



Council Meeting Agenda

Monday, September 13, 2021

Closed Council Meeting

4:30 P.M.

Regular Council Meeting

Virtual

7:00 P.M.

This meeting is open to the public and is available through an online platform. Please subscribe to the [Township of Wilmot You Tube Channel](#) to watch the live stream or view after the meeting.

Delegations must register with the [Information and Legislative Services Department](#). The only matters being discussed at this meeting will be those on the Agenda.

1. MOTION TO CONVENE INTO CLOSED MEETING

RECOMMENDATION

THAT a Closed Meeting of Council be held on Monday, September 13, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. in accordance with Section 239(2), for the purposes of:

- b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees; and
- f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose

2. MOTION TO RECONVENE IN OPEN MEETING

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council reconvenes in Open Session at 7:00 p.m.

- 3. MOMENT OF SILENCE**
- 4. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – Councillor J. Pfenning**
- 5. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**
- 6. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Agenda, as presented, for September 13, 2021 be adopted.

- 7. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST UNDER THE MUNICIPAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT**
- 8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

8.1 Council Meetings Minutes Monday August 23, 2021

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the minutes of the following meetings be adopted as presented:

Regular Council Meeting August 23, 2021.

- 9. PUBLIC MEETINGS**
- 10. PRESENTATIONS**
- 11. CONSENT**

11.1 REPORT NO. PFRS 2021-014

Wilmot Seniors Woodworking & Craft Centre License Agreement

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Report No. PFRS 2021-014 be approved.

12. REPORTS

12.1 OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

12.1.1 REPORT NO. CAO 2021-003

2021 Mid-Term Work Program Report

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the 2021 Mid-Term Work Program Report CAO 2021-003, dated September 13, 2021, submitted by the Interim Chief Administrative Officer, be endorsed.

12.2 CORPORATE SERVICES**12.2.2 REPORT NO. COR 2021-29****Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan – Update and Actions****RECOMMENDATION**

WHEREAS the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) released its final report on June 2, 2015, which included 94 Calls to Action to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation;

AND WHEREAS the recent discoveries of remains and unmarked graves across Canada have led to increased calls for all levels of government to address the recommendations in the TRC's Calls to Action;

AND WHEREAS all Canadians and all orders of government have a role to play in reconciliation;

AND WHEREAS Recommendation #80 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission called upon the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, to establish, as a statutory holiday, a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process;

AND WHEREAS the Federal Government has announced September 30th, 2021, as the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (National Orange Shirt Day) and a statutory holiday;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Wilmot does hereby commit to recognizing September 30th, 2021, as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (National Orange Shirt Day) by sharing the stories of residential school survivors, their families, and communities; and further

THAT rental-related fees associated with the use of municipal parks and facilities, for recognized Indigenous organizations to lead cultural and ceremonial events, be suspended for September 30, 2021; and further,

THAT staff be directed to develop a Corporate Guideline to support access and use of public spaces by Indigenous peoples to carry out cultural and ceremonial practices.

12.3 DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

12.3.1 REPORT NO. DS 2021-023

Aggregate Zoning Status Review

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Report DS 2021-023 be received for information.

Registered Delegations

1. Samantha Lernout
2. Rory Farnan

12.4 PARKS, FACILITIES AND RECREATION SERVICES

12.4.1 REPORT NO. PFRS 2021-016

Emergency Repairs to Township Facilities

RECOMMENDATION

THAT report PRFS 2021-016, regrading Emergency Repairs to Township Facilities, be received for information purposes.

12.5 FIRE SERVICES

12.5.1 REPORT NO. FR 2021-10

Open Air By-law Update

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves the by-law to regulate the setting of Open Air Fires including establishing the times during which Open Air Fires may be set and to repeal By-law No. 2004-42 being a Bylaw to regulate the setting of fires and precautions to be observed.

12.5.2 REPORT NO. FR 2021-11**Fire Route Bylaw Update****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council approves Bylaw 2021-41 to designate private roadways as emergency Fire routes along which no parking of vehicles shall be permitted and to Repeal Bylaw No. 85-5 being a Bylaw to designate private roadways as emergency fire routes and requirements to be observed.

13. CORRESPONDENCE**13.1 Integrity Commissioner Report Nos. IC-2021-04****RECOMMENDATION**

That Correspondence Item No. 13.1 be received for information.

14. BY-LAWS**14.1 By-law No. 2021-41**

By-law to regulate the setting of open air fires

14.2 By-law No. 2021-42

Fire Route By-law

RECOMMENDATION

THAT By-law Nos. 2021-41 and 2021-42 be introduced, read a first, second and third time and finally passed in Open Council

15. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**16. ANNOUNCEMENTS****17. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION****18. CONFIRMATORY BY-LAW****18.1 By-law No. 2021-42****RECOMMENDATION**

THAT By-law No. 2021-42 to Confirm the Proceedings of Council at its Meeting held on September 13, 2021 be introduced, read a first, second, and third time and finally passed in Open Council.

19. ADJOURNMENT

RECOMMENDATION

THAT we do now adjourn to meet again at the call of the Mayor.



Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 23, 2021

Council Meeting

Electronic Online Participation

7:00 P.M.

Members Present: Mayor L. Armstrong, Councillors A. Hallman, C. Gordijk, B. Fisher, J. Gerber and J. Pfenning

Staff Present: Acting Chief Administrative Officer / Director of Parks, Facilities and Recreation S. Jackson, Director of Information and Legislative Services D. Mittelholtz, Director of Public Works J. Molenhuis, Director of Development Services H. O'Krafka, Director of Corporate Services / Treasurer P. Kelly, Fire Chief R. Leeson, Manager of Information and Legislative Services / Deputy Clerk T. Murray,

- 1. MOTION TO CONVENE INTO CLOSED MEETING (IF NECESSARY)**
- 2. MOTION TO RECONVENE IN OPEN MEETING (IF NECESSARY)**
- 3. MOMENT OF SILENCE**
- 4. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

4.1 Councillor J. Pfenning read the Land Acknowledgement

5. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

5.1. Consent Agenda

Resolution No. 2021-159

Moved by: Councillor C. Gordijk

Seconded by: Councillor J. Pfenning

THAT Item 11.12 be added to the agenda under CONSENT as Report No. FD 2021-04 Second Quarter Activity Report.

CARRIED.

5.2. Reports

Resolution No. 2021-160

Moved by: Councillor B. Fisher

Seconded by: Councillor C. Gordijk

THAT Item 12.3 be added to the agenda under Reports Fire Services as Item 12.3.1
Report No. 2021-14 Shower Installation Women's Washroom Station 1 Baden.

CARRIED.

6. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Resolution No. 2021-161

Moved by: Councillor J. Gerber

Seconded by: Councillor J. Pfenning

THAT the Agenda, as presented, for August 23, 2021 be adopted.

CARRIED.

**7. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST UNDER THE MUNICIPAL
CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT**

8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

8.1 Council Meetings Minutes Monday July 12, 2021

Resolution No. 2021-162

Moved by: Councillor J. Pfenning

Seconded by: Councillor C. Gordijk

THAT the minutes of the following meetings be adopted as presented:

Regular Council Meeting July 12, 2021.

CARRIED.

9. PUBLIC MEETINGS

10. PRESENTATIONS

11. CONSENT AGENDA

11.1 REPORT NO. ILS 2021-32

**Appointment of Drainage Engineer
Queen Street (Regional Road 12) Culvert Approximately 90m
South of Cottage Lane
Township of Wilmot**

- 11.2 REPORT NO. ILS 2021-33
Combined Quarterly Activity Report**
- 11.3 REPORT NO. DS 2021-025
2ND Quarter Building Stats**
- 11.4 REPORT NO. PW 2021-016
2nd Quarter 2021 Operations Activity Report
April – June 2021**
- 11.5 REPORT NO. PW 2021-17
Municipal Facility and Sidewalk Winter Maintenance – Term
Contract**
- 11.7 REPORT NO. PW 2021-019
Award of Contract – Four Wheel Drive Tractor Backhoe**
- 11.8 REPORT NO. CK 2021-003
Quarterly Activity Report – April, May, June 2021**
- 11.9 REPORT NO. PFRS 2021-013
Parks, Facilities and Recreation Services Second Quarter Activity
Report**
- 11.11 REPORT NO. ILS 2021-34
Noise By-law Exemption
Louise Lalonde**

11.12 REPORT NO. FD 2021-04**Second Quarter Activity Report****Resolution No. 2021-163****Moved by: Councillor C. Gordijk****Seconded by: Councillor J. Gerber**

THAT Report Nos. ILS 2021-32, ILS 2021-33, DS 2021-025, PW 2021-16, PW 2021-17, PW 2021-19, CK 2021-003, PFRS 2021-013, ILS 2021-34 and FD 2021-04 be approved.

CARRIED. AS AMENDED.

Items 11.6 and 11.10 were removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

11.6 REPORT NO. PW 2021-18**Annual Reforestation Program – Award of Contract****Resolution No. 2021-164****Moved by: Councillor J. Pfenning****Seconded by: Councillor B. Fisher**

THAT RFT 2021-24 be awarded to Mar-John's Nursery Ltd. of Waterloo, Ontario for the Annual Reforestation Program, as per their bid submission dated July 22, 2021, in the revised scope amount of \$88,200.00 plus HST for installations and removals in 2021, and an option to extend contract terms for one (1) additional year, based on funding availability.

CARRIED.

The Director of Public Works and Engineering clarified the number of trees in the report is 215 trees that were originally bid, and the revised tree amount is 140 trees. It was noted that the same unit rate still applies to the revised bid amount.

11.10 REPORT NO. ILS 2021-31**Proposed 2022 Regular Council Meeting Schedule****Resolution No. 2021-165**

Moved by: Councillor C. Gordijk**Seconded by: Councillor A. Hallman**

THAT the following schedule for Regular Council Meetings be adopted:

January 17, 2022	February 7, 2022 February 28, 2022	March 14, 2022 March 28, 2022
April 11, 2022 April 25, 2022	May 9, 2022 May 30, 2022	June 13, 2022 June 27, 2022
July 18, 2022	August 22, 2022	September 12, 2022 September 26, 2022
October 3, 2022	November 7, 2022 November 21, 2022	December 5, 2022

CARRIED. AS AMENDED.

Council requested that the meeting date be amended to move the May 9, 2022 to May 16, 2022 and that further Council Meeting schedules be scheduled around Mother's Day and Father's Day weekends.

12. REPORTS

12.1 CORPORATE SERVICES

12.1.1 REPORT NO. COR 2021-027

Statement of Operations as of June 30, 2021 (un-audited)

Resolution No. 2021-166

Moved by: Councillor C. Gordijk**Seconded by: Councillor J. Pfenning**

THAT report COR 2021-027, Statement of Operations (un-audited) as of June 30, 2021, as prepared by the Manager of Finance / Deputy Treasurer, be received for information purposes.

CARRIED.

The Director of Corporate Services / Treasurer outlined the report.

The Director of Public Works and Engineering advised that the automated speed program is a regional program therefore there are no revenues nor expenses.

The Director of Information and Legislative Services advised that a review is underway of the Crossing Guard program and will include the new crossing location in New Hamburg, which will come to Council at a future meeting.

The Director of Parks, Facilities and Recreation advised that there have been no further discussions on potential recreation closures as a result of the current fourth wave of COVID-19.

12.1.2REPORT NO. COR 2021-028

Capital Program Review as of June 30, 2021 (un-audited)

Resolution No. 2021-167

Moved by: Councillor A. Hallman Seconded by: Councillor C. Gordijk

THAT report COR 2021-028, Capital Program Review as of June 30, 2021 (un-audited), as prepared by the Manager of Finance / Deputy Treasurer, be received for information purposes.

CARRIED.

The Director of Corporate Services / Treasurer outlined the report.

12.2 PARKS, FACILITIES AND RECREATION SERVICES

12.2.2REPORT NO. PFRS 2021-015

Administration Complex Fire Panel Replacement

Resolution No. 2021-168

Moved by: Councillor B. Fisher Seconded by: Councillor J. Pfenning

THAT RFT 2021-27 be awarded to Dielco Electric Ltd. of London, Ontario for the removal and replacement of the Fire panel system for the Administration Complex and Castle Kilbride, as per their bid submission dated August 11, 2021, in the amount of \$64,270.00 plus HST.

CARRIED.

The Director of Parks, Facilities and Recreation Services outlined the report.

12.3 FIRE SERVICES**12.3.1 REPORT NO. 2021-14****Women's Washroom Renovations at Station 1 Baden****Resolution No. 2021-169**

Moved by: Councillor A. Hallman Seconded by: Councillor J. Pfenning

That RFQ 2021-26 be awarded to Astus Development Inc., for the completion of washroom renovations at Station 1 in Baden, in the amount of \$41,935, including HST.

CARRIED.

The Fire Chief outlined the report.

13. CORRESPONDENCE**14. BY-LAWS****15. NOTICE OF MOTIONS****Resolution No. 2021-170**

Moved by: Councillor A. Hallman Seconded by: Councillor C. Gordijk

THAT the Procedural By-law be suspended to allow for voting on the Notice of Motion on the evening it has been introduced.

CARRIED.

