

Open air burning permit areas MO-09-19

Dear Madam Mayor & Council

Ref. Fire Permits for North Aldershot

Good afternoon, with regards to the proposal of Fire Permits for the unique North Aldershot community & the wish to be able to have open air bonfires of a sensible size & the local frustrations at not being able to manage our lands in an appropriate manner.

I've previously met with the former Burlington Fire Chief & the biggest concern is smoke going into Waterdown Road.

My suggestion would be to follow basic fire permit rules from Halliburton County to help minimize the former Fire Chiefs concerns & to add in an additional point to the guidelines:

- All fires must be a minimum of 100ft set back from any road.

I can guarantee you that all of the properties on Waterdown Road & in North Aldershot can comply with that condition as we are all in half acre, one acre, five acres or farms in our community. Any new builds though (the proposed Paletta & Taylor Farms development) may need a separate bylaw.

The below is taken directly from the Halliburton Highlands council website as a practising by-law that has been successfully in place for a number of years & could be used as the guideline for our community.

Burning By-Law and Application

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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 supercedes these rules.

The City of Burlington could charge a minimal online fee for the permit if you so wished, which could be used to cover any administration costs associated with updating the webpage if the Fire Ratings of Low/Medium/High need to be adjusted.

North Aldershot is a very unique old community of semi rural properties & farms which was only updated from its Rural Route designation within the relatively recent history of the area when previously they were allowed to burn. It is not a community of quick turnover, rather that of a quieter, low density, long term group.

If we were allowed to sensibly burn & look after our properties we would actually be able to save the City of Burlington money & time with regards to the huge amount of yard waste bags that need to be collected every year & the garbage men that have to spend many long, hard trips having to haul away bags which could sensibly be managed.

We currently have the existing fire station at the bottom of Waterdown Road & Plains Road, this will be moving to its new site north of the highway & the North Service Road hopefully in the near future, & "if" there was ever a problem, they would be even closer to help our community.

Please do give this due consideration & make a very unique community happy with regards to managing their properties appropriately!

Best wishes & thank you for your due consideration.

Sarah Pralet & Family

With support from many of the local residents.

Waterdown Road

Committee Member of:

- The North Aldershot Community Leaders Group
- The Burlington Agricultural and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee (BARAAC)