



Town of Newmarket  
395 Mulock Drive P.O. Box 328,  
Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 4X7

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## **Carnival Licence Application for Royal Canadian International Circus Staff Report to Council**

Report Number: 2026-20

Department(s): Legislative Services

Author(s): Nathan Irvine, Supervisor of Licensing & Permits  
Emily Ratcliffe, Licensing Officer

Meeting Date: April 13, 2026

### **Recommendations**

1. That the report entitled Carnival Licence Application Royal International Circus dated April 13, 2026 be received; and,
2. That Council approve or deny the Carnival Licence for Royal International Circus; and,
3. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council decision on a Carnival Licence Application for Royal International Circus to host the event from July 23<sup>rd</sup>-July 26th, 2026, at the Upper Canada Mall 17600 Yonge St.

### **Background**

The Town of Newmarket's [Carnival By-law 2009-78](#) regulates the operation of Carnivals within the Town of Newmarket and requires that any person seeking to operate a Carnival within Town obtain a licence. Section 2.1 of the By-law requires any Carnival to be authorized by Council prior to the issuance of a Carnival Licence.

### **Discussion**

The Town's Licensing Division is in receipt of a Carnival Licence Application for Royal Canadian International Circus to host the event from July 23<sup>rd</sup>-July 26th, 2026, at the

Upper Canada Mall 17600 Yonge St. The proposed Circus will be in the southwest parking lot area (**see Attachment 1**).

If approved the Circus tent and vendors will be set up and erected from July 20<sup>th</sup> – July 27<sup>th</sup>, with the Circus being operational from July 23<sup>rd</sup>- July 26<sup>th</sup>. Hours of operation for the Carnival are being proposed as follows:

- July 20<sup>th</sup>-July 22<sup>nd</sup> (Setup)
- July 23<sup>rd</sup> 7:30pm (1 show)
- July 24<sup>th</sup> 4pm & 7:30pm (2 shows)
- July 25<sup>th</sup> 12pm, 4pm & 7:30pm (3 shows)
- July 26<sup>th</sup> 1pm & 5pm (2 shows)
- July 27<sup>th</sup> (Teardown)

The Royal Canadian International Circus event is returning for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year to the Town of Newmarket and is seeking Council's approval to operate under a Carnival licence. The event does not sponsor a local charitable or non-profit organization.

The shows will run for approximately two hours, including a half-hour intermission. The performances feature only trained circus artists no animals are involved. The event will not include carnival rides or midway attractions. Music will be limited to the performances inside the circus tent.

The applicant has committed to minimizing and controlling noise levels throughout the duration of the event. Staff consulted the Customer Services department and verified no noise complaints were received for the event in 2025.

The circus tent will be set up in the southwest parking lot of Upper Canada Mall. This area is secluded and naturally contained by landscaped features, with curbs and boulevards serving as physical barriers to deter vehicle access. Safety and security are further enhanced through the installation of fencing around the event area.

If Council grants the Carnival licence, the Town's Licensing Division will conduct regular site inspections to ensure compliance with the Town's Noise By-law and respond promptly to any resident concerns.

## **Consultation**

The Town's Customer Service Department were consulted in the process of reviewing this application.

## **Conclusion**

Town Staff have reviewed the application and confirmed that all required documents have been submitted. Should Council approve this application, the Town's Licensing Division will work closely with the applicant to finalize key details and ensure compliance with all applicable Town By-laws.

Licensing Officers will be present and available throughout the Circus' operating hours to address any community concerns and to proactively monitor noise levels.

## **Council Priority Association**

This report aligns with the following Council Priority: Community and Economic Vibrancy

## **Human Resource Considerations**

None

## **Budget Impact**

The 2026 fee for a Carnival Licence is \$322.42.

## **Attachments**

**Attachment 1** – Upper Canada Mall Map

## **Approval for Submission**

John Comeau, Manager Regulatory Services

Lisa Lyons, Director Legislative Services

Esther Armchuk, LL.B, Commissioner, Corporate Services

## **Report Contact**

Nathan Irvine, Supervisor of Licensing & Permits

905-953-5300 extension 2221

[nirvine@newmarket.ca](mailto:nirvine@newmarket.ca)