15.1 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**Resolution No. 2021-171**

Moved by: Councillor A. Hallman Seconded by: Councillor C. Gordijk

WHEREAS the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) released its final report on June 2, 2015, which included 94 Calls to Action to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation;

AND WHEREAS the recent discoveries of remains and unmarked graves across Canada have led to increased calls for all levels of government to address the recommendations in the TRC's Calls to Action;

AND WHEREAS all Canadians and all orders of government have a role to play in reconciliation;

AND WHEREAS Recommendation #80 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission called upon the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, to establish, as a statutory holiday, a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process;

AND WHEREAS the Federal Government has announced September 30th, 2021, as the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (National Orange Shirt Day) and a statutory holiday;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Wilmot does hereby commit to recognizing September 30th, 2021, as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (National Orange Shirt Day) by flying the Every Child Matters flag for the month of September at the municipal office and sharing the stories of residential school survivors, their families, and communities.

WITHDRAWN.

Resolution No. 2021-172

Moved by: Councillor A. Hallman

Seconded by: Councillor C. Gordijk

THAT the Council of the Township of Wilmot does hereby commit to recognizing the September 30th, 2021, as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (National Orange Shirt Day) by flying of the Every Child Matters flag for the month of September at the municipal office.

CARRIED.

Councillor A. Hallman introduced a Notice of Motion that included a proposed Resolution from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) concerning the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation plus direction for the flying of the Every Child Matters flag. Council was advised that a staff report including the AMO Resolution and recommendations from the Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group (RAPWG) would be coming forward on September 13, 2021 as a coordinated approach from all municipalities in the Region. The original Notice of Motion was subsequently withdrawn and a revised Notice of Motion was introduced.

The Director of Parks, Facilities and Recreation advised that the flag can be flown for the month of September and the Director of Information and Legislative Services confirmed that it would be flown at half mast, as is being done at Parliament Hill.

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 16.1** Mayor L. Armstrong advised that staff are conducting a survey in preparation of the 2022 Municipal Election, Council and staff are requesting the public's input on preferred method of voting. The survey closes August 27. For residents wanting to take part in the survey, they can visit Wilmot.ca/votingsurvey or contact the administration office to get a paper copy.
- 16.2** Councillor C. Gordijk advised the Terry Fox Auction raised a record amount of over \$2,700.00. Councillor C. Gordijk thanked local businesses for their support and noted that on September 1, a tree will be dedicated to Terry Fox, the dedication ceremony will be September 1 at 6:30 pm.
- 16.3** Councillor C. Gordijk encouraged everyone to register for the Terry Fox Run on September 19, 2021.
- 16.4** Councillor B. Fisher congratulated the Corporate Services Department on their award of excellence in financial reporting.
- 16.5** Councillor J. Pfenning also extended congratulations to Corporate Services.
- 16.6** Councillor J. Pfenning noted that August 31 is International Overdose Awareness Day. She encouraged everyone to get involved to help end the stigma so those in need can get help.
- 16.7** Councillor J. Pfenning thanked all staff for the work staff have done all summer and the continued diligence to the community.
- 16.8** Councillor A. Hallman noted that today is the International Day of Remembrance of the Slave Trade and asked that people pause and reflect.
- 16.9** Councillor A. Hallman thanked everyone for supporting the New Hamburg Board of Trade sidewalk sale this summer.

17. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION**18. CONFIRMATORY BY-LAW****Resolution No. 2021-173**

Moved by: Councillor B. Fisher

Seconded by: Councillor C. Gordijk

THAT By-law No. 2021-39 to Confirm the Proceedings of Council at its Meeting held on August 23, 2021 be introduced, read a first, second, and third time and finally passed in Open Council.

CARRIED.

19. ADJOURNMENT (7:58 PM)

Resolution No. 2021-174

Moved by: Councillor C. Gordijk

Seconded by: Councillor J. Pfenning

THAT we do now adjourn to meet again at the call of the Mayor.

CARRIED.



PARKS, FACILITIES AND RECREATION SERVICES

Staff Report

REPORT NO: PFRS 2021-014

TO: Council

SUBMITTED BY: Sandy Jackson, Interim CAO/Director Parks, Facilities & Recreation Services

REVIEWED BY: Patrick Kelly, Director of Corporate Services/ Treasurer

DATE: September 13, 2021

SUBJECT: Wilmot Seniors Woodworking & Craft Centre License Agreement

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the five (5) year license agreement between the Township of Wilmot and the Wilmot Seniors Woodworking and Craft Centre, for the operation of a recreational woodworking and craft shop located at 27 Beck Street, Baden, ON, be endorsed.

SUMMARY:

The Wilmot Seniors Woodworking and Craft Centre (WSWCC) has been operating from the Township owned building at 27 Beck Street since for several years. Although an agreement was in place for the first five (5) years of operation, it has not been formally renewed since that time. This report requests approval for a five (5) year license agreement for exclusive use of the building for the purposes of recreational woodworking and crafts.

BACKGROUND:

In 2007, the Township entered into an agreement with the WSWCC for a five (5) year term. At that time, Council provided the facility at no cost to the club with the provision that

they acquire and provide proof of their own insurance coverage and be responsible for the cost of utilities and all operating costs including purchase of equipment, supplies and overall management of the club. Through the annual Municipal Grants Program, the Township has historically supported grant funding towards a portion of equipment replacement.

The Township retains ownership of the building at 27 Beck Street, and continues to be responsible for exterior capital work and grounds maintenance including snow removal and grass cutting.

REPORT:

Staff approached the executive members of the WSWCC in 2020 regarding their expired agreement to initiate the renewal process. Over the past year, the WSWCC has worked hard to establish themselves as a registered not-for-profit organization with legal status, thereby allowing the Township to enter into a license agreement for use of the space.

Staff also undertook a review of insurance requirements and requested an increase from \$2M in coverage to \$3M, based on feedback from the Waterloo Region Municipal Insurance Pool (WRMIP). This modification was agreed upon and has since been put in place.

This agreement has been reviewed by the Township solicitor, includes similar terms to the initial agreement, and honours Wilmot Council's previous direction to provide this space at no cost. This supports a community development approach to shared recreational service provision through volunteer led services. The WSWCC is self sufficient and requires zero additional support for day-to-day operating costs.

ALIGNMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT STRATEGIC PLAN:

The license agreement with the WSWCC contributes to Quality of Life and Community Engagement, through the strategic action of Supporting for Community Groups and Volunteers.

ACTIONS TOWARDS UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Renewing this agreement will have no additional direct costs to the Township for the contract term of five (5) years. Operating costs consist of grass cutting (\$750 per year), snow removal services valued at \$9,500 per year, and annual fire system inspections (\$400). A recent capital project to improve drainage and resurface the parking lot at a value of \$23,711 was the only project on the current ten-year capital plan.

Although this program is an excellent community service and recreational opportunity for adults age 55+, Council has the opportunity to consider if a cost recovery model is preferable, prior to execution of the attached agreement.

ATTACHMENTS:

Wilmot Seniors Woodworking & Craft Centre Five Year Agreement.

THIS LICENSE AGREEMENT made this 13th day of September, 2021.

B E T W E E N:

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT

Hereinafter called the "**Township**"

OF THE FIRST PART

- and -

WILMOT SENIORS WOODWORKING AND CRAFT CENTRE

Hereinafter called the "**Club**"

OF THE SECOND PART

WHEREAS the Township is the registered owner of the premises known as 27 Beck Street in Baden, otherwise described as Lots 115 and 116, Plan 627, Beck Street, Baden in the Township of Wilmot, in the Regional Municipality of Waterloo, in the Province of Ontario (the "**Premises**");

AND WHEREAS the Club is interested in licensing the Premises in order to use it for woodworking and the making of crafts for individuals who are 55 years of age and older;

AND WHEREAS the Township is prepared to license the Premises to the Club free of charge, though subject to the terms and conditions outlined in this agreement;

NOW THEREFORE THIS AGREEMENT WITNESSETH that in consideration of the sum of Two (\$2.00) Dollars of lawful money of Canada now paid by the Club to the Township (the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged), and in consideration of the covenants hereinafter set forth, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. The parties agree that the above-noted recitals are true and correct.
2. The Township agrees to license the Premises to the Club, at no cost to the Club, for a period of five (5) years from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2026 (the "**Term**"), unless the agreement is otherwise terminated in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.
3. The Club shall only use the Premises for woodworking and the making of crafts for individuals who are 55 years of age and older.
4. The Club agrees as follows:
 - (a) The Club shall produce woodworking articles for the Township, at the Township's request, at cost (no profit), to the Township's specifications. Such woodworking articles shall be provided to the Township as soon as possible after the Club receives the Township's request and shall thereafter become the property of the Township.

- (b) The Club agrees to pay for all security and utility costs related to the Premises, including heat, hydro, water, internet and telephone costs, and shall pay those costs directly to the appropriate utility company or agency or municipality, as required. For greater clarity, the costs of a security system, including its installation, or monitoring shall be borne exclusively by the Club.
- (c) The Club shall obtain and keep in full force and effect during the Term, public liability insurance to a minimum of three million dollars (\$3,000,000) with a clause naming the Township as an additional insured, all to the Township's satisfaction. Proof of such insurance shall be provided to the Township prior to execution of the agreement and upon renewal. The insurance policy obtained by the Club shall indemnify and hold the Township harmless, on a solicitor and client basis, against any and all claims whatsoever for public liability and property damage which may arise in respect to the Club's being the occupier of the premises and for use, occupation or operation of the Premises, as provided for in this agreement.
- (d) The Club, both during and after the term of this Agreement, shall at all times, and at its own cost, expense and risk, defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Township, its elected officials, officers, employees, volunteers, guests, invitees, agents, contractors, and all respective heirs, administrators, executors, successors and assigns from any and all losses, damages (including, but not limited to, incidental, indirect, special and consequential damages, or any loss of use, revenue or profit by any person, organization or entity), fines, penalties and surcharges, liabilities (including, but not limited to, any and all liability for damage to property and injury to persons, including death), judgments, claims, demands, causes of action, contracts, suits, actions or other proceedings of any kind (including, but not limited to proceedings of a criminal, administrative or quasi criminal nature) and expenses (including, but not limited to, legal fees on a substantial indemnity basis), which the indemnified person or persons may suffer or incur, howsoever caused, arising out of or in consequence of or directly or indirectly attributable to the activities being performed by the Club, its agents, employees and sub-contractors as outlined within this agreement, provided such losses, damages, fines, penalties and surcharges, liabilities, judgments, claims, demands, causes of action, contracts, suits, actions or other proceedings of any kind and expenses as defined above are due or claimed to be due to the negligence, breach of contract, and/or breach of law of the Club, its agents, employees, volunteers, guests, invitees, sub-contractors, or those whom they are responsible for under law.
- (e) Subject to section 5(a) of this agreement, the Club agrees to remove snow and ice from walkways and sidewalks at the Premises at the Club's sole cost and expense and shall maintain these areas to a safe standard at all times.
- (f) Subject to section 5(b) of this agreement, the Club shall be responsible, at its sole cost and expense, for the maintenance and cleaning of the entire Premises, including any landscaping, excluding the parking lot.
- (g) The Club agrees to develop and maintain during the Term guidelines for its operations, safety

and emergency procedures, and shall provide adequate supervision, at all times, when using the Premises. The Club agrees to provide and maintain a suitable First Aid Kit for the Premises. First Aid training for all members of the Club is strongly recommended.

- (h) The Club agrees that it shall not be permitted to construct, demolish, renovate or alter any part of the Premises, or affix anything to any part of the Premises, without the express written consent of the Township, which may be withheld at the Township's sole and absolute discretion. If the Township permits the Club, in writing, to construct, demolish, renovate or alter any part of the Premises, or to affix something to a part of the Premises, such work shall be done at the Club's sole cost and expense.
- (i) The Club agrees to maintain and keep the Premises in state of good repair and shall pay all costs and expenses associated with so doing, including repairing any damage to the Premises arising out of the Club's use, occupation or operation of the Premises. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Club agrees to maintain and keep in a good state of repair any signage at the Premises.
- (j) The Club shall ensure that signage is present, at all times, at the Premises, at a specific location agreeable to the Township, that identifies the Premises as the location of the "Wilmot Seniors Woodworking and Craft Centre".
- (k) The Club agrees to, at all times, comply with all applicable federal and provincial laws, as well as all municipal by-laws, in relation to their use and occupancy of the Premises and all of the Club's activities occurring therein or otherwise arising out of this agreement.

5. The Township agrees as follows:

- (a) The Township shall ensure that accumulations of snow and ice are removed from the parking lot and driveway areas of the Premises, as outlined in the attached **Schedule "A"**, at no cost to the Club.
- (b) The Township shall ensure that the necessary grass-cutting occurs at the Premises, at no cost to the Club.
- (c) The Township shall be responsible for major capital projects for the exterior of the building only. Such projects include roof system maintenance and replacement, exterior siding, exterior doors and windows, HVAC equipment including the furnace but excluding air filter systems owned by The Club, the in-floor heating system and parking lot maintenance.
- (d) The Township shall provide fire extinguishers as required by the Fire Department Regulations and shall ensure that safety inspections of the facility are carried out regularly.

6. Either party may, upon giving one hundred and eighty (180) days written notice to the other, terminate this agreement, for any reason.

