

The City of London Air Quality Manager provided the chart below as a portion of his report to CPSC (March 30, 2016)

We learn a staggering fact - **'Residential Fuel Wood Combustion' is the number one contributor to local air contamination, vis a vis fine particulate matter PM2.5**

Although in 2008 it was deemed to be primarily from fireplaces and wood stoves (not sure how they inventoried different types of wood fire sources?)

It must also be realized that outdoor burning, most certainly significantly contributes to the particulate matter tonnage cited, even if not properly acknowledged in EC's 2008 report..

This is so especially because of the rapid growth of outdoor fire pits, chimneas etc., stoked by an exploding retail industry selling and building fire pits etc., and the current by-law that allows outdoor burning, Residential Wood Combustion is Residential Wood Combustion is Residential Wood Combustion.

Point being, we have a staggering proportional amount of extremely dangerous PM2.5 being generated by residential wood burning.

That fact alone suggests that as a community, London needs to start doing something about it.

Its time to shift the conversation away from the stodgy myth that "its acceptable to burn clean, dry wood".

Sure, its preferable to the opposite ie burning painted and or wet wood or garbage, but it does nothing to solve the actual real problem.

Currently, both types of burning occur under a by-law that permits burning to happen in the first place.

The "clean dry wood" and everything will be *fine* argument is pure mythology. The only *fine* thing about it is the *ultrafine* particulate matter being generated into and onto a neighbourhood, any and every time wood burns there.

Someone is going to have to stand up tall for clean air in this community!

Environment Canada makes that abundantly clear in their table below.

We cannot afford any longer to shrug our shoulders, gloss over this problem, pass it back for further "study", or try and explain away the significance of same with some convoluted logic.

Unfortunately, none of the parties who contributed to or signed off on in the March 30, 2016 report to CPSC on Outdoor Burning have reached that conclusion yet, and that should be very troubling to our gatekeepers.

"Given the information above, it is not likely that backyard fire pits are having a significant impact on London's overall air quality". Jamie Skimming, Air Quality Manager, City of London, conclusion presented in the CPSC Report, March 30, 2016)

Respectfully, the chart (below) which was provided in the same report, and certainly seems to fully contradict the conclusion (just above).

And there are and were a year ago many studies available that prove that fire pits etc. create localized pollution "hot spots" up to 100 times greater than the nearest monitoring station.

Somehow that fact was completely overlooked in the "conclusions".

And to underscore, London has one air monitoring station for our 420.6 km.. That means it is virtually impossible to know how a fire(s) are affecting the overall or for that matter neighbourhood air quality.

Oh, and does the one air monitoring station monitor for the 200 chemicals found in wood smoke, of course not.

**Environment Canada Criteria Air Contaminants Inventory (2008 data)  
Fine Particulate Matter less than 2.5 um - PM2.5 (tonnes/year)  
Top Six Local Sources of Fine Particulate Matter**

*Residential Fuel Wood Combustion - 760 tonnes/yr.*

Construction Operations - 724 tonnes/yr.

Dust from Paved Roads - 269 tonnes/yr.

Off-road use of diesel - 123 tonnes/yr.

Foundries - 116 tonnes/yr.

Meat Cooking - 111 tonnes/yr.