

APPENDIX C

Unsolicited Inputs



To: pvoisine@cornwall.ca,

Cc:

Bcc:

Subject: Open air burn bylaw

From: [REDACTED]

Sent

by: [REDACTED]

Hello,

I will not provide my views via a survey, i don't trust them. Please count this as my vote against fires in Cornwall. I cannot understand how we can still even consider open air fires in a City such as this in 2019. Thank you for proposing it.

Thank you.

Origin: <https://www.cornwall.ca/en/live-here/administration.aspx>

[REDACTED]
<https://www.cornwall.ca>.



Open Air wood burning in Cornwall

Cc: pvoisine

07/10/2019 04:10 PM

Dear Mayor Clement and Councillors,

Last month we wrote to you outlining the problems that were caused by immediate neighbours that were having very frequent open air wood fires in their backyard approximately 40 feet from our property. In one period of 33 consecutive days this summer there were fires on 19 days with several starting as before 2 pm. On many of those days we had to close our windows to keep the smoke out of our house and leave our backyard as the smoke was making it very difficult to breathe and unpleasant to sit outside.

We commend those who supported the motion to rescind bylaw 2014-063 and replace it with an updated By-law which ceases the practice of Open Air wood burning in the City of Cornwall. We understand Ottawa, Brockville, Belleville, Peterborough, Hawkesbury, Guelph, Windsor, Pickering and Toronto have taken similar action in the past. Surely these cities have made this decision for valid reasons.

Is it too much for us to ask that we be given an opportunity to breathe clean air and enjoy our property without the threat of having to deal with smoke from open air wood fires?

Please continue to support the banning of open air wood burning fires in Cornwall. Isn't it just common sense!

Sincerely,

Cornwall

September 22, 2019

To: Mayor Bernadette Clement, Corp. City of Cornwall.

Re: Outside wood burning

My name is [REDACTED] I am fully behind a bylaw that would prohibit outdoor wood burning in the city.

Reason: If these people like to sit around in their backyards watching wood burning why don't they go rent a lot in the Long Sault or Ingleside areas where there are camping lots to accommodate this habit.

For me it is a health issue. I am a homeowner and the smell of a neighbour's or neighbourhood person burning wood comes into my house it affects my health. Smoke entering my home gets me into coughing fit which is hard on me health-wise. When smoke enters my home, I have to close my windows and start the A/C. Now is that fair to me? When my windows are open means that it is a beautiful summer or fall night and I cannot enjoy the fresh air because someone wants to pretend for a few hours that they are at a campground and can do this to entertain themselves. Come on.....really?.....seriously???

A few years ago I called By-Law Department and my complaint was sent to the Fire Department. The assistant chief went to see my neighbour who insisted to have an outside fire. This person lives on [REDACTED] This street behind me, Patricia Place sits much higher than the homes on [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] It was explained to my neighbour that my house sits much lower than his therefore on a beautiful night when there is hardly any wind, the smoke from the fire follows the lay of the land therefore coming down in my back yard and then through the open windows. The assistant chief gave him a verbal warningthe next year, I complained again about smoke entering my home and he was given another warning. This year is smoke free from him but there are other wood burning pots burning in the area and it is so irritating. The first episode actually sent me to my brother's home for the night and spent the next day trying to get rid of the smell of smoke in the house. Again is this fair to me??? We live in the city and issues like this should not exist. As a homeowner in the City of Cornwall I want the by-law enforced.....no outdoor wood burning pots.

If the people who enjoy sitting around a fire at night there are alternatives to wood burning. Most of the homes in this city are heated with natural gas.....just get a natural gas fire pot hooked up to their

RECEIVED SEP 25 2019



In support of the wood fire ban

to: councillors@cornwall.ca

21/09/2019 08:38 AM

Hello,

I am writing to you in support of the wood fire ban. The Canadian Lung Association clearly states that we should not be burning wood fires in a residential setting for health reasons. So does the U.S. EPA, as well as other countries. Why are supporters of open air wood fires living in the dark ages?