7. Following the termination or expiration of this agreement, the Club shall immediately remove its property and equipment from the Premises, which are not otherwise affixed to the Premises, and the Club shall ensure that the Premises is left in a state of good repair. Upon the termination or expiration of this agreement, all fixtures, including any equipment affixed to the Premises, shall immediately become the property of the Township and shall not be damaged or otherwise removed from the Premises without the express written consent of the Township.
8. Any notice, required to be given, under any of the provisions of this agreement, shall be sent by registered mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed as follows:

(i) if such notice is to be given to the Township:

The Township of Wilmot 60 Snyder's Road West Baden,
Ontario
N3A 1A1

Attention: Township Clerk

(ii) if such notice is to be given to the Club:

Wilmot Seniors Woodworking and Craft Centre 27 Beck Street
Baden, Ontario N3A 2P2

Attention: President

9. This Agreement shall be binding upon both parties and their respective successors and assigns.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF the said Club has hereunder set his hand and seal and the Township has hereunto affixed its corporate seal under the hands of its Mayor and Clerk.

**SIGNED, SEALED AND
DELIVERED**

in the presence of

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**WILMOT SENIORS WOODWORKING
AND CRAFT CLUB CENTRE**

per:

Winston Burrill, President



Clerk



OFFICE OF THE CAO

Staff Report

REPORT NO: CAO 2021-003

TO: Council

SUBMITTED BY: Sandy Jackson, Interim CAO

PREPARED BY: Corporate Leadership Team
Tracey Murray, Manager of Information and Legislative Services /
Deputy Clerk

REVIEWED BY: Sandy Jackson, Interim CAO

DATE: September 13, 2021

SUBJECT: 2021 Mid-Term Work Program Report

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the 2021 Mid-Term Work Program Report CAO 2021-003, dated September 13, 2021, submitted by the Interim Chief Administrative Officer, be endorsed.

SUMMARY:

The Annual Work Program is built to achieve alignment with the Township Strategic Plan and corresponding Master Plans and studies. The Work Program, developed by the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT), draws from the actions and strategies identified within these guiding documents.

BACKGROUND:

On March 22, 2021, Council approved the overall 2021 Municipal Work Program, which included each of the departmental projects and priorities. As noted, within the previous report, the CAO will provide an updated report to Council. This requirement is being fulfilled by the Interim CAO.

Within the departmental Work Programs, additional tasks have been incorporated into this Plan where appropriate.

While preparing this update, CLT reviewed the existing work program, and a decision to improve the format was made to help reduce duplication in reporting and make the document more succinct and easier to review. This new approach reflects the key Township projects that are unique to the current year.

Specific changes in this update include the following:

- Most capital projects have been removed as they are already being reported on in staff report COR 2021-028 Quarterly Capital Program Update (Aug 23, 2021, Agenda). Those remaining in the Work Program include some form of research, public consultation, study, or a site selection.
- Projects that cross over multiple departments will only appear in the 'lead' department's list to reduce duplication. This continues to support a team approach as the other departments are still listed and involved, however the overall list is cleaner and easier to navigate.
- Tasks that are of an operating nature that are a regular part of staff responsibility, such as committee participation and ongoing and annual tasks, have been removed from the Work Program and will continue to be reported through quarterly departmental updates reports.

REPORT:

The status of the individual departmental Work Program action items have been updated and are attached to this report. Additional tasks requiring immediate attention during this time period are acknowledged accordingly.

A wide range of tasks for the first half of 2021 have been completed and their status has been updated accordingly. The remaining action items have been updated to reflect their current status. As outlined in the background section of this report, the Work Program includes only projects or major tasks and does not list the day-to-day activities of the departments.

Highlights of the 2021 Mid-Year Work Program include:

The Office of the CAO

- The COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a high priority for the office of the CAO and all departments.
- The Prime Minister's Path review and First People's Group Report was a six-month process that will continue to be a top priority for the new CAO, as the remaining two recommendations are implemented.
- Recruitment of a new CAO has been a significant focus for the past six months.

Corporate Leadership Team

- A focus on corporate culture has been a priority for 2021, including the development of a new performance management process that will be implemented in fall 2021. Other recommendations including improved communications, leadership, and teambuilding for CLT members were initiated and will continue to be a priority.
- COVID-19 pandemic meetings, processes and communications continue to be a top priority for CLT. This pandemic has caused significant and enduring impacts on the business community, Parks, Facilities, Recreation Services, and Castle Kilbride programming. The joint efforts of CLT, and alignment with the Region of Waterloo through working committees, has positioned the Township to effectively recover over the medium to long-term. Revenue recovery will be a focus for the remainder of the fiscal year depending on further Covid-19 restrictions.

Castle Kilbride

- After being closed for 6 months, Castle Kilbride reopened to the public on July 21 and has welcomed 385 visitors to date.
- An enhanced social media program was created and launched over the summer including themed educational videos, behind the scenes staff tours, as well the creation of a QR code scavenger hunt to engage guests while outside on the museum property.

Corporate Services

- The Corporate phone system was migrated to a web-based platform via the Microsoft Teams software.
- Staff have continued to grow Asset Management Capacity and data throughout this phase of our Asset Management Roadmap. Staff completed risk and criticality modelling for owned assets early in 2021, and with the support of the FCM Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP) staff and external consultants are compiling existing levels of service for core infrastructure assets.
- Several HR Guidelines have been updated in alignment with the Council Approved HR Administrative Directive. Through online platforms, staff have continued to be updated and trained on new guidelines following CLT approval.

Development Services

- The Cultural Heritage Landscape (CHL) Study is underway as a joint project with the Region of Waterloo, the University of Waterloo and the Township of North Dumfries.
- The Regional Municipality of Waterloo (RMOW) Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR) which is looking at long term growth plans for 2031 - 2051 has been an ongoing priority project during the first half of 2021.
- Transformation of the Development Services Department processes, and its historical records, to a fully digitized environment has been an ongoing background project throughout the pandemic and is nearing completion. The result has been a highly efficient level of customer service and significant operational resiliency for the future.

Fire Services

- The Burn Bylaw survey which closed recently has been a priority for the Fire Department as this information helps inform changes to the Bylaw.

Information and Legislative Services

- Several key documents within Information and Legislative Services have been identified for review and update. Although they are identified individually, they can be classed under an overall modernization of the accountability and transparency program. Although every document identified is a vital piece of the program, the review and update to the Code of Conduct and the Accountability and Transparency Governance Policy are identified as key foundational documents to this program.

Parks, Facilities and Recreation Services

- Monteith Brown is engaged in developing a strategy for determining a suitable location for a third ice pad and a new parks operations space. This project requires significant consultation with staff and the community and land evaluation for appropriate locations that meet the needs of the projects. A final report is anticipated prior to year-end.
- Updating several agreements and implementing license agreements for use of space has been a priority this year. These efforts provide clear roles and responsibilities for license holders and the Township and increase protection from liability.

Public Works and Engineering

- Seasonal routine and preventative infrastructure maintenance for roads, water, and wastewater departments.
- Major road reconstructions and long-term infrastructure planning projects.

Municipal staff and Council have always been very proud of the achievements and collaborative work ethic that is displayed, even more so during a global wide pandemic. Staff have remained focused on continuing to provide safe core services, as permitted during the pandemic, as well as implement new high priority initiatives.

The updated list of actions provides a continued focus towards improvements of the municipal organization and services. The list provides the ability to measure successes and a clearly outlines the priorities of the municipality.

Upon the approval of the mid-year Work Program, staff will provide an updated report to Council, at year-end, to confirm the status of the listed tasks and accomplishments.

ALIGNMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT STRATEGIC PLAN:

This report is aligned with the Strategic Plan goals of being an engaged community through communication of municipal matters and most importantly, incorporating the Strategic Plan actions into the annual municipal Work Programs.

ACTIONS TOWARDS UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The majority of works outlined within departmental work program are funded through the Municipal Operating Budget, which was approved by Council under Report COR 2021-008. The results of studies and master planning exercises will be incorporated into further budget requests and the ten-year capital forecast.

ATTACHMENTS:

2021 Mid-Year Work Program

Item	Functional Area	Department	Project Description	J	A	S	O	N	D	Notes
OFFICE OF THE CAO										
1	Capital Program	CAO / FIRE / COR / ILS	Four (4) Township Joint Service Delivery Review	X	X	X	X	X	X	Joint GIS Framework and IT Master Plan process has been initiated. Fire Services and Library will be priority focus for remainder of 2021, reports pending
2	Strategic Plan	CAO / ILS / PFRS / COR	Township Inclusion and Diversity Advisory Committee		X	X	X			Staff continue to review Terms of Reference for Inclusion and Diversity Committees at area municipalities. Formal documents have been delayed, pending completion of PM Path Recommendations.
3	Strategic Plan	CAO / CLT	Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities Application	X	X	X	X	X	X	Staff continue to work with the Canadian Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to consider and prepare an application to join the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities, as per Report ILS 2021-06.
4	Strategic Plan	CAO / COR / DS / PFRS / ILS	Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group	X	X	X	X	X	X	Staff representatives continue participating on committee and sub-committee meetings, as per Report COR 2021-029.
5	Strategic Plan	CAO	Prime Ministers Path Stakeholders Consultation	X	X	X				Consultation complete, implementation plan being prepared with incoming CAO.
6	Strategic Plan	CAO / CK / ILS	Prime Ministers Path Committee							Complete
7	Strategic Plan	CAO / COR / ILS / CK	Grant Application - Community Support, Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Initiatives Program							Joint preparation of a grant application submission to support The Prime Ministers Path Stakeholders Consultation Project.
8	New Initiatives	CAO	TransformWR 80x50							Project completed. Council endorsed the 80x50 strategy and a 50x30 challenge. Implementation strategy being developed.
CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM / ALL DEPARTMENTS										
9	General	CLT	Annual Performance Management and Review Program			X	X	X	X	New performance review program nearing completion and will be ready for October implementation.
10	General	CLT	Organizational Corporate Culture Review and Implementation			X	X	X	X	Two CLT teamwork sessions held, Council and all staff updated on outcomes of Corporate Culture Review, regular communications with all staff from Acting CAO.
11	General	CLT	Diversity and Inclusion Training							Project completed for all Full-Time Staff. Part-time training pending staff recalls.
COVID-19 RESPONSE										
12	COVID-19	CLT	Emergency Control Group Meetings	X	X	X	X	X	X	Meetings continue to be held on an ad hoc basis, as Township staff adapt to changes from the Province regarding COVID-19 Response.
13	COVID-19	CLT	Regional Pandemic Working Groups Meetings	X	X	X	X	X	X	Regional CAOs, Regional Control Group, Rural Pandemic Recovery Coordinating Committee, Area Clerks, Area Treasurers, Regional Communications, Regional Enforcement, Regional Human Resources, Regional Recreation, Regional Vaccine Task Force, Regional Patio Working Group, Regional Planning, Regional CEMC's
14	COVID-19	CLT	Implementation of COVID-19 Protocols, Operating Procedures and Staff Training as per Legislation	X	X	X	X	X	X	All Departments continue to update and adapt processes to COVID-19 requirements.
15	COVID-19	CLT	Re-opening Task Force	X	X	X	X	X	X	
16	COVID-19	CLT	Enforcement of Provincial Orders Relative to COVID-19	X	X	X	X	X	X	
17	COVID-19	CLT	Communications Regarding COVID-19 Decisions, Updates, and General Information	X	X	X	X	X	X	

Item	Functional Area	Department	Project Description	J	A	S	O	N	D	Notes
CASTLE KILBRIDE										
18	Strategic Plan	CK	Research and development of a Public Art Policy	X	X	X	X	X	X	
19	Capital Program	CK	Wayfinding Interior Signage for Castle Kilbride	X	X	X	X	X	X	
20	Capital Program	CK	Rolled Storage for artifact storage room	X	X	X	X	X	X	
21	General	CK	Grant Application - Community Museum Operating Grant (CMOG)							Completed
22	General	CK	Grant Application - Young Canada Works							Completed
23	General	CK	Grant Application - Canada Summer Jobs							Completed
24	General	CK	Create social engagement program for 2021 (printed, video, social media posts)							Completed and staff will review as necessary.
25	General	CK	Develop online exhibits	X	X	X	X	X	X	
26	General	CK	Develop virtual programming	X	X	X	X	X	X	Hosted first class in Q2.
27	General	CK	Recruitment and Onboarding - Full-Time Museum Assistant							Completed. The new Museum Assistant began Q2.
28	General	CK	Review and update museum policies	X	X	X	X	X		
29	General	CK	Archives Room reorganization	X	X	X	X	X	X	
30	General	CK / ILS	Review Terms of Reference for the Castle Kilbride and Heritage Wilmot Advisory Committees			X	X	X		
CORPORATE SERVICES										
31	Strategic Plan	COR / PFRS	Financial Assistance Program for Seniors	X	X	X				Project deferred pending return of full staff complement.
32	Strategic Plan	COR	Asset Management Planning Strategy and Policy Development							Project works continue with PSD CityWide. O. Reg. deadline extended due to COVID-19.
33	Strategic Plan	COR	Establish Debt Management Governance Policy	X	X	X	X	X		Staff working with MFOA to update existing policy based on industry best practices.
34	Strategic Plan	COR	Establish Municipal Investment Governance Policy	X	X	X				Staff working with MFOA to update existing policy based on industry best practices.
35	Strategic Plan	COR	Review / Update Dedicated Infrastructure Investment Strategy				X	X	X	Updated levy requirement to be included as part of Municipal Budget 2022.
36	Capital Program	COR	Development Charges Study Update	X						Project completed. By-Law approved at July 12, 2021 Council Meeting.
37	Capital Program	COR	Establish Corporate GIS Framework	X	X	X	X			Joint ELA established with Township's of Woolwich and Wellesley. Implementation works on-going across impacted service areas.
38	General	COR	Information Technology Master Plan			X	X	X		Funding received from Municipal Modernization Program. RFP for consultant selection issued.
39	General	COR	Corporate HR Guidelines Update / Training	X	X	X	X	X	X	Updates and online training continuing throughout 2021.

