



Public Meeting Cover Sheet

Subject: Proposed Amendment to Retail Business Holiday Exemption By-law

Department: Corporate Services

Report #: PM-2025-003

Public Meeting Date: 2025-04-28

Council Direction

On December 2, 2024, through Resolution Number 2024-252, Council unanimously passed the following:

That staff be directed to continue with the review and completion of the following by-laws in 2025 – Retail Business Holiday Exemption

Overview

The Town of Orangeville first enacted its Retail Business Holiday Exemption By-law in 2011 to support economic competitiveness and respond to local business concerns regarding holiday closures. Originally focused on larger retailers, the bylaw was later amended in 2013 to extend eligibility to all retail businesses that meet tourism criteria. Over time, Orangeville's demographics, tourism sector, and business landscape have evolved considerably, with increasing cultural diversity and a growing emphasis on year-round tourism. These changes, coupled with recent input from the Orangeville Business Improvement Area (OBIA), have prompted renewed discussion around the bylaw's relevance, particularly the mandatory closures on Good Friday, Easter Sunday, and Christmas Day.

The OBIA has acknowledged these demographic and economic shifts. In May 2025, the OBIA Board passed the following resolution:

****Retail Business Holiday Exemption Bylaw 25-2011 & Amendment 67-2013****

Moved by M. Beattie, B. Luhar — Carried.

That, due to the increasingly diverse population and business ownership in Orangeville and Dufferin County as well as the increase in numbers and diversity of the people who are visiting Downtown Orangeville, the OBIA Board supports a review and reconsideration of the Town of Orangeville's Business Holiday Exemption Bylaw (2011-025 & 2013-023) and specifically its mandatory closure requirements for retailers on

Good Friday & Easter Sunday with further consideration for Christmas Day. And that staff be directed to draft correspondence requesting that the Town review and reconsider the Bylaw accordingly.

Retail Business Holiday Exemption By-law

A Retail Business Holiday Exemption By-law is a municipal regulation enacted under Ontario's *Retail Business Holidays Act* (RBHA) that permits certain retail businesses to operate on statutory holidays. The RBHA generally mandates retail closures on specific holidays, including New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Victoria Day, Canada Day, Labour Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

However, municipalities can pass exemption by-laws allowing retail operations on these holidays, primarily to support tourism or address local economic needs. To enact such a by-law, a municipality must:

- Hold a public meeting with adequate notice to gather community input.
- Ensure the exemption aligns with tourism development or other specified criteria.
- Define the scope, including which businesses are affected and the specific holidays covered.

For example, the City of Windsor enacted a by-law granting a blanket exemption from holiday closures, except for Christmas Day, to support local businesses and tourism.

These by-laws aim to balance the economic interests of businesses with community values and the traditional observance of holidays.

Respectfully submitted,

Antonietta Minichillo
General Manager, Corporate Services

Reviewed by:

Jordyn Lavecchia-Smith
Deputy Clerk, Corporate Services

Prepared by:

James Bramley
Supervisor, Licensing and By-law Enforcement

Link to Access Previous Council Report:

[CL-2011-001A](#)

[CL-2011-001](#)

[CL-2013-008](#)

Attachment(s):

1. Notice of Public Meeting Retail Business Holiday Exemption By- law – 2025.docx