One of the main organizers of the push back is using children as pawns in a classic "think of the children" tactic. Take a look at this post of kids with signs:

<https://www.facebook.com/rodney.rivette/posts/10157590647961873>

One kid's sign says, "Please don't ban our bonfires. I need my marshmallows". Another kid's sign reads, "We need Fires! Where else will I roast my hot dogs?". The most concerning is one that reads, "We want fier. We love having them. Please don't band them beacause we're going to do them anyways."

So the last one is teaching their child to break the law just to have an open air wood fire? This shows no respect for the law or law enforcement. The fact of the matter is, they can still toast their marshmallows and cook their hot dogs over a propane fire. This would be a proper compromise for all parties involved but they don't seem to want to compromise.

The same main organizer also admitted that he's telling city council "half truths". I am attaching the screenshot of this admission. For context, we were debating back and forth and I provided him with information from the Canadian Lung Association and many other sources showing that wood fire smoke is bad for us and his argument was that there are no specific studies in Cornwall, Ontario to support this. This is a very weak excuse to allow wood fires. Another argument of his is that they should be allowed because we've been burning wood fires since the caveman days, which he still seems to be stuck in.

I'm not sure if you've seen the petition that he has going around. I've attached it if you haven't. There are numerous issues with it, and I don't think it should even be considered by council.

First, he states that, "there have been opinions that is a health-related issue.". This is intentionally misleading his audience as there are no opinions about it. Again, the Canadian Lung Association states that we shouldn't be burning wood in a residential setting because it can trigger bronchitis, asthma or even worse. The U.S. EPA, individual states and other countries advise against wood fire smoke as well. I will link to these at the end.

Second, he states that, "We feel that Council failed to consider the majority of residents when considering this By-law.". From what I've read, there are 260 permit holders or 0.0056% of the population, which is hardly the majority.

Third, this statement, "We feel that there was a mechanism in place with By-law #2014-063 that if applied correctly would have eliminated the issue of irresponsible open air fires but that the Fire Department failed to take corrective action to prevent anyone in contravention of By-law # 2014-06". How can the city apply a by-law correctly? They can enact a by-law and hopefully citizens abide by it, and if not fine them appropriately. Also, he blames the Cornwall



{Spam?} FIRE PIT BAN

to: councillors@cornwall.ca

26/09/2019 08:50 AM

SORRY TO DISTURB YOU AGAIN.

IN MY LAST LETTER I FORGOT TO MENTION THAT THE NEIGHBOR'S FIRE PIT IS WITHIN THE 20 METERS OF THE PLAY STRUCTURES ACROSS THE FENCE FROM THE PARK IN QUESTION.

SO ACCORDING TO THE BYLAW, YOU ARE DEFENDING ME FROM LIGHTING A CIGARETTE IN THE AREA, BUT YET, THE SMOKE FROM THE FIRE PIT THAT PRODUCES MUCH MORE TOXIC FUMES FROM SO CALLED CLEAN BURNING WOOD, IS OK AND LEGAL.

TRYING TO CONVINCE ME THAT CLEAN BURNING WOOD EXISTS WILL NOT WORK.

THANKS

[REDACTED]

feel that fear again. It's not just difficulty breathing. It's the fear of not knowing where it's coming from and when it's going to happen again. Close our windows you say? WHY? I bought this house for a reason. It's normal to open your windows on a nice day. It is not normal to start a fire and not give a damn about your neighbours.

On another note, how can you ignore what we're doing to our environment? Okay, there's 260 people who are being good little boys and girls, burning clean wood, following the laws. But how about the ones who aren't? What are they burning? Whatever they bloody well please.

There's no manpower to investigate. I don't know of anyone who sets fires before 5pm on Fridays. No one wants to pay for the extra manpower.

I ask our councillors and our mayor to not cave in to the pressure of those who enjoy fire pits. If you can't find a way to work this out, then the ban should go through. For EVERYBODY's sake.

I am providing my name, but I do not want it publicly shared. There's too many persons in this city who take the law into their own hands.


