

ONTARIO GUILD OF TOWN CRIERS WORD COUNT POLICY

The length of a cry shall be from one-hundred words to one-hundred and twenty-five words.

The number of words shall be counted from the first oral sound to the last oral sound.

Any audible sound produced by the mouth of the Crier shall be considered an oral sound. Loud inhales or exhales, used as part of the cry, shall be counted as individual words.

For the purpose of these Rules and Regulations:

1. The year shall be counted as one (1) word. “1993” spoke as “Nineteen Ninety Three” or “One Thousand Nine Hundred And Ninety Three” would count as one (1) word.
2. Dates shall be counted as one (1) word. “January 23rd” would be one word as would “August the 6th.”
3. Times shall be counted as one word thus “3:50 PM” or “15:50h” (which could be pronounced as “fifteen-fifty hour” among other options) shall count as one (1) word.
4. Numbers and their variants shall be counted as one word thus \$700,000 is one (1) word, as is “seven hundred thousand dollars”.
5. Roman numerals, when included in formal titles, shall count as one word. Thus, “George III” is one word, as is “George the Third.” “King George III” would be one word.
6. The official name of a municipality or historic group shall count as one (1) word.
 - “The Town of Happy Valley” counts as one (1) word.
 - “The Town and Regional Municipality of The Blue Waves” counts as one (1) word.
 - “The Golden Vales Museum and Historical Society” counts as one (1) word.
7. Proper names count as individual words. Any added dignitary title shall count as one additional word. “His Worship Mayor Bill Green” counts as three (3) words. “Mayor Helen Brown” counts as three (3) words. “The Very Reverend Canon Peters” would be two (2) words. “Arthur Redenbacher” or “Santa Claus” counts as two (2) words.
8. Proper names of businesses or organizations shall count as one (1) word. “James Brothers Funeral Home and Furniture Store” or “the Water Bison Lodge No. 393” shall count as (1) word.
9. Abbreviations will count as one (1) word. “CBSA” or “PEI” would be one (1) word.
10. Hyphenated words shall count as one word, but only if the word can be found in hyphenated form in the Merriam-Webster English dictionary.
11. Constructed words or phrases shall count as multiple words, therefore “garden-of-great-joy” shall count as four (4) words.
12. Manufactured sounds, such as a blast from a horn, additional ringing of the bell, etc. included purposely within a cry, shall be considered as a least one word per sound.
13. Criers, when submitting a cry to a competition should record the number of words the cry contains on the page. When multiple words are to count as one word, they should be

designated such as, “His Worship Mayor Bill Green”

14. The decision of the Host Crier, who may consult with the judges, shall be deemed to be final when determining the word count.
 1. When possible, the Host Crier will attempt to notify the submitting Crier of a perceived problem before the cry is given and offer the Crier the opportunity to make a correction to the cry.
 2. When possible, should the Host Crier recognize an inadvertent spelling mistake, they will attempt to notify the submitting Crier of a perceived problem before the cry is given and offer the Crier the opportunity to make a correction to the cry.

Notwithstanding these rules, the Host Crier may make specific adaptations to facilitate specific combinations of words or phrases at their event provided that these changes are published and available to Criers at the time of the cry themes being announced.