Item	Functional Area	Department	Project Description	J	A	S	O	N	D	Notes
40	General	COR	Health and Safety Excellence Program	X	X	X	X			Work towards three (3) target areas is on-target for completion in 2021.
41	General	COR	Violence and Harassment Policy Implementation and Training							Project completed.
42	General	COR	Ergonomic Assessment Program	X	X					Project deferred pending post-COVID return-to-work guidelines.
43	General	COR	Desktop Management Software & Help Desk Deployment			X	X	X		Platform rollout will occur following comprehensive inventory update as part of overall IT Master Plan exercise.
44	General	COR	Develop and Implement a new IT Orientation Plan for New Staff	X	X					Informal orientation is continuing. Formalized process and tracking to be established following completion of IT Master Plan.
45	General	COR	AMP it up 2.0 (Asset Management Plan Support)							Project completed. Preliminary Asset Management Data Governance guideline established.
46	General	COR	Review / Update Procurement By-Law	X	X	X				Procurement By-Law update on-going. Anticipated to be presented to Council in late Q3.
47	General	COR	E-Bidding Platform Migration		X	X				Platform migration and training scheduled for September 2021
48	General	COR	Establish Centralized Vendor Contract Management Database		X	X	X			Works to be coordinated with Records Management Software launch.
49	General	COR	Establish Standardized Contractor / Consultant Evaluation Program	X	X					Evaluation Form completed, procedure currently in draft stages for review by Purchasing Agents.
50	General	COR	Update Reserve Fund By-Law	X	X	X				Staff working with MFOA to update existing by-law based on industry best practices.
51	General	COR	Grant Application - FCM Municipal Asset Management Program							Project completed. Successful recipient of \$50,000 to support AM Capacity Building and the AM Roadmap works.
52	General	COR	Grant Application - Investing in Canadian Infrastructure - Green Stream Intake 1							Project completed. Unsuccessful in obtaining funding support for Recreation/Hybrid Facility.
53	General	COR	Grant Application - Municipal Modernization Funding Intake 2							Project completed. Successful recipient of \$32,500 to support the IT Master Plan.
54	General	COR	Grant Application - National Disaster Mitigation Program							Project completed. Unsuccessful in obtaining funding support for Backwater Valve Program.
55	General	COR	Grant Application - Investing in Canadian Infrastructure - COVID Stream							Project completed. Successful recipient of \$223,968 to support HVAC Upgrades at Admin Complex.
56	General	COR	Grant Application - Celebrate Canada 2021							Project completed. Successful recipient of \$3,600 to support National Indigenous Peoples Day and Canada Day Events.
57	New Initiatives	COR / DS	Grant Application - Ontario Community Environmental Fund (OCEF)	X	X	X				Application submitted for funding support of Backwater Valve Program.
58	New Initiatives	COR / FIRE	Grant Application - Fire Services Grant	X						Project completed. Successful recipient of \$9,600 to support COVID impacts on Fire Services Training requirements.
59	New Initiatives	COR / CK	Grant Application - Community Museum Digital Capacity Top-Up Funding	X						Project completed. Successful recipient of \$3,000 to support enhanced digital programs and services at Castle Kilbride.
60	New Initiatives	COR / PFRS	Grant Application - Canada Healthy Communities Initiative - Intake 1							Project completed. Unsuccessful in obtaining funding towards the Mannheim Multi-Use Pad.
61	New Initiatives	COR / ILS	Grant Application - Canada Healthy Communities Initiative - Intake 2	X						Application submitted for funding support of Records Modernization Program.
62	New Initiatives	COR / PW&E	Grant Application - Investing in Canadian Infrastructure - Green Stream Intake 2	X	X	X				Staff compiling application for funding support of Snyder's Road Underground Infrastructure
63	New Initiatives	COR / PFRS / DS / PW&E	Grant Application - Active Transportation Fund		X	X	X			Staff reviewing potential projects that are aligned with program criteria. Application to be launched in early Q3.
64	New Initiatives	COR / CLT	Grant Application - Municipal Modernization Funding Intake 3		X	X	X			Staff reviewing potential projects that are aligned with program criteria for Intake 3. Application to be launched in early Q3.

Item	Functional Area	Department	Project Description	J	A	S	O	N	D	Notes
65	New Initiatives	COR / PFRS	Grant Application - OTF: Community Building Fund - Capital Stream			X				Staff reviewing potential projects that are aligned with program criteria. Application to be launched in early Q3.
66	New Initiatives	COR / CAO	RFP and Selection for External HR Consultant							Project completed. Contract awarded to Pesce and Associates.
67	New Initiatives	COR	Pay Equity Analysis	X	X	X				Project works continue with Pesce and Associates.
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES										
68	Capital Program	DS / CK	Cultural Heritage Landscape Study (partners with RMOW / UW)	X	X	X	X	X	X	Public consultation phase ongoing until Dec 31/21
69	General	DS	Joint Review of Regional / Lower-Tier Planning Approvals	X	X	X	X	X	X	Delayed due to personnel changes at Cambridge/RMOW
70	General	DS / PFRS / COR	Mike Schout Wetlands Park Steering Committee	X	X	X	X	X	X	Project underway, regulatory approvals in process
71	General	DS	Regional Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR) - growth plan to 2051	X	X	X	X	X	X	Director sits as member of Municipal Working Group
72	General	DS	RMOW JART (Joint Agency Review Team) for aggregate applications	X	X	X	X	X	X	Discussions initiated but will be delayed due to personnel changes at RMOW/Woolwich
73	General	DS	Zone 14 - Extractive Industrial zoning category review	X	X	X	X	X	X	Background report completed and posted/circulated for public comment. Presentation to Council September 13, 2021
74	General	DS / PFRS / PW&E	Municipal Tree Canopy Policy Consolidation	X	X	X	X	X	X	Deferred due to Covid from 2020 - background anticipated to begin 4th quarter
75	General	DS	Sign Bylaw Review	X	X	X	X	X	X	Deferred due to Covid from 2020 - background anticipated to begin 4th quarter
FIRE SERVICES										
76	Capital Program	FIRE	Joint Service Fire Training Program	X	X	X	X	X	X	Consultant presented to Council February 22, 2021, Service level agreement pending
77	Fire Master Plan	FIRE	Station 3 Back up Location (Flooding Event)	X	X	X	X	X	X	FMP Recommendation #18 - Project Completed.
78	Fire Master Plan	FIRE	Emergency Management Plan Redevelopment and Training	X	X	X	X	X		FMP Recommendation #21 - Training to be completed Q4
79	Fire Master Plan	FIRE	Review/Update By-Law to Establish a Fire Department							FMP Recommendation #1 Bylaw - Project Completed and approved by Council Feb 22, 2021
80	General	FIRE	Firefighter Green Light Public Education Program	X						Project Completed
81	General	FIRE	Firefighter Training Records Management	X	X	X	X	X		Project Completed.
82	General	FIRE	Burn Bylaw Review/Update	X	X	X	X			Final report to Council in Q3
83	General	FIRE	Fire Route Bylaw/Update	X	X	X	X			Final report to Council in Q3
84	General	FIRE	Modernize Fire Department Records Management System (RMS)	X	X	X	X	X		Working in collaboration with Kitchener FD Dispatch

Item	Functional Area	Department	Project Description	J	A	S	O	N	D	Notes
INFORMATION AND LEGISLATIVE SERVICES										
85	Strategic Plan	ILS	Review of the Accountability and Transparency Governance Policy			X	X	X	X	
86	Strategic Plan	ILS	Develop a "Who does What" Education Program	X	X	X	X	X	X	
87	Capital Program	ILS	Records Management Modernization Project	X	X	X	X	X	X	Program approved through Report ILS 2021-12, TOMRMS implementation underway; eSCRIBE implementation underway.
88	Capital Program	ILS	Corporate Branding Implementation and Website Refresh	X	X	X	X	X	X	New brand endorsed. Style Guide for staff use created. Phased implementation underway.
89	General	ILS	Governance Policy - Electronic Participation at Meetings	X	X	X	X			To reflect ongoing electronic participation post pandemic.
90	General	ILS	Cannabis Retail Policy Statement			X	X			
91	General	ILS	Governance Policy - Committee Appointments	X	X	X	X			Underway.
92	General	ILS	Council Code of Conduct	X	X	X	X			Working with the Township Integrity Commission to update the proposed Code.
93	General	ILS	Rollout of 'Thank Your Neighbour' Program							Complete.
94	General	ILS	AODA Desk Audit							Complete.
95	General	ILS	Review and update Flag and Proclamation Governance Policy	X	X	X				
96	General	ILS	Citizen of the Year	X	X	X	X	X	X	Establishing a Citizen of the Year Nominating Committee has been deferred to 2022 due to COVID-19
97	General	ILS	Council for a Day Program 2021		X	X	X	X		Date has been changed to coincide with Local Government Week.
98	General	ILS	Procedural By-law Review							Complete.
99	General	ILS	Committee Agenda, Minutes and Terms of Reference Templates and Posting Requirements		X	X	X	X		
100	General	ILS	Property Standards By-law Review	X	X	X	X	X	X	Underway.
101	General	ILS	Crime Prevention Committee	X	X	X	X	X	X	
102	General	ILS / COR	Records Management for HR / Personnel Records	X	X	X	X	X	X	Works to be coordinated with Records Management Software launch.
PARKS, FACILITIES AND RECREATION SERVICES										
103	Strategic Plan	PFRS	Develop and obtain approval for an Affiliation Policy					X	X	Recommendation from Parks, Facilities and Recreation Master Plan
104	Capital Program	PFRS	Parks Operations Facility Space Needs Study & Design	X	X	X	X	X	X	Project underway
105	Capital Program	PFRS / COR /DS	Library Services Facility Review			X	X	X		Project deferred pending implementation and review of consultants report.
106	Capital Program	PFRS / COR / CK	Consultation with TCP regarding Integrated Production Facility	X	X	X	X	X	X	

Item	Functional Area	Department	Project Description	J	A	S	O	N	D	Notes
107	Capital Program & PFRS Master Plan	PFRS	Third Ice Pad Concept Design and Location Analysis	X	X	X	X	X	X	Project underway.
108	General	PFRS	Review and update Fire Safety/Emergency Plan for Administration Building, Castle Kilbride and New Hamburg CC							Project Complete
109	General	PFRS	Update Cemetery By-law, procedures and forms	X	X	X	X	X		Project underway.
110	General	PFRS	Update GRCA Land Management Agreement				X	X		
111	General	PFRS	Update and Renew Seniors Woodworking Agreement - 5 year	X	X	X				Draft agreement completed, pending Council approval in early Q3.
112	General	PFRS	Update and Renew Wilmot Horticultural Society Agreement - 5 year							Project completed.
113	General	PFRS	Develop a marketing plan for WRC and Recreation programs & services			X	X	X	X	
114	General	PFRS	Develop a Recreation Programming mini-master plan to expand programming							Project completed.
115	General	PFRS	Formalize agreements with minor sport organizations for office & storage	X	X	X	X	X		
116	General	PFRS / COR	Joint Use Agreement with the WRSB for use of Artificial Turf Field							Project completed.
117	General	PFRS	Update Rental Agreement Terms and Conditions							Project completed.
118	General	PFRS	Develop Pool, Ice and Field Allocation Guidelines and Procedures							Project completed.
119	General	PFRS	Develop maintenance practices for artificial turf field							Project completed.
120	General	PFRS	Develop & Implement a Trails inspection and maintenance program	X						Project completed.
121	General	PFRS	Review/rename Family Changerooms & Washrooms at WRC and Admin Complex re: Gender equity		X	X	X			Project underway
PUBLIC WORKS AND ENGINEERING										
122	Strategic Plan	PW&E / DS	Baden Trunk Sanitary Sewer EA and Construction	X	X	X	X	X	X	Agency, Stakeholder and Public Consultation On-going. Recommendation of Preferred Alternative anticipated in Q4.
123	Strategic Plan	PW&E	Bridge Street Bridge #34/B-T9 EA	X	X	X	X	X	X	Agency, Stakeholder and Public Consultation On-going. Recommendation of Preferred Alternative anticipated in Q4.
124	Strategic Plan	PW&E	Infrastructure Master Planning (Phase 1,2&3)-Underground Infrastructure	X	X	X	X	X	X	RFP release anticipated in Q3/Q4.
125	Strategic Plan	PW&E / DS	Morningside Trunk Sanitary Sewer EA	X	X	X	X	X	X	Agency, Stakeholder and Public Consultation generally concluded. Study works being coordinated with Regional Water&Wastewater Master Plan for Baden and New Hamburg. Recommendation of Preferred Alternative anticipated in Q3/Q4.
126	Strategic Plan	PW&E / DS	RoW Water/Wastewater Master Plan (Regional Project Committee)	X	X	X	X	X	X	Coordination between Regions EA and Township EA on-going
127	Strategic Plan	PW&E	Infrastructure Standards and Specifications Manual	X	X	X	X	X	X	Deferred to Q1 2022
128	Strategic Plan	PW&E	Municipal Consent Requirements Manual	X						Deferred to Q1 2022
129	Strategic Plan	PW&E	Shared Services and Joint Purchasing Initiatives	X	X	X	X	X	X	Joint ELA established with Township's of Woolwich and Wellesley for GIS services. Communications continuing regarding Municipal Drain Contracted Services.

