



SUBJECT: Open air burning permit areas

TO: Committee of the Whole

FROM: Mayor's Office

Report Number: MO-09-19

Wards Affected: All

File Numbers: 755-01

Date to Committee: September 9, 2019

Date to Council: September 23, 2019

Recommendation:

Direct the Fire Chief to investigate revising the City of Burlington open air burn permit areas to consider including rural areas south of Dundas Street and report back with options in December 2019.

Purpose:

Reviewing the current geographic area of permissions for open-air burn permits will allow us to better evaluate the necessity of continuing to exclude certain rural areas from the permit boundaries if they pose no additional risks to the surrounding environment (for example, north Aldershot, an area with many characteristics similar to those found in the existing rural permit area north of Dundas St.).

Background and Discussion:

The request for a change in permits has come from North Aldershot residents, as a way to have sensible fires that assist with managing large properties and brush (all properties in this area are a minimum half acre or more in size). North Aldershot is a very unique community of semi-rural properties & farms. If residents were allowed to sensibly burn & look after their properties, it could save the city money with regards to the huge amount of yard waste bags that need to be collected every year.

One of the concerns in allowing fires in this area is the potential for smoke drifting across Waterdown Road.

The suggestion is to consider following the basic fire permit rules from Haliburton (Highlands) County, which have distance separators and time conditions (see below) and add in an additional point mandating that all fires must be a minimum of 100ft set back from the road.

A minimal online fee could be collected for the permit to defray any city costs.
As per Haliburton's rules:

"Small fires are permitted in most areas of Highlands East as long as the following rules are complied with:

- There is no daytime burning permitted during the fire season (April 1st to November 30th) without a permit. Fires may take place only during the time from one half hour before sunset to one half hour after sunrise.
- Your fire can be no greater than .5 metres (approx. 20 inches) in diameter and flames must not exceed 1 metre (approx. 39 inches) in height.
- Your fire must be setback a minimum of 10 metres from any structure.
- Only environmentally friendly materials may be burned.
- The smoke from your fire cannot interfere with your neighbours or a roadway.
- You must have sufficient tools and water available to put the fire out should the need arise.
- You must be with your fire at all times

You may have a campfire during the day, using the same size restrictions and conditions listed above however it can only be used for cooking and warmth. It must be attended at all times.

All other fires need a permit. Please contact the municipal office for more information and to obtain a permit download the by-law and application below.

Any municipal or county-wide burn ban would supersede these rules."

Haliburton Burning By-Law and Application link for additional information:

<https://www.highlandseast.ca/article/burning-by-law-application>

Conclusion:

Gathering more information with the help of Chief Lazenby and his team will enable us to better understand the implications of widening our open-air burn permit boundaries.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Marianne Meed Ward

905-335-7607