A tax paying citizen for over  years.

~Leave one wolf alive and the sheep are never safe.~



{Spam?} FIRE BAN

[REDACTED] to: councillors@cornwall.ca

18/09/2019 05:02 PM

Hi

FIRE BAN is a good thing

Maybe you don't remember at one time there was so much pollution in the City
It like a FOG. The Fire Dept. would be called because some residents thought there was a Fire in the
area

We lived on [REDACTED] our windows were closed all the time because of the smell.

I would plant a garden and after a rain all my tomatoes died. I would buy a new car and the acid rain
would etch the paint.(its not us, we wouldn't do that)

The Mills went away and we bought new windows and the City passed a bylaw to allow open air
burning

So we had to close our windows, is that fair.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
City of Cornwall changed the BYLAW for the rights and enjoyment of all residents.
With you having a Fire Ban it improves the enjoyment for all residents of the City
Montreal has a ban/Bylaw on indoor wood Fireplace's in homes

[REDACTED]
Sent from Mail for Windows 10




Fire ban

to: bclement

17/09/2019 08:13 PM

I applaud the fire ban for a few reasons, the main one being health & safety of our citizens. Being a business owner I usually try not to voice an opinion as to not alienate customers but this is big. Burning wood hurts the immediate environment of your neighbour and your world. Those who cannot think of this are being very selfish. I love the smell of wood smoke but have chosen to use a propane fire pit for our occasional time outside. It looks very much the same, we can use it even when it is windy (no embers to worry about), it provides awesome heat and no one has to get up to add wood. I am never concerned that we have not doused it properly when we go in for the night and it is great to roast marshmallows and weenies as I also don't worry about what type of wood is in the pit. I have experienced neighbours enjoying their wood fire while having friends over and often lots of alcohol is involved, I worry that they are not being careful about the embers and how well they have extinguished the fire before going to bed. Occasionally we smell smoke in our house from neighbours, even with the windows closed (when our venmar is running) so closing the windows is not always a solution. Many people will be afraid to speak out as this can pit one neighbour against the other. Sometimes you have to pick your battles. One city can make a difference; why can't Cornwall be that difference and show that we do care.

Origin: <https://www.cornwall.ca/en/city-hall/city-council.aspx>


<https://www.cornwall.ca>.



Open Fires

to: councillors

17/09/2019 10:01 AM

Good Morning Councillors;

The average lot size in Cornwall is, -'in the vicinity' of being 50' x 100'. By default, this means that the smoke from a wood burning fire will drift to at least 3/4/5 neighbouring properties and, -if the windows in those houses are open, fill those houses with smoke.

This will mandate the closing of the house's windows and, -in the warm months, the use of expensive air conditioning to facilitate a night's rest. Electric bills will rise, as will the animosity amongst neighbours. Both are undesirable and completely unnecessary.

Now, let me mention the plight of people with breathing disorders such as;

Asthma. ...

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) ...

Chronic Bronchitis. ...

Emphysema. ...

Lung Cancer. ...

Cystic Fibrosis/Bronchiectasis. ...

Pneumonia. ...

Pleural Effusion,indeed, there are people all around us that need an oxygen tank to live.

Within the boundaries of a dense urban environment, screaming for the right to roast wieners and toast marshmallows at the expense of one's neighbour seems, -to me at least, to be more than just a bit presumptuous. Indeed, it wreaks of a level of self entitlement consistent with a spoiled brat.

Yes, I know, there is a very vocal lobby demanding "the right" to "live like campers" within the City, -ironically, not unlike the very vocal minority that feels their neighbour should pick up their cat's feces on a daily basis.

But, maybe, -just maybe, it's time to actually show some leadership, set those boundaries their parents neglected to do, and demonstrate to them how mature adults actually behave in a socially responsible community.

Thanks,

Cornwall.



Open-air wood-burning fires

[REDACTED] City Council

14/09/2019 08:19 AM

We would like to commend City Council on their initiative to ban open-air wood-burning fires within the city limits. With global warming as one of the most urgent environmental issues of our day, it is a small price to pay for any thinking, caring citizen.