Item	Functional Area	Department	Project Description	J	A	S	O	N	D	Notes
130	Strategic Plan	PW&E	RoW Automated Speed Enforcement Implementation (Regional Project Committee)	X	X	X	X	X	X	Locations selected for 2021 Q3 installation. On-going meetings to determine next steps for the future of the program.
131	Strategic Plan	PW&E	Boundary Road Maintenance Framework/Agreements	X	X	X	X			Legacy Oxford County boundary agreement under review. Kitchener, Waterloo agreements executed in 2021. On-going with Wellesley, Perth East and Blandford-Blenheim.
132	Strategic Plan	PW&E	Utility Coordination and Network Upgrades (broadband expansion opportunities through SWIFT and other telecom providers)	X	X	X	X	X		Working with telecoms on finalizing approved plans
133	Capital Program	PW&E	Consolidated Linear Infrastructure License	X	X	X	X	X	X	Project plan being developed to achieve timelines outlined by the Province. Gap analysis completed by consultant and working to develop plans to address needs.
134	Capital Program	PW&E	RoW Notre Dame Drive Reconstruction (Regional Project Committee)	X	X	X	X	X	X	Construction on-going, completion expected end of Q3
135	Capital Program	PW&E	RoW Snyder's Road Reconstruction (Regional Project Committee)	X	X	X	X	X	X	Project underway. Expected completion of stage 1A,1B,1C end of Q4
136	Capital Program	PW&E	RoW Baden/NH Trunk Watermain Design (Regional Project Committee)	X	X	X	X	X	X	Region trunk watermain design in New Hamburg. Coordinating with Township planned works on Victoria/Boulee/Hamilton.
137	General	PW&E	Municipal Drinking Water Systems - License Renewals							Completed
138	General	PW&E	MTO Hwy 7&8 Overpass Repairs (Multi-year various locations)					X	X	MTO Project Coordination
139	General	PW&E	RoW Nafziger Road/Snyder's Road West Intersection (Regional Project Coordination)				X	X	X	deferred to 2025 in Region 10year capital budget.
140	General	PW&E	RoW New Dundee Water Treatment Wells	X	X					Regional Project Coordination
141	General	PW&E	RoW Regional Shingletown Wells Treatment EA	X	X					Regional Project Coordination
142	General	PW&E	RoW Regional Roads - Winter Control Review							Completed.
143	General	PW&E	RoW Regional Snow Storage Review	X	X	X				Regional Project Coordination
144	General	PW&E	Row Trussler Road EA/Construction	X	X	X	X			Regional Project Coordination
145	General	PW&E	Traffic and Parking ByLaw Schedule Review					X	X	Review completed Q2. Anticipated council report and completion 2021 Q4 or 2022 Q1



CORPORATE SERVICES *Staff Report*

REPORT NO: COR 2021-029

TO: Council

SUBMITTED BY: Patrick Kelly CPA, CMA, Director of Corporate Services / Treasurer

PREPARED BY: Patrick Kelly CPA, CMA, Director of Corporate Services / Treasurer

REVIEWED BY: Sandy Jackson, Interim CAO

DATE: September 13, 2021

SUBJECT: Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan – Update and Actions

RECOMMENDATION:

WHEREAS the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) released its final report on June 2, 2015, which included 94 Calls to Action to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation;

AND WHEREAS the recent discoveries of remains and unmarked graves across Canada have led to increased calls for all levels of government to address the recommendations in the TRC's Calls to Action;

AND WHEREAS all Canadians and all orders of government have a role to play in reconciliation;

AND WHEREAS Recommendation #80 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission called upon the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, to establish, as a statutory holiday, a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process;

AND WHEREAS the Federal Government has announced September 30th, 2021, as the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (National Orange Shirt Day) and a statutory holiday;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Wilmot does hereby commit to recognizing September 30th, 2021, as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

(National Orange Shirt Day) by sharing the stories of residential school survivors, their families, and communities; and further

THAT rental-related fees associated with the use of municipal parks and facilities, for recognized Indigenous organizations to lead cultural and ceremonial events, be suspended for September 30, 2021; and further,

THAT staff be directed to develop a Corporate Guideline to support access and use of public spaces by Indigenous peoples to carry out cultural and ceremonial practices.

SUMMARY:

The TRC in 2015 has exposed Canadians to the difficult truths of our country's past, calling all Canadians, including various levels of governments, to work toward reconciliation. The TRC developed 94 calls to action addressed to government and institutions to "honour the truth and reconcile for the future." While these inequities and issues existed long before COVID-19, as highlighted by the TRC, the pressures of the global pandemic have further highlighted the impact systemic racism has on Indigenous people, as well as other racialized groups.

Social injustice and racism exist in every community, and now is the time for meaningful, immediate action.

In response, a region-wide Reconciliation Action Plan is being developed by the Region and all area municipalities, to address key themes of concerns expressed by local Indigenous communities, see meaningful relationships enhanced between settlers and Indigenous people, and to uphold our commitments made to respond to the calls to action laid out by the TRC. This approach will support the many voices of the local Indigenous communities to address the systemic issues and barriers for Indigenous peoples that are inherent in municipal processes, services, programs, and spaces in Waterloo Region. Embarking on the development of a region-wide Reconciliation Action Plan in collaboration with local Indigenous communities is an important next step in the Region's journey toward truth and reconciliation.

Additionally, as we begin this journey of reconciliation, we acknowledge that we are learning along the way. We recognize the importance of being open, transparent, and accountable for the Reconciliation Action Plan and all subsequent actions.

BACKGROUND:

In June 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) released its findings and 94 Calls to Action to redress the residential school's legacy and advance the reconciliation process in Canada. The Calls to Action are directed at all levels of government, the private sector and to all Canadians.

In response to the TRC's Calls to Action, the Region and area municipalities (the cities of Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo and the townships of North Dumfries, Wellesley, Wilmot, and Woolwich) began working together to coordinate efforts to support Indigenous-centered

initiatives in August 2020. It was quickly identified that a siloed approach to reconciliation initiatives will not benefit the Indigenous communities that we serve. A Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group (RAPWG) consisting of staff from the Region and all area municipalities has formed to work closely with Indigenous communities to advance reconciliation, including working collaboratively on the development of a municipal Reconciliation Action Plan.

Through the RAPWG, municipal partners provide support and leadership to move the work forward within their respective municipality consistently and collaboratively. Within the working group, several sub-committees have been established to support this work. The themes explored by the subcommittees impact every part of the organization. To further advance this work, staff from the Region and area municipalities have formed five (5) subcommittees to lead work in five specific areas of focus as outlined in the figure below.

FIGURE-1
RAPWG Sub-Committee Framework



It is critical that staff committed to representing their municipalities through the work of the RAPWG, be entrusted with the responsibility to communicate in a respectful and appropriate manner with members of the Indigenous Community. The RAPWG has been established to ensure that communication and outreach is consistent across the Region and lower-tier municipalities. Further to this, all participating members of the RAPWG understand that the actions of one municipality and/or their elected officials can have a ripple effect on all other jurisdictions. Each member strives to maintain open and transparent dialogue with the group, as we collectively navigate the path toward reconciliation together.

REPORT:

In addition to the development of a more comprehensive Reconciliation Action Plan, opportunities to advance Indigenous-centered initiatives are being explored by the RAPWG as

they are identified. Staff have heard from community members that access to space for cultural and ceremonial use can be a barrier to practicing their cultural customs and traditions.

In commemoration of the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the Region of Waterloo and area municipalities are bringing forward a motion to permanently waive facility rental fees in facilities for Indigenous led events for cultural and ceremonial use annually on September 30th. In addition to supporting Indigenous led initiatives on this day, staff are developing a program of activities for staff to participate in virtually on September 30th. The intent is to treat a portion of this day, as a professional development day, where staff educate themselves and reflect on Indigenous history in Canada and within Wilmot Township. Staff will work with the Learning and Development Sub-Committee of RAPWG to provide valuable reading and webinar materials. In addition, staff are looking into access to a pre-recorded virtual tour of the Mohawk Institute Residential School.

Staff will work with recognized Indigenous organizations on how to access spaces for cultural and ceremonial use on the 30th as required. Removing the cost to use these facilities will hopefully make space more accessible and support Indigenous peoples right to practice and revitalise their cultural customs and traditions. Event organizers will still be required to follow existing rental guidelines and permit requirements required by the Township, Region, Province, and other agencies.

Staff recommend that to be eligible to have rental fees waived, the event must:

- Be organized and booked by a recognized Indigenous organization
- Be an Indigenous ceremonial or cultural event
- Be open and accessible to members of the local Indigenous communities
- Comply with all Township policies and bylaws related to space rentals

Removing the cost to use these facilities is intended to make space more accessible and support Indigenous peoples right to practice and revitalise their cultural customs and traditions. Each municipality is exploring options and looking to the future, including fee waivers on other important dates and/or year-round, with a focus on building relationships and engaging with local Indigenous communities.

ALIGNMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT STRATEGIC PLAN:

This report is aligned with our Core Value of Accessibility and Inclusivity, as well as our Corporate Goal of Community Engagement, through the strategic action of assisting in the promotion and funding towards Community Events.

Finally, this report is aligned with our commitment to working and providing service that promotes inclusivity and helps eliminate systemic and individual racism and racial discrimination.

ACTIONS TOWARDS UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

This report and the underlying study are consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals for Reduced Inequalities, Life on Land and Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

A preliminary budget estimate of approximately \$200,000 is required to support engagement, communications, research, and co-op staffing resources for the Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan. A cost share approach amongst area municipalities is being utilized as it increases efficiency and capacity to deliver and provides a streamlined regional approach to the work. The Township of Wilmot's contribution to the 2022 budget is estimated at \$3,510, which will be identified for Council's consideration through the 2022 budget process.

The waiving of fees will be an unbudgeted expense as part the Municipal Grants Program within the annual operating budget. Following review of uptake on this initiative, staff will estimate the annual expense for this waiver, for inclusion in future proposed operating budgets.

ATTACHMENTS: None



DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Staff Report

REPORT NO: DS 2021-023

TO: Council

SUBMITTED BY: Harold O'Krafka, MCIP RPP
Director of Development Services

PREPARED BY: Andrew Martin, MCIP RPP
Manager of Planning and Economic Development

REVIEWED BY: Sandy Jackson, Interim CAO

DATE: July 12, 2021 (updated to include comments received September 1, 2021)

SUBJECT: Aggregate zoning status review

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report DS 2021-023 be received for information.

SUMMARY:

This report provides a review of the Township of Wilmot's current Extractive Industrial zoning in relation to other municipalities in Waterloo Region, abutting Regions, the top 10 aggregate producing municipalities in Ontario, and the Aggregate Resources Act (ARA).

Based on the summary of the regulations from these comparators, as well as the applicable regulations of the ARA, the report concludes that there are no updates required to the Township zoning by-law at this time. Zoning By-laws of the comparators are similar or the same as the Township Zoning By-law. Where differences exist, those by-laws duplicate or defer to the regulations of the ARA. Regardless of whether those setbacks are included within the zoning by-law, where ARA regulations more restrictive than the zoning by-law, the ARA regulations prevail.

During a future housekeeping amendment to the Zoning By-law, staff will propose to either align setbacks contained within Zone 14 (Extractive Industrial) with the current regulations of the ARA or remove the current setbacks and simply include reference to the ARA within Zone 14 for clarity.

BACKGROUND:

The Zoning By-law is intended to set out specific permitted or prohibited uses and establish regulations in conformity with the policies of the Official Plan.

Following the final public meeting, held in July 2020, related to the update of the Township Zoning By-law, the organization Citizens for Safe Ground Water (CSGW) made a written submission with respect to the existing Zone 14 regulations. Requested changes with respect to numbering and references to the ARA were updated at the time of approval of the updated by-law in August 2020. Other requested changes duplicated language from the ARA and were therefore not included. At the time of approval, Staff committed to completing a review of Zone 14 as part of the 2021 work plan. A copy of the original CSGW submission is included as Attachment B.

Subsequent comments were received from CSGW on September 1, 2021. This letter, included as Attachment C, removes the reference to typographic errors noted in the July 2020 submission and that were corrected in the updated zoning by-law. The September 1, 2021 letter, however, duplicates the July 2020 requests with respect to adopting language from the ARA.

With respect to aggregate operations, the Township Official Plan (OP) specifically outlines what is to be contained within the Zoning By-law. These OP policies are drawn from the Region of Waterloo Official Plan (ROP) and ultimately Provincial Policy. Having completed an update to the OP in 2019, the current policies of the OP align with those contained within the ROP. At such time as future updates are made to the ROP, the Township would be required to review its OP and update as necessary. Subsequently, if required by policy changes/updates, the Zoning By-law would need to be further updated as necessary.

Policy 7.1.1.7 of the OP includes that the Township will regulate uses associated with aggregate extraction through the Zoning By-law as follows:

- a) permit accessory uses associated with aggregate extraction operations and processing activities such as crushing, screening, washing, stockpiling, blending with recycled asphalt or concrete materials, storage, weigh scales, parking and office facilities;
- b) require site specific Zoning By-law amendments to permit ancillary land uses such as asphalt plants, concrete plants and aggregate depots that blend and stockpile aggregate materials with salt and aggregate transfer except where otherwise prohibited by the policies of this Plan, subject to:
 - i) the protection of adjoining lands from the negative effects of a reduced water supply, noise, dust, odour, lighting and outdoor storage;

- ii) the protection of the environment from negative effects of dust, chemical spills, run-off, or contamination of surface or groundwater;
- iii) access being obtained directly to a road capable of carrying the anticipated truck traffic; and,
- c) notwithstanding Policy 7.1.1.7 b), ancillary land uses will not be permitted where they are identified as a prohibited use in accordance with the Source Water Protection policies in Section 8.6 of this Plan and Chapter 8 of the Regional Official Plan.

