

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PUSLINCH

BY-LAW NUMBER 54/2007

Being a By-Law to regulate the setting of open air fires, including establishing the times during which open air fires may be set in the Township of Puslinch

WHEREAS Council of the Corporation of the Township of Puslinch ("Council") is empowered under section 7.1(1) of the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997, S.O. 1997, c.4*, as amended, (the "FPPA") to pass by-laws regulating fire prevention, including the prevention of the spreading of fires;

AND WHEREAS Council is empowered under section 7.1(1) of the FPPA to pass by-laws regulating the setting of open air fires, including establishing the times during which open air fires may be set;

AND WHEREAS Council is empowered under section 128 of the *Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25*, as amended, to pass by-laws to prohibit and regulate public nuisances, including matters that, in the opinion of Council, are, or could become or cause public nuisances;

AND WHEREAS Council considers excessive smoke, smell, airborne sparks or embers to be or could become or cause public nuisances by creating negative health effects on neighbouring residents, increasing fire exposure hazards, infringing the enjoyment of the use of neighbouring properties and generating false fire alarms;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Puslinch ENACTS as follows:

PART I - DEFINITIONS

1. In this By-law,

"Cooking Fire" means an Open Air fire used for the purpose of cooking food on a grill but does not include a manufactured barbeque.

"Fire Chief" means the Chief of the Puslinch Fire Department of the Corporation of the Township of Puslinch, or his designate.

"Firefighter" means the Fire Chief and any other person employed in, or appointed to, the Fire Department of the Corporation of the Township of Puslinch, and assigned to undertake fire protection services.

"Ground Cover" includes but is not limited to, leaves, grasses, weeds, tree needles or wood chips on the ground.

"Nuisance" means excessive smoke, smell, airborne sparks or embers that is likely to disturb others.

"Open Air" means any open place, yard, field or construction area which is not enclosed by a building or structure.

"Open Air Burning" means a fire set in the Open Air.

“Outdoor Fireplace” means a manufactured non-combustible enclosed container designed to hold a small fire for decorative purposes and the size of which is not larger than 1 meter in any direction.

“Owner” means the registered owner or any person, firm or corporation having control over, or possession, of any portion of the building or property under consideration and includes the persons in the building or property.

“Permit” means a permit issued by the Fire Chief to set a fire in the Open Air for a specified time period.

“Person” means an individual, business, a partnership, or a corporation.

“Smog Alert” means an alert issued by the Ministry of Environment with respect to air quality.

ADMINISTRATION

2. The Fire Chief shall be responsible for the administration and enforcement of this By-law.

ENVIRONMENT

3. All Open Air Burning shall comply with the provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.E.19, as amended.
4. No Open Air Burning shall be permitted when a Smog Alert has been issued for the forecast area of the County of Wellington which includes Puslinch Township.

PART II FIRES REQUIRING PERMITS

5. Except as provided in Part III of this By-law, no person shall set, maintain, or cause to be set or maintained, a fire in the Open Air unless a Permit has been issued by the Fire Chief.
6. An application for a Permit must be completed on the forms provided by the Fire Department of the Corporation of the Township of Puslinch.
7.
 - (1) Except as otherwise provided in the Permit issued under this Part, a Permit holder shall not set or maintain Open Air Burning, or cause Open Air Burning to be set or maintained:
 - (a) between sunset and sunrise;
 - (b) at a distance of less than one hundred and fifty (150) meters from any building, structure, property line, tree, hedge, fence, roadway, overhead wire or other combustible article;
 - (c) if the wind velocity is greater than twenty four (24) kilometers per hour;
 - (d) that exceeds one cubic meter in area;
 - (e) that exceeds one meter in height;
 - (f) within five (5) meters of any combustible ground cover;
 - (g) without a suitable means of extinguishment available while the fire is burning; or

- (h) if it creates a Nuisance.
 - (2) In issuing a Permit under this Part for Open Air Burning, the Fire Chief may impose any additional requirements or exempt any conditions under section 7 of this By-law as the Fire Chief considers necessary in the interest of public safety, or to minimize inconvenience to the general public, or advisable in the circumstances, or to give effect to the objects of this By-law.
8. The holder of a Permit issued under this Part shall:
- (1) maintain constant watch and control over the Open Air Burning from the time of the setting of the fire until the fire is totally extinguished; and
 - (2) produce the Permit on demand to a Firefighter conducting an inspection of the Open Air Burning.

PART III OUTDOOR FIREPLACES

9. (1) An Outdoor Fireplace may be operated without a Permit between sunrise and 11 p.m. if:
- (a) it is located at a distance of not less than fifty (50) feet between the fireplace and any building, structure, property line, tree, hedge, fence, roadway, overhead wire or other combustible article;
 - (b) it is located on a non-combustible surface extending beyond the unit to a dimension equal to the height of the unit;
 - (c) it does not create a Nuisance;
 - (d) a portable fire extinguisher or operable garden hose is available while the unit is in operation; and
 - (e) the Owner maintains constant watch and control over the Outdoor Fireplace from the time of the setting of the fire until the fire is totally extinguished.

COOKING FIRES

10. (1) A person may set or cause to be set or maintained a Cooking Fire without obtaining a Permit between sunrise and 11 p.m., provided that:
- (a) the fire is not more than 0.3 meters by 0.3 meters in size and not more than 0.3 meters in height;
 - (b) the fire is located at a distance of not less than fifty (50) feet between the fire and any building, structure, property line, tree, hedge, fence, roadway, overhead wire or other combustible article;
 - (c) the wind velocity is not greater than twenty four (24) kilometers per hour;
 - (d) there is no combustible ground cover within five (5) meters of the fire;
 - (e) the fire does not create a Nuisance;
 - (f) a suitable means of extinguishment is available while the fire is burning; and

- (g) the Owner maintains constant watch and control over the Cooking Fire from the time of the setting of the fire until the fire is totally extinguished.

**PART IV
OFFENCE AND ENFORCEMENT**

- 11. (1) A person is guilty of an offence if the person:
 - (a) furnishes false information in the application for a permit under this By-law;
 - (b) contravenes any provision of this By-law; or
 - (c) contravenes an order issued under section 13.
- (2) A person who is convicted of an offence under this by-law is liable to a fine and penalty as pursuant to the provisions of the *Provincial Offences Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.P.33., as amended.
- 12. A Permit issued under this By-law may be revoked by the Fire Chief if the Permit holder fails to comply with the requirements of the Permit and/or any other provisions of this By-law.
- 13. A Firefighter may order a fire to be extinguished immediately if the fire:
 - (1) is not set in compliance with this by-law; or
 - (2) is determined upon inspection by the Firefighter to constitute a safety hazard or concern.

VALIDITY

- 14. If a court of competent jurisdiction declares any provision or a part of a provision of this By-law to be invalid or to be of no force and effect, it is the intention of Council that the remainder of the By-law shall continue to be in force.

SHORT TITLE

- 15. This By-law shall be known as the Open Air Burning By-law.

READ A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME AND FINALLY PASSED THIS 7TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2007.

Signed: 
Brad Whitcombe, Mayor

(SEAL)


Brenda Law, Clerk-Treasurer