As well, the effect of wood burning smoke and particles is well known on people who have asthma or other lung related diseases. It has been our experience that people are careless about what they burn. Treated wood and plastics emit toxic fumes and give off strong and unpleasant odors.

Our hope is that Council will unanimously pass this by-law and ensure that it is properly enforced.

[REDACTED]



{Spam?} open air burning
[REDACTED] to: bclement
[REDACTED]

12/09/2019 05:37 PM

Congratulations on standing up for the other 99% of us in the city.
We breathe the air also. Even if its full of smoke.
Stick to your convictions. Don't be swayed when the final vote comes.thanks

Origin: <https://www.cornwall.ca/en/city-hall/city-council.aspx>

[REDACTED]
<https://www.cornwall.ca>.

September 6, 2019

Dear Mayor Clement and Councillors:

Yesterday we noticed an article in the Seaway News stating that Fire Chief Voisine will be making a presentation concerning Open Air Burn permits at the Sept. 9 Council meeting. We would like to tell you about our recent experience with this issue.

We live in Riverdale and a neighbour has been having open air fires for several years and while we often found the smoke unpleasant we modified our behavior by closing our windows or leaving our backyard to avoid the smoke. Often we would close our windows when leaving for a few hours for fear of a fire being started and filling our house with smoke.

The frequency of fires has increased dramatically since last year. We tolerated frequent fires earlier this summer but finally became fed up when during a period of 33 days beginning on July 31, the neighbour had 19 fires. Several fires were started before 2 pm and many others before 5 pm and continuing past 10 pm. It had to be apparent that smoke from the fire was coming into our backyard and house when the windows were open. Another neighbour complained about the smoke but the fires continued. We complained about the smoke and the fires stoppedfor 1 day and then fires were started on the following 5 consecutive days. Our objections to the smoke were being completely ignored. We read the Open Air Burning By-law and contacted the City and were referred to Cornwall Fire Services. They told us the only way they could act was to send a fire truck to verify that there was an Open Air Fire.

On August 31st another fire was started around 2 pm and it was still burning after 10 pm. On September 1 a fire was started again filling our house with smoke and chasing us from our own backyard. This was the last straw and we called Cornwall Fire Services to lodge a formal complaint as this was our only option. We apologized to the Fire Services for this waste of their resources. As you would expect this has had a very negative impact on our relationship with our neighbour.

