



Huron Shores Fire Department

7 Bridge Street, P.O. Box 460, IRON BRIDGE, ON P0R 1H0
Phone: 705-843-2033 Fax: 705-843-2035 email@huronshores.ca
Fire Chief: G.J. (Gib) Medve
Deputy Fire Chief Stn. 1: Dave Smith
Deputy Fire Chief Stn. 2: Renald Boisvenue

New Open Air Burning By-Law: Coming January 1, 2014

In an effort to keep up with the ongoing challenges faced by the Huron Shores Fire Department related to forest fires, the Council for the Municipality of Huron Shores will be implementing some changes to the Open Air Burning By-Law. These changes are aimed to allow residents to conduct open air burning yet balance this activity with safe burning practices and wildfire risk reduction. The changes are necessary due to changing environmental conditions such as the climate and weather.

The main highlights of the new By-Law are:

1. Commencing January 1st, residents will be required to **purchase an annual burning permit (\$5.00)** for the location or the property upon which they wish to conduct burning. **Bi-weekly renewal will no longer be required**; however the permit holder must notify the Municipal Office during regular business hours prior to burning being conducted.
2. A permit will be required for any and all open air burning at all times of the year. There is no longer a designated "Fire Season". It will be considered **Fire Season 12 months of the year**. This change was made for 2 main reasons:
 - Firstly, there has been increasingly dry weather creeping outside of the old definition of Fire Season (April 1st-October 31st). Wild fires in March and November are a reality. Therefore there is a need to be vigilant and burn with caution all year long;
 - Secondly, there has traditionally been confusion as to when a burning permit was required and application of the open air burning regulations. A year round requirement for a burning permit will keep it simple, while not restricting one's ability to conduct open air burning in a safe manner.
3. Once the permit has been issued to a resident, it will remain valid under 2 main conditions;
 - a. The burn is conducted during the calendar year in which the permit was issued;
 - b. The permit holder notifies the Municipal Office, either by telephone, e-mail or in person, **during regular business**

hours, in advance, of EACH and EVERY burn. This requirement will also serve to inform the permittee of current burning conditions i.e. if a Fire Ban or a Restricted Fire Zone has been imposed.

4. In addition, terminology to include an **“Outdoor Cooking Device”** has been included. This will address the issue of a cooking fire, larger than a camp fire, such as, but not limited to: a pig roast, corn boil, or traditional maple syrup production. The inclusion of a definition of a larger cooking fire has been seen as a potential benefit to those who prefer more traditional methods of outdoor cooking.
5. Notwithstanding the fact that, with this new by-law, all open air burning practices will be governed so as to promote safe burning, it is recognized that during certain times of the year it would be reasonable to relax certain restrictions on burning based on weather conditions and precipitation on the ground. As such, **certain burning restrictions would not be in effect during certain months of the year** provided snow is on the ground and suitable weather conditions prevail. For example, a permittee may burn a larger pile of brush, than is stipulated in the regulations of the by-law, and could do so even under breezy conditions, and during the daytime if he/she decided to burn on a day in February when there is snow on the ground.
6. Finally, to clarify the issue of a **municipally imposed FIRE BAN:** if the Fire Chief or his designate feels that, for reasons pertaining to dry and dangerous conditions, it is necessary to impose a fire ban, **all outdoor burning and all pyrotechnics (fireworks) are prohibited** until the fire ban has been lifted. **HOWEVER the use of a camp fire and/or an Outdoor Cooking Device (as defined in this by-law) are permitted** during a municipally imposed fire ban. ***This does not apply to a RESTRICTED FIRE ZONE imposed by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources: ALL fires are prohibited.**

We encourage you to visit huronshores.ca in January 2014 for complete details with respect to the new Open Air Burning By-law.

Sincerely

G.J. (Gib) Medve
Fire Chief