Given the OP is current, this report looks only at the zoning regulations compared to municipalities in Waterloo Region, abutting Regions, the top 10 aggregate producing municipalities in Ontario and the Aggregate Resources Act (ARA).

REPORT:

Section 20 of the Township zoning by-law contains permitted uses and regulations for Zone 14, the Township extractive industrial zone.

Staff have reviewed the zoning by-laws of all municipalities within the Region of Waterloo, Perth County, Oxford County and the top 10 aggregate producing municipalities as listed by The Ontario Aggregate Resources Corporation (TORAC). Included as Attachment A is a table comparing the Township of Wilmot zoning with the current ARA regulations as well as the aforementioned municipalities.

As seen in the chart (Attachment A), most municipalities either defer to the ARA regulations or duplicate the provisions of the ARA. Within Waterloo Region, other than the City of Cambridge and Wilmot, the other Townships defer to the ARA. The Cities of Kitchener and Waterloo do not contain zoning for gravel pits. Of the 22 zoning by-laws reviewed, only West Perth contained regulations more restrictive than the ARA with respect to setbacks from neighbouring residential uses or zones. The ARA requires a minimum setback of 90m whereas West Perth requires a setback of 120m.

While the zoning by-law contains regulations for extractive operations (gravel pits), gravel pits are not pre-emptively zoned within the Township of Wilmot. That is to say, if a gravel pit exists, it was previously subject to a site specific zone change and ARA licensing process.

The Township Official Plan includes specific policies (consistent with Provincial and Regional policies) that determine the process by which a gravel pit may be considered. Reports and studies prepared and reviewed through a zone change application and ARA licensing process ultimately determine if setbacks and buffering beyond what is contained in the zoning and/or ARA regulations are sufficient or should be increased based on the specific situation. In this regard, whatever is contained within the zoning by-law is subject to review and further consideration prior to the establishment of a gravel pit.

Given the ARA, when more restrictive, supersedes the zoning by-law, and in consideration of all other information and input, staff are not recommending an update to the Zoning By-law at this time.

Through a future housekeeping update to the Zoning By-law, the current Zone 14 regulations could either be updated to reflect the ARA regulations, or, consistent with a number of other municipalities, be removed entirely and replaced with a reference to conformity with the ARA.

ALIGNMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT STRATEGIC PLAN:

Review of zoning by-law regulations ensures appropriate regulations are in place to protect our quality of life and natural environment.

ACTIONS TOWARDS UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Review of aggregate zoning by-law regulations to ensure they are current and do not conflict with overarching policies aligns with the sustainable development Goal 12 of responsible consumption and production through sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A	Zoning By-law comparison chart
Attachment B	Citizens for Safe Ground Water – August 7, 2020 submission
Attachment C	Citizens for Safe Ground Water – September 1, 2021 submission

Report DS 2021-23 - Attachment A: Comparison of existing municipal zoning regulations for aggregate operations

(Only municipalities with regulations are included in this summary. Blank cells indicated that no specific regulation is included within the applicable zoning by-law)

			Region of Waterloo				Perth County				Oxford County					Top 10 aggregate producing municipalities (2019, The Ontario Aggregate Resources Corporation) (listed 1 to 10 from left to right)											
	Wilmot	Aggregate Resources Act Regulations	Cambridge	North Dumfries (1)	Wellesley	Woolwich (2)	North Perth (3)	Perth East (4)	Perth South (5)	West Perth	Blandford-Blenheim	East Zorra-Tavistock	Norwich	South-West Oxford	Zorra	Ottawa	Kawartha Lakes (6)	Hamilton	Burlington (7)	Halton Hills (7)	North Dumfries (1)	Zorra	Clarington	Puslinch	Severn	Uxbridge	
Setback Regulations																											
excavation from property line	15m	15m	15m							15m						15m		15m	30m	15m			15m		15m	15m	
excavation from road allowance	30m	30m	30m							30m						30m		30m	30m	15m			30m		30m	30m	
excavation from land that is used or zoned for residential purposes		30m	90m							120m								30m					30m		60m		
from a body of water		30m																	15m								
stockpiling aggregate, topsoil or overburden, a processing plant or area or a buiding or structure from a road allowance	30m	30m	15m					15m		90m	30m	30m	30m	30m	30m	30m		30m	30m	15m		30m	30m		60m		
stockpiling aggregate, topsoil or overburden, a processing plant or area or a buiding or structure from property line	15m	30m	30m					4.5m		90m	30m	30m	30m	30m	30m	15m		30m	30m	15m		30m	15m				
stockpiling aggregate, topsoil or overburden, a processing plant or area or a buiding or structure from land that is used or zoned for residential purposes		90m	90m					9.0m		120m	90m	90m	90m	90m	90m			90m				90m	30m		30m	90m	
scrap storage area from body of water or property line		30m																									
landscaped buffer along property lines																15m		6.0m						1.5m			
minimum lot frontage					30.5m											30m											
minimum lot area																10ha				20ha							
(1) North Dumfries regulations require that accessory uses be a minimum of 15m from any zone limit. By-law is silent on all other setbacks.																											
(2) Woolwich regulations require that accessory uses be a minimum of 15m from any zone limit. By-law is silent on all other setbacks.																											
(3) North Perth references conformity with the license approved under the ARA																											
(4) Perth East references conformity with the license approved under the ARA																											
(5) Perth South references conformity with the license approved under the ARA																											
(6) The City of Kawartha Lakes is an amalgamation of 18 municipalities. A consolidated zoning by-law is currently being prepared																											
(7) Burlington and Halton Hills are combined as number 4 within the top 10 list																											

Attn: Harold O’Krafka and Andrew Martin
Re: Wilmot OP Policy Revisions



We (CSGW) would like to show our support for the existing standards regarding aggregate that have been set within the township and urge that these standards be upheld.

We have reviewed the proposed zoning by-law changes and have undertaken a Best Practices review of zoning by-law regulations in other jurisdictions. Cambridge, Brantford, Hamilton and West Perth are examples of municipalities with detailed zoning regulations for quarries. Some include sizeable setbacks of the extraction area from lands zoned residential, buffering requirements, etc. Section 20 (beginning on pg. 81 regarding mineral aggregate zone 14) sets a strong foundation toward protecting Wilmot’s health and safety. However, we request the following revisions and additions that would have the effect of further protecting the wellbeing of our communities and protection of our groundwater. These regulations are essential in order to set strong municipal standards.

We recommend the following:

- 1.) Permitted Uses:
Regulation 20.1.3 be revised to include wash ponds as a prohibited feature. The revised section would read as follows:

“The processing of extracted materials from the site including crushing, screening, washing, sorting and storage of materials, but not including any temporary or permanent asphalt hot mix plant or ready mix concrete plant or wash ponds (in regional recharge areas according to the Source Protection Plan).
- 2.) In Section 20.1.2 the reference to the Pits and Quarries Control Act should be replaced with the Aggregate Resources Act.
- 3.) The numbering of subsections 20.2.4 thru 20.2.7 should be revised to 20.4.4 thru 20.4.7.
- 4.) Subsection 20.2.7 should be deleted and replaced with the “Extraction Area regulations below
- 5.) The following additional regulations should be added to Section 20.4:

Open Storage and storage of aggregate, top soil or overburden shall not be permitted within:	i) 90 m of a residential Zone; ii) 90 m of a lot occupied by an existing residential use;
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii) 30 m of any other lot line or Zone line, iv) Notwithstanding the above, earth berms required to buffer the permitted use shall be permitted within the areas. Such berms shall not be permitted within three metres of a lot line or Zone boundary.
Extraction Area:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) No extraction of material from a pit or quarry shall occur within 120 metres of an abutting property that is within a Residential Zone; ii) No extraction of material from a pit or quarry shall occur within 90 metres of any boundary on which the extraction is occurring.
Yard Requirements for Processing of Material:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) no processing of extracted material shall occur within 90 metres of any boundary on which the extraction is occurring, ii) no processing of extracted material shall occur within 120 metres of an abutting property that is within a Residential Zone.
Planting Areas:	All buildings, structures, parking areas, and pit areas, except for a wayside pit, shall be screened from a street, unopened road allowance and from any land zoned Residential by a continuous row of trees consisting of deciduous or coniferous species which will attain a minimum height of 6 metres.
Parking Area and Driveways:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) No parking area and no internal road other than one access road on each lot shall be located within 45 metres of any street or any lot occupied by a dwelling. ii) Vehicular access from a street shall be provided at not more than one location on each lot and shall not be located within 75 metres of a dwelling or a street intersection or within 45 metres of a curve in a street and shall be located so that there are no obstructions to sight within the triangular area contained by the street line and lines joining a point on the access road 9 metres perpendicularly distant from the street line to the points on the street line 9 metres from the entrance of the access road.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Samantha Lernout
Citizens for Safe GroundWater Inc.

DRAFT

Attn: Harold O’Krafka and Andrew Martin
Re: Wilmot Bylaw Best Practices Recommendations



September 1st, 2021

We (CSGW) would like to show our support for the existing standards regarding aggregate that have been set within the township and urge that these standards be upheld.

We have reviewed the proposed zoning by-law changes and have undertaken a *Best Practices* review of zoning by-law regulations in other jurisdictions.

Cambridge, Brantford, Hamilton and West Perth are examples of municipalities with detailed zoning regulations for quarries. Some include sizable setbacks of the extraction area from lands zoned residential, buffering requirements, etc.

Section 20 (beginning on pg. 81 regarding mineral aggregate zone 14) sets a strong foundation toward protecting Wilmot’s health and safety. However, we request the following revisions and additions that would have the effect of further protecting the wellbeing of our communities and protection of our groundwater. These regulations are essential in order to set strong municipal standards.

We recommend the following:

1.) Permitted Uses:

Regulation 20.1.3 be revised to include wash ponds as a prohibited feature. The revised section would read as follows:

“The processing of extracted materials from the site including crushing, screening, (*remove washing*) sorting and storage of materials, but not including any temporary or permanent asphalt hot mix plant or ready mix concrete plant or wash ponds (in regional recharge areas according to the Source Protection Plan).

2.) Subsection 20.2.7 should be deleted and replaced with the “Extraction Area regulations below

The following additional regulations should be added to Section 20.4:

Open Storage and storage of aggregate, top soil or overburden shall not be permitted within:	i) 90 m of a residential Zone; ii) 90 m of a lot occupied by an existing residential use; iii) 30 m of any other lot line or Zone line,
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	iv) Notwithstanding the above, earth berms required to buffer the permitted use shall be permitted within the areas. Such berms shall not be permitted within three metres of a lot line or Zone boundary.
Extraction Area:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) No extraction of material from a pit or quarry shall occur within 120 metres of an abutting property that is within a Residential Zone; ii) No extraction of material from a pit or quarry shall occur within 90 metres of any boundary on which the extraction is occurring.
Yard Requirements for Processing of Material:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) no processing of extracted material shall occur within 90 metres of any boundary on which the extraction is occurring, ii) no processing of extracted material shall occur within 120 metres of an abutting property that is within a Residential Zone.
Planting Areas:	All buildings, structures, parking areas, and pit areas, except for a wayside pit, shall be screened from a street, unopened road allowance and from any land zoned Residential by a continuous row of trees <i>at the foot of the berm</i> consisting of coniferous species which will attain a minimum height of 6 metres.
Parking Area and Driveways:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) No parking area and no internal road other than one access road on each lot shall be located within 45 metres of any street or any lot occupied by a dwelling. ii) Vehicular access from a street shall be provided at not more than one location on each lot and shall not be located within 75 metres of a dwelling or a street intersection or within 45 metres of a curve in a street and shall be located so that there are no obstructions to sight within the triangular area contained by the street line and lines joining a point on the access road 9 metres perpendicularly distant from the street line to the points on the street line 9 metres from the entrance of the access road.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Samantha Lernout Ritch Stevenson
Citizens for Safe GroundWater Inc.

Rory Farnan



PARKS, FACILITIES AND RECREATION SERVICES

Staff Report

REPORT NO: PFRS 2021-016

TO: Council

SUBMITTED BY: Sandy Jackson, Interim CAO/Director Parks, Facilities & Recreation Services

REVIEWED BY: Patrick Kelly, Director of Corporate Services / Treasurer

DATE: September 13, 2021

SUBJECT: Emergency Repairs to Township Facilities

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT report PRFS 2021-016, regrading Emergency Repairs to Township Facilities, be received for information purposes.

SUMMARY:

Two (2) emergency repair projects that required immediate attention for health and safety reasons were recently completed under the emergency repair clause of the Procurement By-law (2016-30). The quick action of staff to fix both issues was fiscally prudent and critical to the health and wellbeing of staff and the community.

The existing capital forecast includes a project to replace the rooftop HVAC unit at New Hamburg Library, due to end of service life. Upon investigation staff noted concerns with the roof structure supporting the HVAC unit. An Engineering report concluded that the roof system required replacement prior to removing the existing unit and installing the new HVAC system.