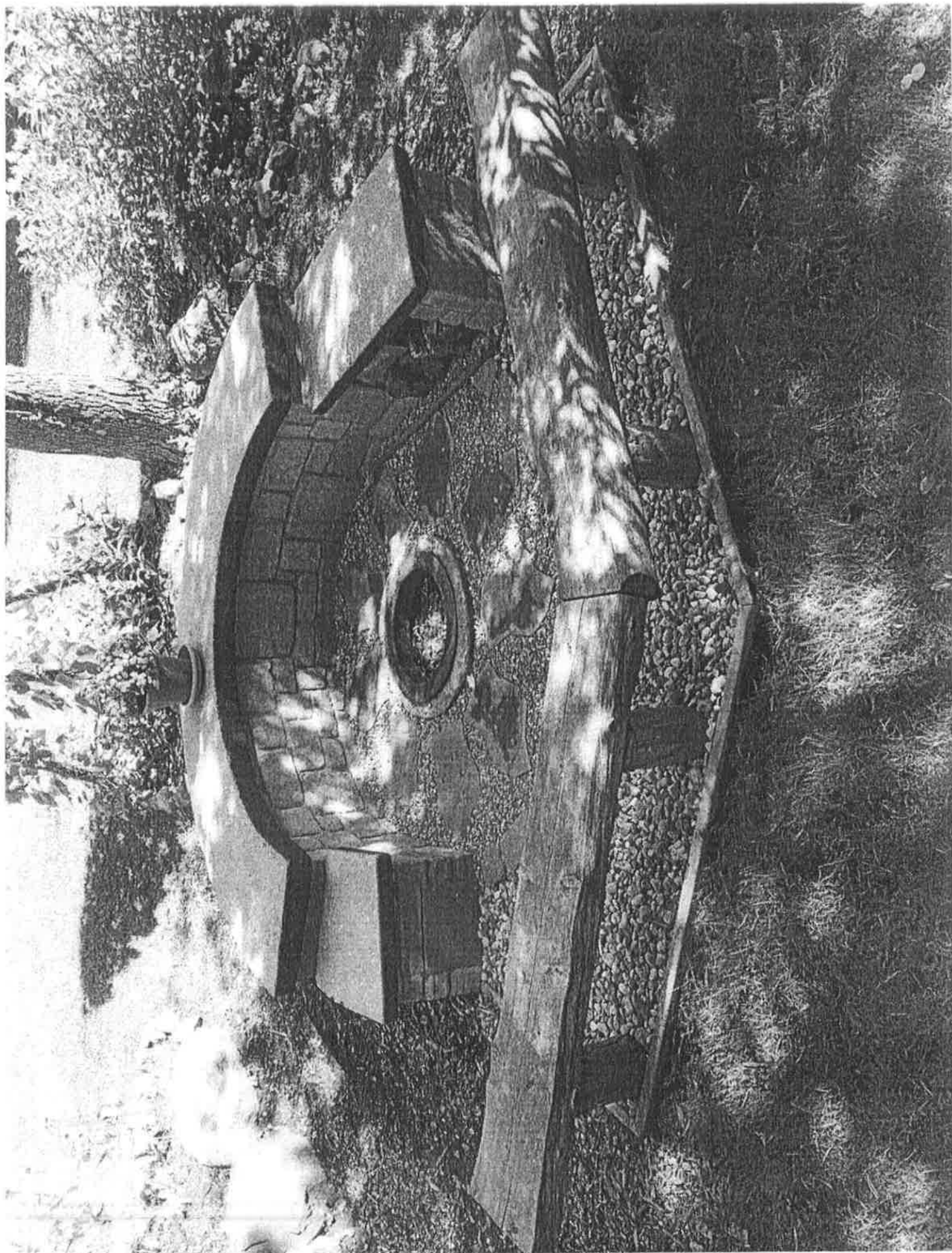
Thank you for considering our experience as you debate the Open Air Burn Permit issue.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

Cornwall

A black rectangular redaction box at the bottom right of the page.



From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Date: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fire Ban
Sent by: [REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,
My name is [REDACTED] and I am writing to you to please reconsider the recent vote to the proposed fire Ban within Cornwall's city limits. While I do not currently have a fire pit or fire permit at my house (we moved recently within the last year), I did at my previous home. We enjoyed the occasional fire and had a fire permit for 6 years. We enjoyed partaking in enjoying summer through this activity. It was not an every day occurrence but one we did enjoy through the proper measures of obtaining a fire permit. We were always respectful of our neighbours. I do understand that there are people who do have respiratory issues but I do know folks who do and still enjoy a fire. Telling us that this is environmentally wise to ban wood fires and switch to propane is ridiculous. We know that is not the case. While I understand that there are not an overt amount of permits, I was planning on acquiring one soon so that I could enjoy an outdoor fire. I urge you and the council to please reconsider your vote. You did not represent myself and many others when you made that call. Please reconsider your decision.

Thank you kindly for your time,
[REDACTED]

Origin: <https://www.cornwall.ca/en/city-hall/council-meetings.aspx>

[REDACTED]
through <https://www.cornwall.ca>.



CITIZENS AGAINST THE PROPOSED OPEN-AIR FIRE BAN IN CORNWALL ONTARIO

*Presentation to Cornwall City Council
September 23rd, 2019*





STATEMENT OF INTENT

October 17, 2019

To the Mayor and the Members of Cornwall City Council,

At the regular meeting of Council on September 9, 2019 a motion was passed to draft a bylaw to ban open-air burning within the city limits and repeal By-law #2014-063. We understand that the justification of this motion was based on a report from Fire Chief Voisine referring to 70+ complaints that have been made in regards to the smell and smoke generated by open air fires along with comparable data and a letter from the EOHU.

