

From: Heather Kaplan

To: CPSC <cpsc@london.ca>

Cc: Heather Kaplan

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Backyard fires on private property objection

To Whom It May Concern:

As a long time resident of London, I live in a the very nice community of Stoneybrook. Over many years, my family and I have enjoyed the clean and sweet air over our city especially in the spring, summer and fall months, which is invigorating and healthful, especially when you compare the air quality to the larger communities like Windsor or Toronto.

However, during these pandemic days, when we are all staying home more often and trying to enjoy our environments, I have been angered by the occurrence of smoking fires that are being perpetuated throughout my community. I cannot sit outside in my backyard, take a long walk in my neighborhood or keep my windows open in the evening hours, in order to get fresh air into my house.

During a small bit of research, I learned that The City of London is the only municipality to have a bylaw which permits backyard fires in all of Ontario.

After speaking to my lovely neighbours, who insist on burning ash, wood, or whatever, as their right, and even abiding by the bylaw of keeping the open flame 6 feet away from their house, I decided to write to your city council to express my dissatisfaction with the maintenance of a bylaw which I deem archaic, and out of date, considering the pollution of the environment, the warm summer that we are now experiencing, and the health of the residents who reside here.

This fine city is growing quickly, and when my family and I moved here, there was only a small population of 165,000. Now with folks moving here from the larger cities, where property values almost make it impossible for a young family to afford a home, London is a magnet for new residents, as the city offers a clean and healthy way of life with the open walking paths, parks, and recreational facilities that larger cities do not readily have. I estimate that the population is reaching 500,000 people and will still grow. Some houses north of Stoneybrook in Sunningdale are selling close to \$1,000,000., as I have seen them.

Thus with all this in mind, I highly suggest that the bylaw, which went into effect in May this year, be changed to make it illegal for anyone to burn anything on their private property within the city limits of London. It is dangerous to themselves and to others, and is not the type of image that London can be proud of.

Many years ago, in the mid 1980's, I was a member of The London Safety Sub Committee, which I sat on for 8 years, and at one point was the Vice Chairman.

As well, when I spoke to Councilor Maureen Cassidy yesterday, I mentioned my complaint to her about backyard fires, and she suggested that I write to this committee with my objections to this awful practice. I thank her for her phone call and lovely response.

Right at this moment....at 1:30 in the afternoon, with my bedroom window open, smoke is again streaming into my house from the neighborhood.

Please make this a priority and present this argument to City Council as the health and welfare of our citizens should be of utmost importance.

Many thanks for your kind attention:

Heather R. Kaplan
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