The Wilmot Recreation Complex refrigeration plant had a heat exchanger unit failure which resulted in it being locked and tagged out by a contractor for safety reasons. To complete the work prior to reopening, an emergency repair was undertaken.

This report provides an update on the emergency procurement rationale, process, costs, and funding for these two (2) initiatives.

BACKGROUND:

Capital maintenance and upkeep of Libraries are the responsibility of the Township, including HVAC and roof replacements. The 2019 Capital budget included a \$12,000 project to replace the rooftop HVAC unit, with an additional \$30,000 provision included for 2022. This project was delayed due to the impact of the pandemic on staff resources. As staff continued to monitor and maintain this unit, it became clear that it would not be able to serve the heating requirements of the library for the upcoming winter. Prior to proceeding with the HVAC replacement staff hired a consulting Engineer to inspect the roof system due to the poor condition observed by a visual inspection.

The heat pump failure and subsequent replacement in the refrigeration room at the WRC was an unbudgeted and unanticipated repair. Equipment that is tagged out by a contractor cannot be operated until it is repaired or replaced. In this case the heat exchanger could not be repaired, and a full replacement was required.

REPORT:

Library Roof

In the summer 2021, staff began the process to remove the existing Library HVAC unit and replace it with a new unit. It became evident that the roof system was failing, and staff contracted Garland Roofing to review the condition of the roof system. Quinn Dressel Associates Consulting Structural Engineers (QDA) were also hired to perform a load assessment to ensure the weight of a new HVAC unit could be structurally supported with the existing roof system.

The report from Garland Roofing confirmed the failure of the roof system and the need for replacement prior to replacing the HVAC unit. The structural engineer indicated that “no obvious signs of structural distress were observed in visible areas of the roof structure”, and recommended replacement of the roofing system with a new system that is not heavier than the existing system.

Despite the short timeline to complete this work prior to colder temperatures, staff obtained three (3) emergency quotes for the roof replacement, and three (3) quotes for the HVAC unit.

WRC Heat Pump

The failed heat pump was identified just prior to putting the ice back in both rinks after being closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This equipment failure resulted in the brine cooling liquid that helps build and maintain the ice to be contaminated. To complete the replacement prior to putting ice back in for both pads, immediate replacement was necessary. Despite the

short timeline to complete this work prior to building the ice, staff obtained three (3) emergency quotes for replacement of the heat exchanger.

As noted within the 2021 Municipal Budget process, the mechanical systems at the WRC now have a maintenance program with a qualified contractor to ensure proper care and inspections are undertaken on a regular basis. Although equipment failures are still a possibility, it is anticipated that this regular maintenance will help identify issues before they become emergencies.

The Procurement By-Law includes an emergency procurement provision that allows projects to be approved by the CAO or designate, when a situation requires immediate repair or replacement of equipment, services, or facilities to maintain a required public service or to prevent danger to life, limb, or property. In this case, due to the possibility of a perceived conflict of the dual role of the Acting CAO /Director of Parks, Facilities and Recreation Services; the Director of Corporate Services / Treasurer approved this expenditure. In accordance with the Procurement By-Law, this report is shared with Council for information purposes.

Given the health and safety concerns with the current roof and the heat pump being tagged out for safety, staff proceeded to complete these projects.

ALIGNMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT STRATEGIC PLAN:

Maintaining facilities and ensuring buildings are safe aligns with Responsible Governance in the Townships Strategic Plan and is consistent with our core value of health and wellbeing.

ACTIONS TOWARDS UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Library Roof

The 2019 Capital Program included \$12,000 for the HVAC repairs at the New Hamburg Library. Of the three quotes received for this work, ATN mechanical Systems Ltd., based in Waterloo, was the lowest bid at \$10,667 plus HST which is within budget. This unit will improve air quality for the space it serves as it includes a full economizer package. Improved air quality and fresh air is important as we navigate the pandemic.

Staff were unable to find evidence of any roof scans completed in the past that would provide information about its deteriorating condition. Roof scans are an important maintenance process that will be considered for other buildings moving forward. A provision of \$30,000 was previously included in the 10-Year Capital Forecast in the year 2022.

Of the three quotes obtained for the roof system replacement, Grand Valley Roofing & Coatings Ltd. based in Cambridge were the lowest bid at \$66,840, plus HST.

The combined cost for HVAC and Rooftop repairs, net of HST rebate will be \$78,871, and additional funding was sourced from the Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF) to ensure this project was fully funded.

Funding Source	Amount
2019 Capital Program	\$ 12,000
2022 Capital Program	30,000
Canada Community-Building Fund	36,871
Total Funding	\$ 78,871

This company was also able to complete the work in August ensuring completion well in advance of winter weather and while the library was open limited hours due to the pandemic.

WRC Heat Pump

The lowest price for emergency replacement of the heat pump was \$40,169, plus HST from Toromont Cimco who have significant arena refrigeration system experience and have worked on WRC equipment in the past. Cimco also guaranteed completion prior to the ice start up in late August which aligns with the anticipated reopening of the arenas in September 2021.

The cost of this emergency replacement, net of HST Rebate will be \$40,876, and will also be funded from the Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF) allocation.

Canada Community Building Fund Status

As noted above, both projects will be funded with the additional allocation of stimulus funding from Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF), formerly Federal Gas Tax, resulting in an overall shortfall of \$1,573 in 2021, which will be reconciled with additional funds within the Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund.

The 2021 Capital Budget allocated the full amount of the Federal Gas Tax funding to the Wilmot and Church Street Reconstruction project. Staff report PFRS 2021-011 allocated \$550,216 of the additional stimulus funding allocation to the HVAC replacement project for the Administrative Complex / Castle Kilbride. Below is a summary of funding allocations from the Canada Community Building Fund (formerly Federal Gas Tax) in 2021.

Federal Gas Tax / Canada Community Building Fund Allocation Summary

Funding		
2021 Federal Gas Tax Allocation	\$651,588	
2021 CCBF Stimulus Allocation	626,390	
Total Funding		\$1,277,978
Expenditures		
Wilmot and Church Street Road Reconstruction	(651,588)	
Admin Complex - HVAC System Replacement	(550,216)	
NH Library - Emergency Roof Replacement	(36,871)	
WRC – Emergency Heat Pump Replacement	(40,876)	
Total Expenditures		\$1,279,551
Net Shortfall to be drawn from Gas Tax Reserve Fund		(1,573)

This draw from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund will result in an adjusted balance within this obligatory reserve fund of \$101,257.

ATTACHMENTS:

N/A



FIRE SERVICES

Staff Report

REPORT NO: FD2021-10

TO: Council

SUBMITTED BY: Rod Leeson, Fire Chief

PREPARED BY: Rod Leeson, Fire Chief

REVIEWED BY: Sandy Jackson, Interim CAO

DATE: September 13, 2021

SUBJECT: Open Air By-law Update

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approves the by-law to regulate the setting of Open Air Fires including establishing the times during which Open Air Fires may be set and to repeal By-law No. 2004-42 being a Bylaw to regulate the setting of fires and precautions to be observed.

SUMMARY:

The Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA) states that a Council of a municipality may pass Bylaws regulating the setting of Open Air Fires, including establishing the times during which Open Air Fires may be set. The Fire Chief is responsible to enforce the requirements of the FPPA, make recommendations to the Council, review, and update the Open Air Fire Bylaw when deemed appropriate by the Fire Chief.

BACKGROUND:

Wilmot Fire Department has identified some items within the current Open Air Fire Bylaw that require attention. These issues are tied to the following subjects.

Legacy Contained site permits:

The existing Bylaw requires residents to purchase a contained site permit for recreational fires. The permit is purchased at the time of application with no further financial obligation or renewal requirement. However, Fire Prevention has found inconsistencies with residents and what Bylaw information they are following. Several permit holders are following older Bylaws that have been repealed. Fire Prevention has found that several residents are not aware of the permit conditions or what they are allowed to burn. This has created enforcement issues for residents. Residents are responsible to keep up to date with all permit requirements. Fire Prevention continues to provide public education to support residents to stay up to date on the current Bylaw and fire safety requirements. Agricultural permits are per-incident, assessed on each occurrence and found to be less problematic since each applicant is required to review and understand all open burn requirements.

Lot size issues:

Fully serviced urban lot areas, and consequently lot widths, are typically shrinking to achieve intensification required by the Township, Regional Official Plans, and Provincial Policy Statement while maintaining the appeal of single-family private ownership. Single family lots in recent and future developments will typically be in the 10m width range. This aligns with the traditional width of a semi lot of 9m found throughout older subdivisions and at the time of their construction constituted 'affordable' and 'intensified' housing. Given there is a range of property sizes within the Township, staff spent significant time researching methods of maintaining safety while permitting recreational fires in some of the smaller lots.

Rural settings are larger and less problematic to meet requirements. The existing Bylaw has no provision to address smaller lot sizes. With the Provincial Stay at Home orders, the pandemic has amplified the need for residents to enjoy their property in a safe, responsible manner.

Public Education:

Fire Prevention sends out public education and fire safety information regularly. Despite these efforts, Fire Prevention continues to deal with complaints that contravene Bylaw requirements. These are typically tied to Legacy Permits and residents who are not aware of what is allowed to be burned and, in some cases, where or what is a safe clearance to combustibles. Some residents conduct all day contained site fires which creates nuisance smoke to some residents who wish to enjoy fresh air during the summer months or hang laundry on the line to dry.

Administration and Enforcement:

Burn permits are cyclical, require staff time to issue permits, inspect sites, Public Education/Fire safety and enforcement. The Township wants to support a safe, effective program however, modernization of the process is required.

REPORT:

Fire Services engaged Wilmot residents using an online survey to gather information regarding Open Air Fires. A press release was issued to communicate the survey opportunity to Township residents, and it was posted on the Township website, Twitter, Facebook and Digital signs. A Facebook ad was purchased to boost the previously posted message from July 23-27 and resulted in the following analytics:

- Post engagement (number of times anyone engaged at all – likes, comments, shares, etc.): 484
- Reach (the number of users who have come across this content): 7,554
- Cost per engagement: \$.04

Paper copies were provided at the township office to assist residents that do not have digital access. Weekly reminders were sent out to residents using Twitter, Facebook and digital signs. The survey was released on Thursday, July 15, 2021, and ended Sunday, August 15, 2021. The survey was well received by the community with 1305 surveys completed. Township staff wish to thank the residents of Wilmot for their participation and feedback from the survey. It is acknowledged that Bylaws can cause controversy. However, the fire services mandate is to protect lives, save property, and environment. The goal is to find balance to allow Open Air burning to continue in the Township and implement procedures that will acknowledge air quality, safe and reasonable clearance to combustibles and allow residents to enjoy their property.

It is also acknowledged that this Bylaw will not satisfy every situation nor allow all residents the luxury of Open Air burning on their property. As a result of growth, the Township of Wilmot continues to become a more urban setting. With urbanization comes the challenge of finding a balance between fire safety and property enjoyment. Additional research was conducted on several Open Burn Bylaws both locally and throughout the province using municipalities that resemble the urban/rural mix and similar population as Wilmot. When comparing Bylaws, it was difficult to find substantial similarities and it was evident that each municipality has their own unique needs and circumstances to address. Common themes included the requirement for annual renewals, public education reinforced during the renewal process, and the use of an online application process. This commonality reinforced the success of those programs and residents were kept up to date with Bylaw requirements, fire safety messaging and public education knowledge.

Several respondents commented on the lack of access to Bylaw enforcement after Township business hours. These comments have been shared with Information and Legislative Services for their information and review.

The survey has been included in this report as an attachment. The most common themes found within the survey results include:

- Respondents were concerned that the Township would ban Open Air burning.

- Concerned with confidentiality if someone reported an issue.
- Why is the Bylaw being looked at and why now?
- Several comments that support a time frame versus no time frame.
- Did not always agree with the clearance requirements, mixed consensus.
- A clear message to ensure fire safety measures are maintained.
- Comments that indicated concerns with air quality and contaminants from burning unauthorized materials.
- Some respondents appreciated the time frame, especially those with breathing difficulties knowing they would have some fresh air enjoyment time.
- Several comments reinforcing that garbage is being burned.
- Yard waste was contributing to extended, all day fires that diminished local air quality enjoyment.
- Some residents were not interested by any form of Bylaw and suggested local government interference.
- A few residents wanted recreational fires completely banned.
- A few residents indicated they didn't care for any rules and would choose to do whatever they want on their property.

It is important to briefly discuss a few (low numbers) questions regarding the lack of injuries or fire spread caused by recreational fires. Although the Township has been fortunate enough to not have an reported injuries due to recreational fires, the potential for serious injuries and accidents that could result in criminal charges has been experienced in other municipalities. The Township has had instances of unattended fires getting out of control and causing property damage and damage to crop fields. Fire Prevention and Bylaw continue to charge residents accordingly and, in some cases additional costs have been levied for Fire Department response as per the Council approved Fees and Charges Bylaw.

The following statistics are provided for reference from 2019 until August 2021 to illustrate that unauthorized fires are occurring, and that property damage has occurred. Fire Apparatus are billed based on the annual fee release from Ministry of Transportation. Firefighter rates are included in the Township Fees and Charges Bylaw.