By-law #2014-063 permitted Cornwall residents to conduct small open-air fires in an approved burning appliance on their property, subject to conditions. Residents were required to complete an application form and submit it with \$100.00 to Cornwall Fire Department to obtain a permit which was valid for 3 years. There were restrictions on the permit which included a ban when a complete ban on open air burning was issued by the Chief Fire Official, a ban on open-air burning during smog alerts and a very defined restriction on the types of wood that could be burned. It also included restrictions on leaving a fire unattended, the size of fire permitted, location of fires, distance from vegetation along with other restrictions. The result of disobeying these regulations was a potential fine of \$195.00 for first time offenders and potentially a cost recovery of \$410.00/hour for repeat offenders.

It is our opinion that Council failed to consider the residents concerns on this issue. We currently have over 2000 signatures opposing any type of open-air fire ban.

We feel that the majority of people who followed the rules and obtained an open-air burn permit, used approved devices and did so with caution and care as to not present a danger or to knowingly cause discomfort to any surrounding neighbour.

We feel that there was a mechanism in place with By-law #2014-063 that if applied correctly or modified to more accurately show the intent of the bylaw would have eliminated the issue of irresponsible open-air fires but that the Fire Department failed to take corrective action to prevent anyone in contravention of By-law # 2014-063 and has chosen instead to remove the enjoyment for the law abiding citizens that had purchased permits. Our group is in support of more enforcement on non-permit holders and those who do not follow the rules of the bylaw. We feel the public needs to be made more aware of the requirements for a permit and the repercussions to choosing to have an open-air fire without a permit or ignoring the rules in having one.

We feel that there will be a loss of revenue generated by the issuing of open-air burn permits and a much larger loss of potential income generated by the sale of new burn permits to residents who currently open air fire burn without a permit. There could be a larger cost incurred by the city in enforcing a bylaw which includes a ban.

We feel that there is a compromise in regards to this By-law which will allow the majority of residents to enjoy their property while respecting other neighbours with a legitimate complaint. These permits can be cancelled or temporarily suspended during disputes or in regards to infractions.

We feel that the body of By-law #2014-063 provided sufficient protection if the restrictions contained therein were adhered to and administered by the Chief Fire Official. We feel with some modifications to the By-Law to more clearly define the perimeters of the enforcement issues would have a positive impact on the performance of the BY-law. Offenders caught without a permit should be advised that a permit is required and be on record as having a fire ban until said permit is acquired. Repeat offenders should be fined according to the text of the document.

We feel that at a time when Council is attempting to find ways to attract people to Cornwall proper, this is not the time to put bans in place that exist in large centres. We pride ourselves on offering what large centres cannot, affordable housing, low crime rates and freedoms that you cannot find in large centres. Most large centres allow open-air burning in defined areas.

