific. Instead, they focus on owner accountability, clear enforcement mechanisms, and preventative measures designed to reduce the risk of serious injury or fatal dog attacks.

These amendments also introduce improved transparency measures so that residents are better informed when a dangerous animal is present in their community.

2. In Memory of Drew

This proposal is presented in honour of Drew, who tragically lost his life as the result of a preventable dog attack involving dogs that were not properly secured.

Drew's death deeply impacted his family, friends, and the wider community. This amendment is intended to recognize that tragedy by ensuring stronger preventative safeguards are in place so that no other family experiences a similar loss.

"Drew's Law" is intended to reflect a commitment to accountability, public safety, and meaningful prevention—ensuring that serious incidents lead to clear, enforceable consequences and improved community awareness.

3. Purpose of the Amendment

The purpose of this amendment is to:

- Strengthen public safety protections
 - Improve enforcement tools available to the Municipality
 - Promote responsible dog ownership
 - Reduce the likelihood of serious injury or fatal incidents
 - Increase transparency and community awareness regarding dangerous animals
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4. Guiding Principles

- Not breed-specific
 - Focus on owner responsibility and accountability
 - Prevention-focused, with escalation based on severity and repeat behaviour
 - Clear, enforceable consequences for serious or repeated incidents
 - Transparency balanced with responsible municipal communication practices
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5. Summary of Proposed Amendments

This proposal introduces:

- Expanded authority to revoke dog licences
 - Clear conditions for permanent or temporary licence ineligibility
 - Stronger consequences for repeat offenders
 - A formal community notification system for dangerous dogs subject to restrictions
-

6. Licence Revocation Authority

The Municipality may revoke a dog licence where:

- A dog has been officially deemed dangerous
- A dog has caused serious injury to a person or animal
- There are repeated verified complaints of aggressive or uncontrolled behaviour
- An owner has failed to comply with municipal control requirements

Revocation may apply to one or more dogs owned by the same individual depending on risk assessment and incident history.

7. Ineligibility for Future Dog Licences

To prevent repeat high-risk situations:

- **Serious injury incidents:** may result in a defined period of ineligibility for future dog ownership within the Municipality
- **Fatal incidents involving a dog under an owner's care:** may result in permanent ineligibility for future dog licences

- The Municipality may also consider household-wide restrictions where appropriate for public safety
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8. Repeat Offender Provision

Where an owner has:

- Multiple reported dangerous dog incidents, or
- Repeated by-law violations involving animal control

The Municipality may:

- Refuse future dog licence applications
 - Require mandatory behavioural compliance measures (where applicable)
 - Escalate enforcement actions, including fines or removal orders
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9. Community Safety Notification System (New Section)

This proposal introduces a structured community notification process to improve transparency and public safety.

Purpose

To ensure residents are appropriately informed when a dog deemed dangerous remains within the community under restrictions, conditions, or partial ownership retention.

Rationale

Recently members of the public were not made aware that a dog, involved in prior incidents, remained in the community with the same owners that's other dogs caused the death of child. This created confusion and a false sense of safety.

Proposed Measures

The Municipality may implement a notification system that includes:

- **Community Notification**
 - Notice issued when a dangerous dog is confirmed to reside in a specific area.
 - May include general location (e.g., neighbourhood-level notification rather than exact address where legally restricted)
 - Information on applicable safety restrictions imposed on the animal

- **Change of Status Updates**

- Notification when a dog previously deemed dangerous remains in the community under new or ongoing conditions
- Notification when ownership conditions change following an incident

Safeguards

- Personal privacy protections for owners will be maintained within legal limits
 - Information will be balanced to ensure public safety without encouraging harassment or vigilantism
 - Notifications will be factual, consistent, and based on confirmed municipal determinations
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10. Benefits of Proposed Amendment

- Stronger public safety protections
 - Increased accountability for negligent ownership
 - Clear escalation pathways for enforcement
 - Reduced likelihood of repeat serious incidents
 - Improved community awareness and trust in municipal oversight
 - Recognition and prevention-focused response to past tragedy
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11. Financial & Operational Impact

- Minimal direct financial impact
 - Utilizes existing by-law enforcement and animal control systems
 - May reduce long-term costs associated with serious incident response, legal claims, and emergency services
 - Administrative workload may increase modestly due to notification processes, but can be managed within current structures or with minor procedural updates
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12. Request to Council

It is respectfully requested that Council:

- Receive this proposal as presented
 - Direct staff to review the feasibility of the amendments
 - Consider initiating the formal by-law amendment process
 - Engage relevant members and staff, including by-law enforcement and community safety partners
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13. Closing Statement

“Drew’s Law” is proposed as a response to a preventable tragedy and as a commitment to strengthening public safety within the Municipality of the District of Shelburne.

It seeks to ensure that loss is not without meaning, and that meaningful change results in stronger protections, clearer accountability, and improved community awareness.

This proposal honours Drew’s memory by aiming to prevent similar tragedies in the future through proactive, enforceable, and transparent municipal action.