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,August 11, 2025

Mayor Luke Charbonneau & Council
Town of Saugeen Shores
600 Tomlinson Drive,
Port Elgin, ON N0H 2C3

Your Worship and Council,

We are delighted to announce that Pumpkinfest 2025 will take place from October 5–6, marking the 40th Anniversary of this beloved community event. For four decades, Pumpkinfest has brought together residents and visitors to celebrate our cherished traditions, the splendor of fall, and the unique attractions that make this event truly special—including the GIANTS, the amazing Cars, and the strength of our community.

Our dedicated team has been hard at work planning an unforgettable festival, and we're excited to unveil some incredible new attractions for this milestone year. The attached PowerPoint presentation offers a preview of what we've confirmed so far.

We warmly invite you to join us for the opening ceremonies at 10 AM on Saturday, October 4 and to participate in our special VIP seed-chucking experience—a fun and interactive contest (the details are still a surprise!).

With your approval, Pumpkinfest 2025 will follow the same downtown and car show footprint as last year, with one key improvement to traffic flow that addresses issues experienced in previous years.

To reduce wait times, congestion, and vehicle overheating for car show participants entering via Waterloo Street, the registration area has been relocated to the Goderich & Pierson Street entrance. This allows us to use two of the four lanes on Goderich Street for efficient car entry.

To ensure the success of this plan, we have requested the temporary closure of the west side of Pierson Street at Waterloo from 6 AM to 12 PM. This measure will prevent participants from bypassing the queue. Additionally, the Town bypass detour—which now runs from Lake Ridge Street at Walmart along Bruce Street to Beiner Street—ensures that traffic in the proposed registration area remains light. This adjustment will significantly ease bottlenecks in the downtown core and enhance the overall experience for attendees.

Pumpkinfest is proud to support our community, partnering with local non-profit groups and organizations that collectively raised over \$30,000 through last year's festival. Looking ahead, we remain committed to fostering these partnerships and expanding the festival's positive impact on the community.

The benefits of Pumpkinfest extend even further. According to the 2024 TRIEM Report, (Tourism Regional Economic Impact Model) last year's event generated an impressive \$5.5 million in economic impact for the region. These numbers highlight the importance of Pumpkinfest as a driver of local prosperity and community connection.

We are deeply grateful to the Municipality of Saugeen Shores and its departments—including Police, Fire, Community Services, Building, By-Law, GIS Mapping, and Public Works—for your dedicated support. Your unwavering efforts make Pumpkinfest a truly extraordinary event, and we are honored to recognize the Municipality as one of our GOLD sponsors.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued partnership. We look forward to seeing you all at Pumpkinfest 2025 and sharing in the joy of this momentous celebration!

Warm regards,

The Pumpkinfest Team

Note We are collaborating with Town staff to update the Traffic Flow and Shuttle Route maps to reflect the proposed changes and expect to provide these updates at the August 11 Council Meeting.

Attachments:

Permissions Request

Detailed Assistance Request

Areas that need your understanding and approval include the following:

**See Overview Traffic and Shuttle Maps

1. **Permission** to close the following streets for the Cinderella's Car Show – **Goderich St. for 10 blocks from the south side of Market Street to the north side of Pierson Ave as well as the 3 blocks of Gustavus Street (County Road # 17) from the west side of Goderich Street to the east side of Wellington Street, and Bricker Street from South of Gustavus Street to North of Green Street between the hours of 6 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Saturday October 4 and Sunday, October 6, 2024** Also permission to close and use the following side streets during the same hours if necessary – **Elgin, Mill, Green and Catherine Streets from the east side of Waterloo Street to the west side of Bricker Street.** Permission to close **Pierson Street from Goderich Street to Waterloo Street for the hours of 6am to noon**
2. **Permission to close portions of the four-block radius for the weekend from Friday October 3 at 10am to October 6 at 6 pm- From the East side of Goderich Street to South Side of Mill Street, South side of Mill Street to West side of Hilker, West side of Hilker to South side of Gustavus, North side of Gustavus to East side of Goderich. ***Note: Gustavus Street remains open until 4pm on Friday, October 4 to allow for buses.*** These closures allow for the staging of Pumpkinfest Village- Weigh-off Tent, Mid-way, Craft Show, Marketplace and OPG Tent, along with other family fun activities. Map attached.
3. **The use of the THREE Municipal Parking Lots/Areas** on Bricker Street across from Tim Hortons for the Food/Entertainment Court and the lot at the corner of Green and Bricker Street for the Midway and the public parking area adjacent to the cenotaph behind Allens Fireside Grill. For the OPG tent/parking from 7 a.m., Thursday October 2 until 7 p.m. on Sunday October 5, 2024.
4. **The, use of the Plex Parking Lot and washroom facilities** for shuttle bus pick-up and visitor parking
5. **The use of the Green Street Public Beach** for shuttle bus pick-up and visitor parking
6. **Waiving of all Building Permit fees** for all necessary permits as directed by the Chief Building Official.
7. **The use of town equipment and required labour at no cost as per the attached list outlining the requirements.** The value of this approval has been determined to be worth \$5,000.00+, therefore crediting the Town of Saugeen Shores with a “GOLD” sponsorship level. We will work closely with the Public Works & Community Service staff as well as the Police Chief, Fire Chief and By-Law Enforcement Officer to ensure a safe, well-run event.
8. That Council designates Port Elgin Pumpkinfest to **oversee and regulate Pumpkinfest weekend vendors**, ensuring the ability to remove unauthorized hawkers and peddlers from public property in Port Elgin.

Pumpkinfest 2025 Detailed Assistance Request		
WHAT IS NEEDED	WHEN NEEDED	Notes
Public Works Department		
Installation of directional and detour signage for Highway 21	Saturday October 4 and Sunday October 5	Highway 21 S before South Street, Highway 21 N at North Bruce, Highway 21 N before 4th concession, See Traffic Control Map
Supply of 6-10 commercial dumpsters	Friday October 3 - Monday October 6	behind growers tent(Missionary Church), 1 in lane between Chamber and Firehall
2 compost bins (if available)	Friday October 3 - Monday October 6	behind "weigh-off tent" arena
Use of approximately 100 Barricades - Dropped to Appropriate Locations	Friday October 3 - Monday October 6	Distribute throughout car show and site locations, as done in past (see Traffic Control map) and barricade map
Placement and tear down of car show barricades	Saturday October 4 and Sunday October 5	as done previously - See Traffic Control Map
(3) road closure MTO signs put out and corresponding detour route signage	Saturday October 4 and Sunday October 5	MTO Compliant Signage
Permission to install signage along bus & car show routes	Friday October 3 - Sunday October 5	As per signage map - No changes
Road Closures Permissions - Car Show	Saturday October 4 & Sunday October 5	As per Bylaws- NEW closure of Pierson west from 6am -noon
**Cones for NEW closure for car show entry	Saturday October 4 & Sunday October 5	for discussion with Public works
Road Closures Permissions - Village	Friday October 3 - Sunday October 5	As per Bylaws and closure map
2 dedicated on-call employees for event weekend	Friday October 3 - Sunday October 5	please ensure Festival Coordinator Joanne Robbins has direct contact numbers
Community Services Department		
Use of special events trailer	Wednesday October 1 - Monday October 6	share schedule to be arranged
Use of 1 Town Trucks	Wednesday October 1 - Monday October 6	truck to be hooked to event trailer for use
Garbage cans placed throughout downtown	Friday October 3 - Sunday October 5	
Delivery of picnic tables	Friday October 3 - Sunday October 5	6 - Coulter Parkette
Access to power in Legion Park Shed	Friday October 3 - Sunday October 5	Keys and/or directions for use
Dedicated on-call employee for event weekend	Friday October 3 - Sunday October 5	please ensure Festival Coordinator has direct contact number
Assistance with downtown garbage pick-up	Saturday October 4 and Sunday October 5	Continued support of garbage duty downtown during the festival
Permission to use all municipal parking lots located at Pumpkinfest Village	Thursday October 2 to Sunday October 5	barricade Wednesday night for the Mid-way & Tent set up - communicated to businesses around the area about the closure of the roads
* Please note that weather forecasts may warrant date changes for scheduled erection of tents		