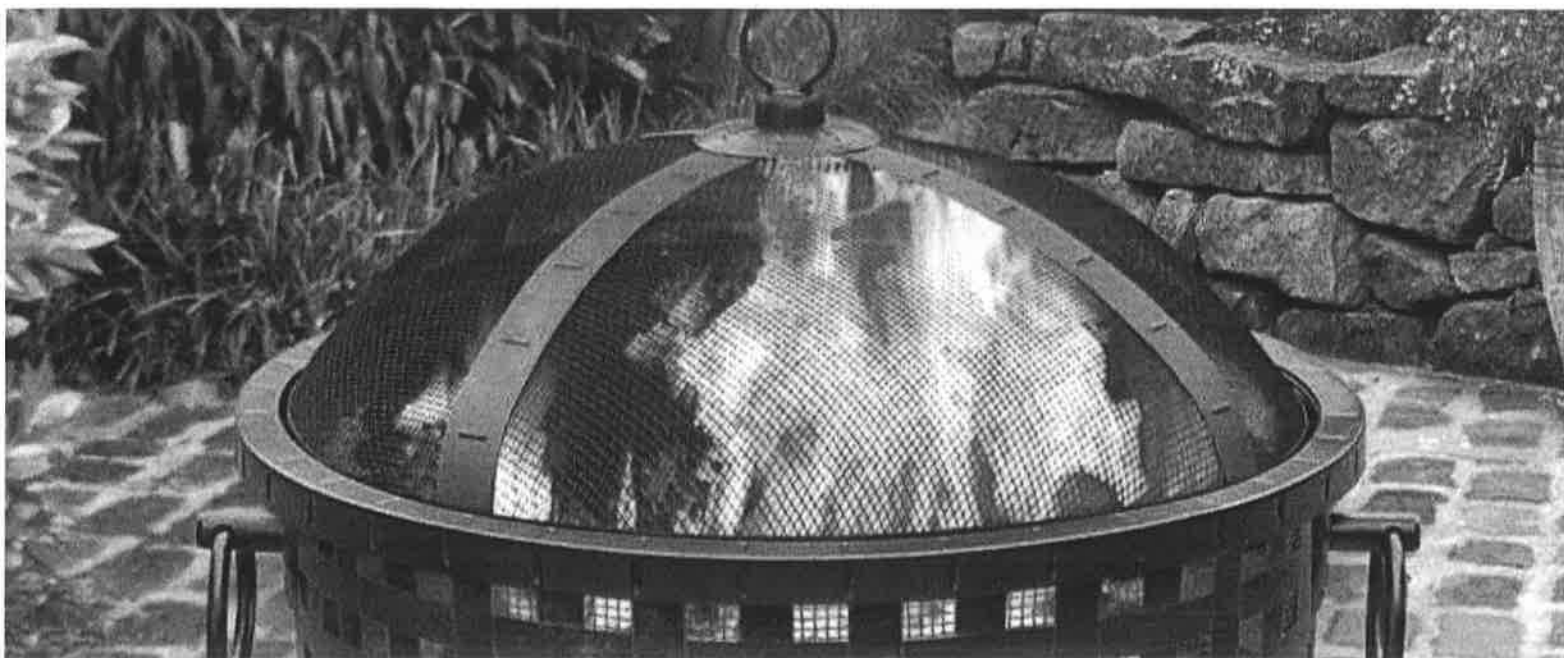
With all due respect we therefore request that Council reconsider its position on the proposed open-air burn By-law and reinstate By-law #2014-063 or an equivalent bylaw that will allow the enjoyment of humankind's basic enjoyment of fire which sees family gather around it and roast marshmallows or hot dogs, etc. and spend quality time together since campfires have existed for reportedly 1,000's of years. We ask that you allow families to continue to enjoy their property and make Cornwall more attractive to families than some of the cities referenced such as Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa in the original council request.

Signed by the residents of Cornwall.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AN OPEN-AIR BURN POLICY

- Make sure the policy is fair to all citizens.
- Implement a By-law with stiff fines for non-compliance to the By-law and enforce them. Escalating fines for those who continue to be non-compliant to the By-law. We recommend a warning for the first non-compliance, second offence \$200 and any further offences be \$500 per offence.
- Fines for those who file repetitive and/or false complaints. The threat of a fine would deter any fraudulent complaints. Any abuse of 911 emergency resources already had a remedy in place.
- Create a system which allows people to report when they are having a fire and when it is extinguished (i.e. when a contractor is working on a building with a fire alarms system and must report to the fire department prior to commencing work noting there could be a possible false alarm and once the work is complete).
- Have the permit holders post their permits for neighbours to see.
- You could adopt a policy where the person seeking a permit would post a notice on their property so neighbours can have an opportunity to object to a permit being issued for that address - there would be a cost to the applicant seeking relief from open-air fire burning (with a valid reason or doctor's note - I don't like the smell is not a good reason).
- Create a one year permit option as to reduce the cost of obtaining a permit and enticing more people to purchase a permit rather than burn illegally. Permits should not transferable.



THANK YOU!!!

Thank you for your time and consideration!!

