



**The Corporation of the
City of Sault Ste. Marie**

C O U N C I L R E P O R T

February 2, 2026

TO: Mayor Matthew Shoemaker and Members of City Council
AUTHOR: Rachel Tyczinski, City Clerk
DEPARTMENT: Corporate Services
RE: Municipally Significant Event – 2026 Sault Ste. Marie
Festival of Beer

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to request that Council designate the 2026 Sault Ste. Marie Festival of Beer as municipally significant and to direct staff to prepare a Licence of Occupation to be brought back to Council for approval as the proponent desires to hold the event on City property.

Background

In May 2023, the City Council approved the Municipally Significant Events Policy (see Appendix A), outlining the application process and defining what types of events would qualify.

Analysis

Relevant City staff have met with the proponent, Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) representatives, and Algoma Public Health to discuss the 2026 Sault Ste. Marie Festival of Beer. It was determined that the proponent should apply to the City to have the event designated municipally significant. The proponent requires the designation to apply for a special occasion permit through the AGCO.

The proponent has submitted an application to the City for the 2026 Sault Ste. Marie Festival of Beer (Appendix B) to be held June 13, 2026. The application was circulated to the parties listed in the Municipally Significant Event Policy. With the feedback provided, City staff recommend that the event be designated municipally significant. The proponent will be required to enter into a Licence of Occupation agreement satisfactory to City staff, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Adherence to the City's Alcohol Risk Management Policy;
- Potential Building Division approvals for tent structures and any necessary permits;
- Insurance requirements;
- Safeguarding the site with proper barricading and security/paid duty police;

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- Algoma Public Health approvals for food provision and sanitary privies; and
- AGCO permit and approvals.

Financial Implications

There is no direct financial impact to the City. City staff are recommending that the fees outlined in the Alcohol Risk Management Policy be waived for the 2026 Sault Ste. Marie Festival of Beer, which is consistent with past practice for other large community festivals.

Strategic Plan / Policy Impact / Climate Impact

This event is linked to the Quality of Life focus area of the corporate Strategic Plan – Vibrant Downtown

There is no climate impact.

Recommendation

It is therefore recommended that Council take the following action:

Resolved that the report of the City Clerk dated February 2, 2026 concerning Municipally Significant Event – 2026 Sault Ste. Marie Festival of Beer be received and that Council designate the event as municipally significant and approve waiving fees outlined in the Alcohol Risk Management Policy.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Tyczinski

City Clerk

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