

From: [Jamie Eckenswiller](#)
To: [Krista House Langdon](#)
Subject: FW: Noise Exemption Permit Request for Reflections Festival Fundraiser – May 16-19, 2025
Date: February 26, 2025 1:08:41 PM

From: Kevin [REDACTED]
Sent: February 25, 2025 4:03 PM
To: Jamie Eckenswiller <clerk@westgrey.com>
Cc: Michele Harris <mharris@westgrey.com>; Nicole Churchill <nchurchill@westgrey.com>
Subject: Noise Exemption Permit Request for Reflections Festival Fundraiser – May 16-19, 2025

Dear Members of the Council,

I hope you're doing well today. My name is Kevin Lawson, and my partner, Chantal Plourde, and I are proud to organize the Reflections Festival Fundraiser for Ivy's Wish Animal Sanctuary, 634332 Artemesia Glenelg Townline Markdale, ON N0C 1H0. We request approval to amplify sound during the event, as music plays a vital role in our fundraising. In 2024, we hosted 150 attendees and raised \$6,000. For 2025, our goal is to raise \$10,000 to support the sanctuary.

This festival was created to give attendees a chance to reconnect with nature, reflect on their lives, and support the well-being of animals in need. We named it Reflections after the Anishinaabe word for Kawartha Lakes, meaning "Land of Reflections," as it beautifully represents the festival's spirit. In choosing this name, we also honor Chantal's Mohawk heritage and recognize the deep Indigenous roots of this land.

Since November 2024, we've worked with Michele Harris, Chief Administrative Officer of West Grey, and her team to find the best way forward. Our goal is to minimize community impact while continuing to support local businesses like Battlefield Rentals, Dee's Quiet Cafe, and Wilton Sanitation.

We request the opportunity to present our proposal to the Council or speak at the next available meeting. We are seeking approval for a noise exemption permit to allow amplified music during event hours. This will help create a lively atmosphere that supports our fundraiser. We will carefully manage sound to keep the impact on the community minimal.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration of this request and would be grateful for the council's support in granting the noise exemption permit. If there are any questions or additional requirements, we are happy to provide further details.

Event Overview: Event Dates: May 16-19, 2025

Music Hours:

Friday May 16: 9:00 PM – 2:00 AM

Saturday May 17: 1:00 PM – 2:00 AM

Sunday May 18: 1:00 PM – 2:00 AM

Monday May 19: No music played to respect the holiday

Aged 19+ Event: The festival is a 19+ event, designed to create a relaxed and enriching experience for adults seeking a meaningful weekend getaway. This age restriction creates a welcoming space for enjoying music, nature, and community.

Volume Management:

- Designated runners will check the volume in the surrounding area regularly throughout the event.
- The music will be gradually turned down as the night progresses.
- A dinner break will be observed from 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM each day.

Types of Noise That May Be Heard:

- **Generators:** Nearly silent generators, provided through Battlefield Rentals, will be used to reduce operational noise.
- **Music:** The festival will feature Juno Award-winning bands and electronic music producers, with performances by talented artists from across Canada and internationally recognized headliners.
- **Audience Celebrations:** Occasional celebrations of audience enjoyment, including cheers, laughter, and applause may occur throughout the event.

Event Details:

- **Event Type:** Reflections Festival is an annual event, taking place May long weekend, designed to bring the community together in support of a meaningful cause.
- **Staging:** The temporary stage is prebuilt and stands about 2 feet high in front of an existing cabin. This setup helps reduce the environmental impact and keeps the property undisturbed.
- **Animals:** No animals will be used for work during the event. However, attendees can meet the sanctuary's resident animals. Guided meet & greets, led by the landowners, offer a peaceful and unique way to connect with nature.

Noise Mitigation and Community Considerations: We understand the importance of respecting our neighbors and the local environment. To reduce any impact on the community, we will take the following steps:

- **Speaker Orientation:** All speakers will be directed inward toward the private land to help contain the sound within the event area.
- **Natural Sound Barriers:** We will leverage the natural hills of the property as sound barriers to further contain the noise.
- **Noise Control:** We will have a strict policy to ensure no generators are running and no hand drums or instruments are played after the music stops. Personal portable speakers will also be limited to a talking volume (40 dB) to prevent disturbing nearby properties.
- **Attendance and Capacity:** To keep everyone safe and limit disruptions to the community, we have set a maximum capacity of 300 attendees. This smaller crowd helps reduce traffic and creates a more intimate, manageable, and peaceful experience.

Steps to engage with the local community directly:

Neighborhood Notices will be distributed ahead of time to inform residents about the event and share contact details for any concerns.

- We tested and planned parking during the 2024 event to ensure plenty of space and smooth traffic flow. To reduce congestion and pollution, we encourage carpooling.

Environmental and Social Responsibility: Along with managing noise, we are dedicated to creating a responsible and eco-friendly environment.

- **Dry Event:** The festival will be alcohol-free to help attendees enjoy the natural beauty and peaceful setting of West Grey. Keeping it dry also helps reduce risks, noise, and the environmental impact often linked to alcohol at events.
- **Encouraging Quiet Arrival and Departure:** We ask attendees to drive slowly and lower their radio volume when arriving or leaving. This helps reduce noise and protect the local ecosystem.

We are confident the Reflections Festival will be a successful, community-friendly, and eco-conscious fundraiser. We are committed to reducing disruptions and ensuring the event reflects the spirit of West Grey and the needs of the community.

We truly appreciate your time in reviewing our request and would be grateful for the Council's support in approving the noise exemption permit. If you have any questions or need more details, we are happy to provide them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kevin Lawson
Chantal Plourde
Cofounders



Reflections Festival Fundraiser for Ivy's Wish Animal Sanctuary