2019 - Fire Department Response – 10
Township Bylaw Responses – 6
Fire Prevention Division – 3

2019 Response Cost(s) to Fire Service (not including FPO or Bylaw Labour Costs) - \$8,375

2020 - Fire Department Response – 20
Township Bylaw Responses – 6
Fire Prevention Division – 20

2020 Response Cost(s) to Fire Service (not including FPO or Bylaw Labour Costs) - \$14,780

2021 - Fire Department Response – 10 to August 2021
Township Bylaw Responses – 2 to August 2021
Fire Prevention Division – 14 to August 2021

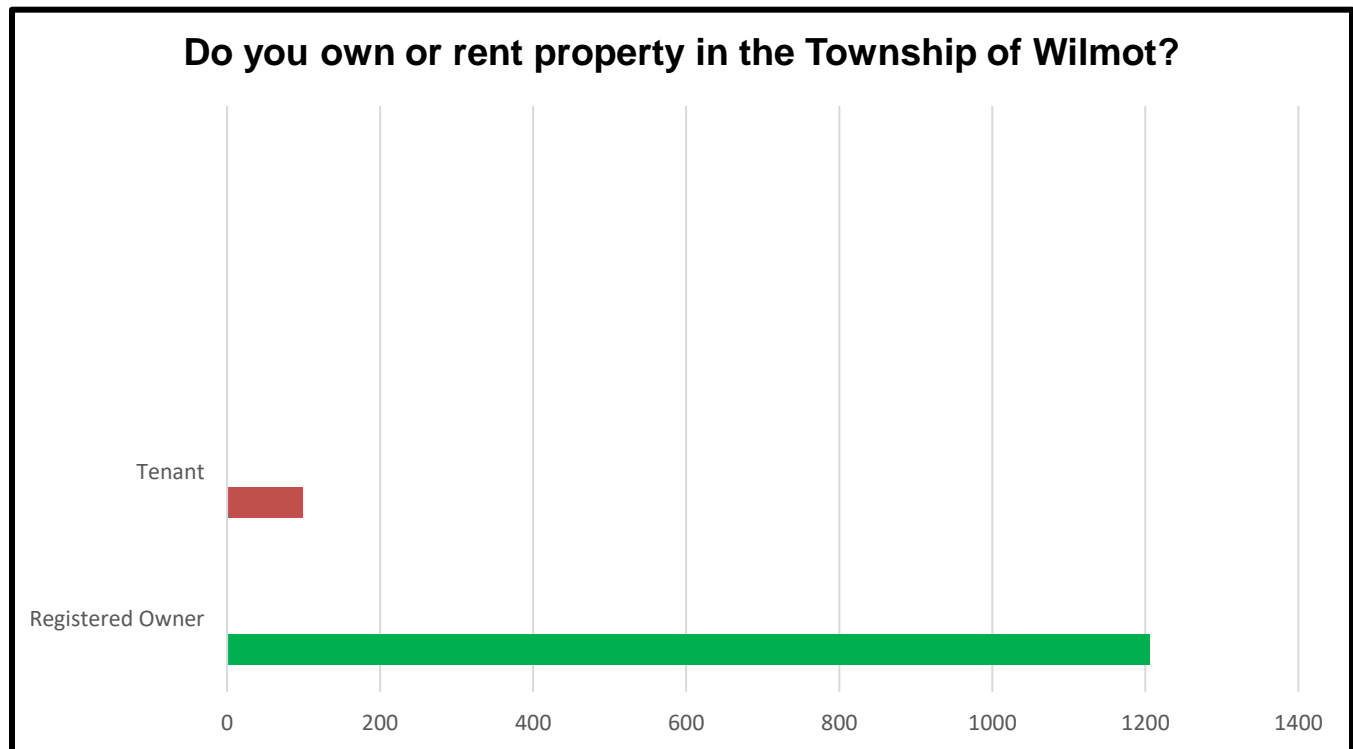
2021 Response Cost(s) to Fire Service (not including FPO or Bylaw Labour Costs) - \$11,205

During the three (3) year period Fire Services can report that five calls resulted in property damage due to extension from a recreational fire. Three calls resulted in charges and an invoice to recover costs of response to the address/property owner(s). Three calls required a three-station response to attend large wildland fires. The Fire Department mandate has been to educate and seek compliance rather than lay charges. When charges are laid, consideration is given to the severity and impact of the event on community and fire department resources.

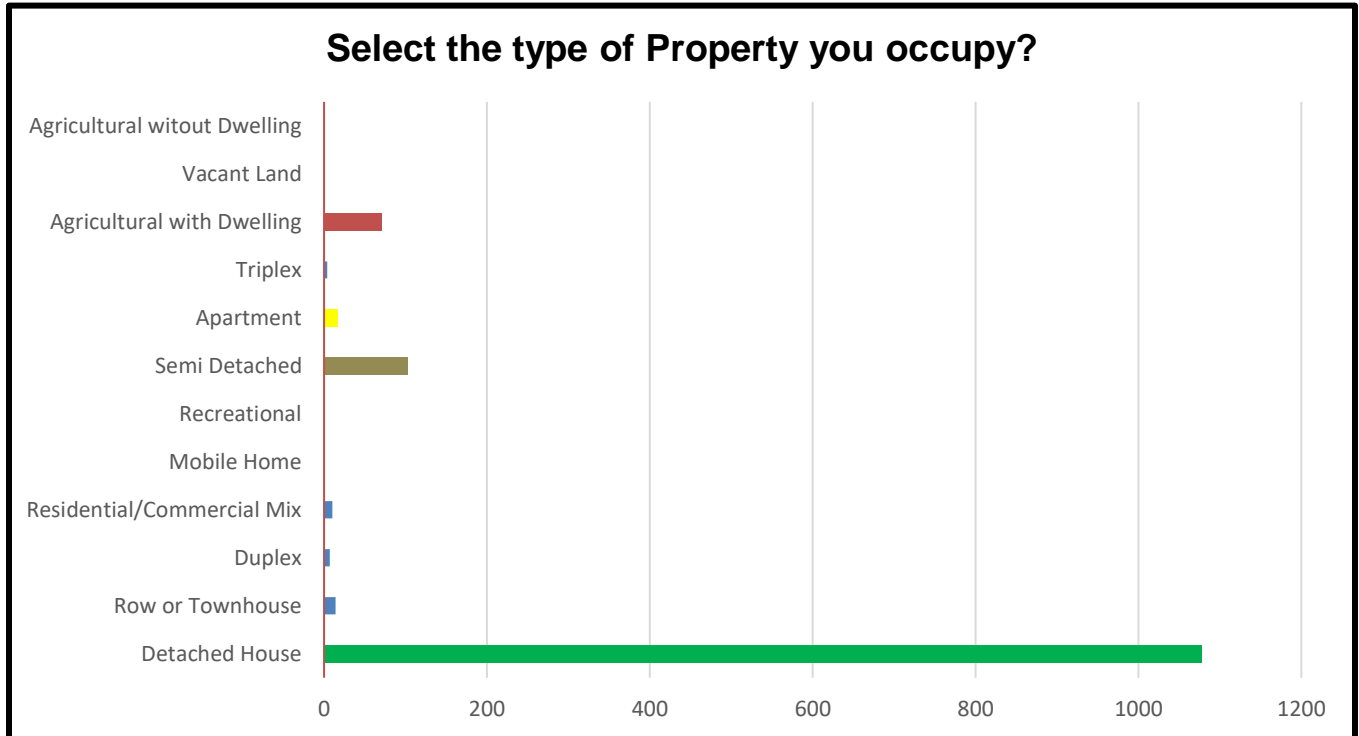
Survey Results:

Eight questions were included in the survey. Questions 1 to 4 required check box answers. Questions 5 to 7 had check box answers and included a comment box. Question 8 was reserved for comments only. We should note that many comments made in Question 8 duplicated many of the comments found in Questions 5 to 7.

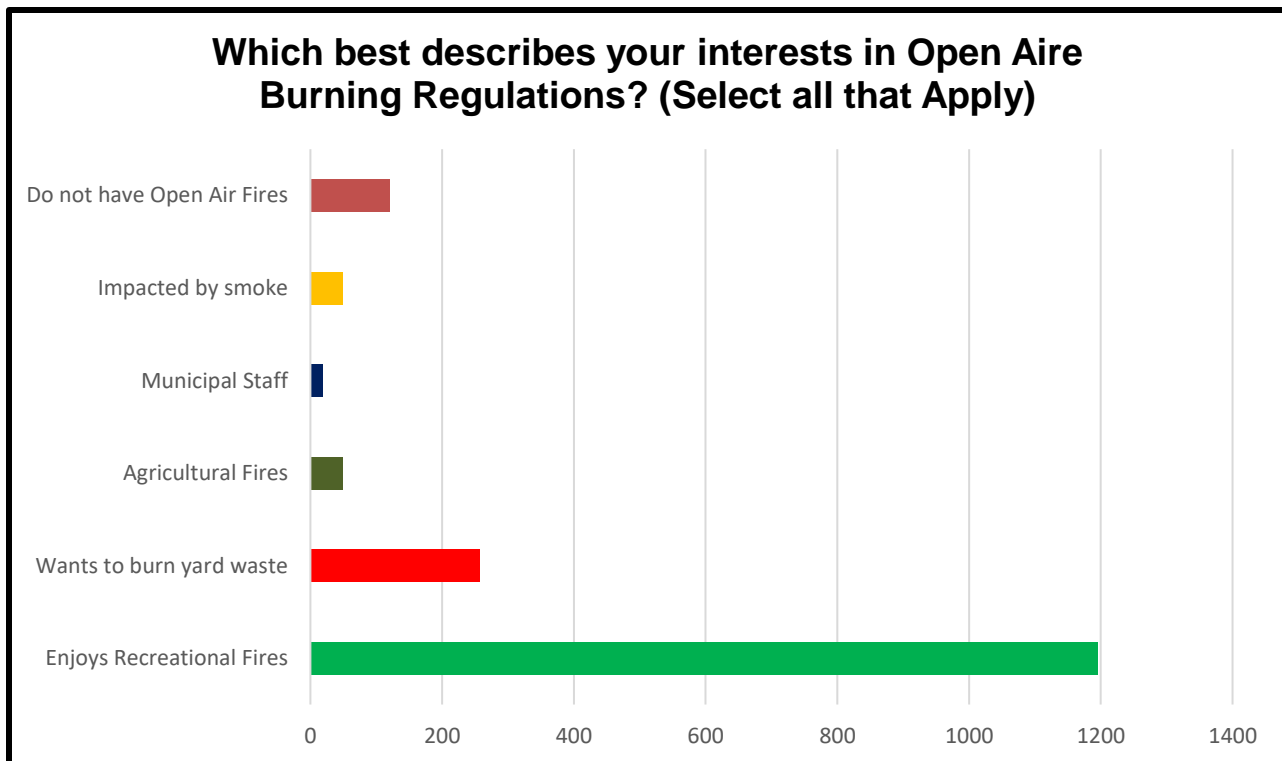
Question 1:



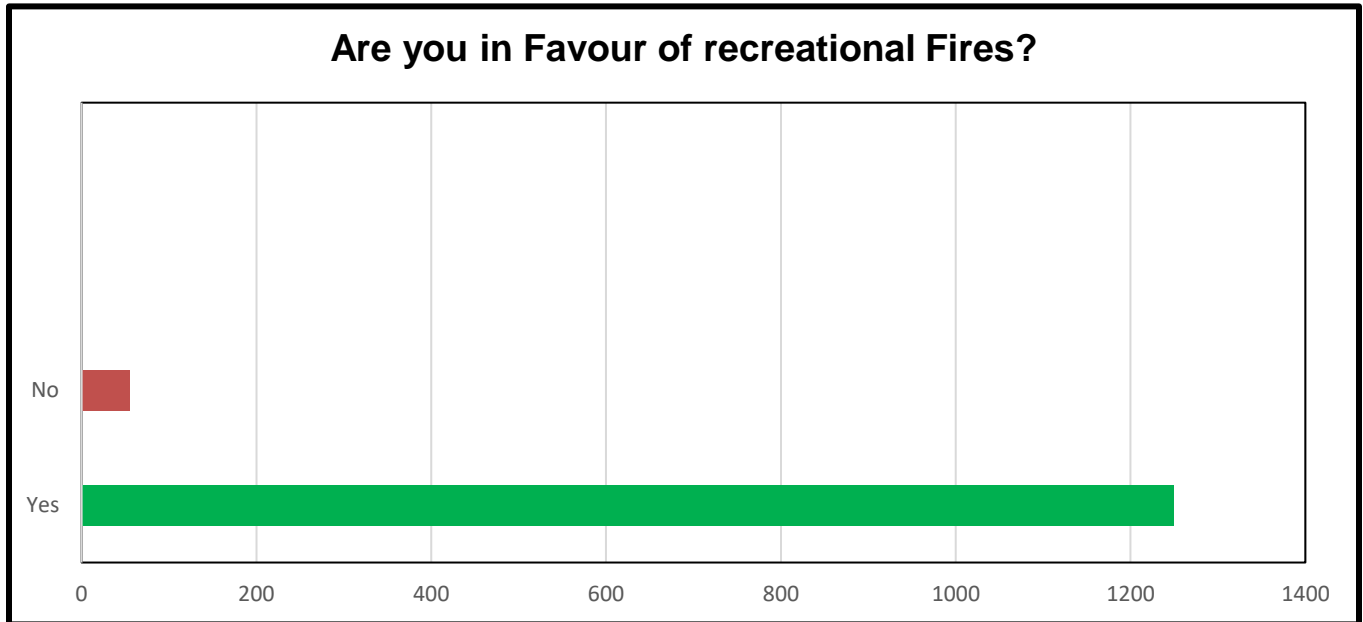
Question 2:



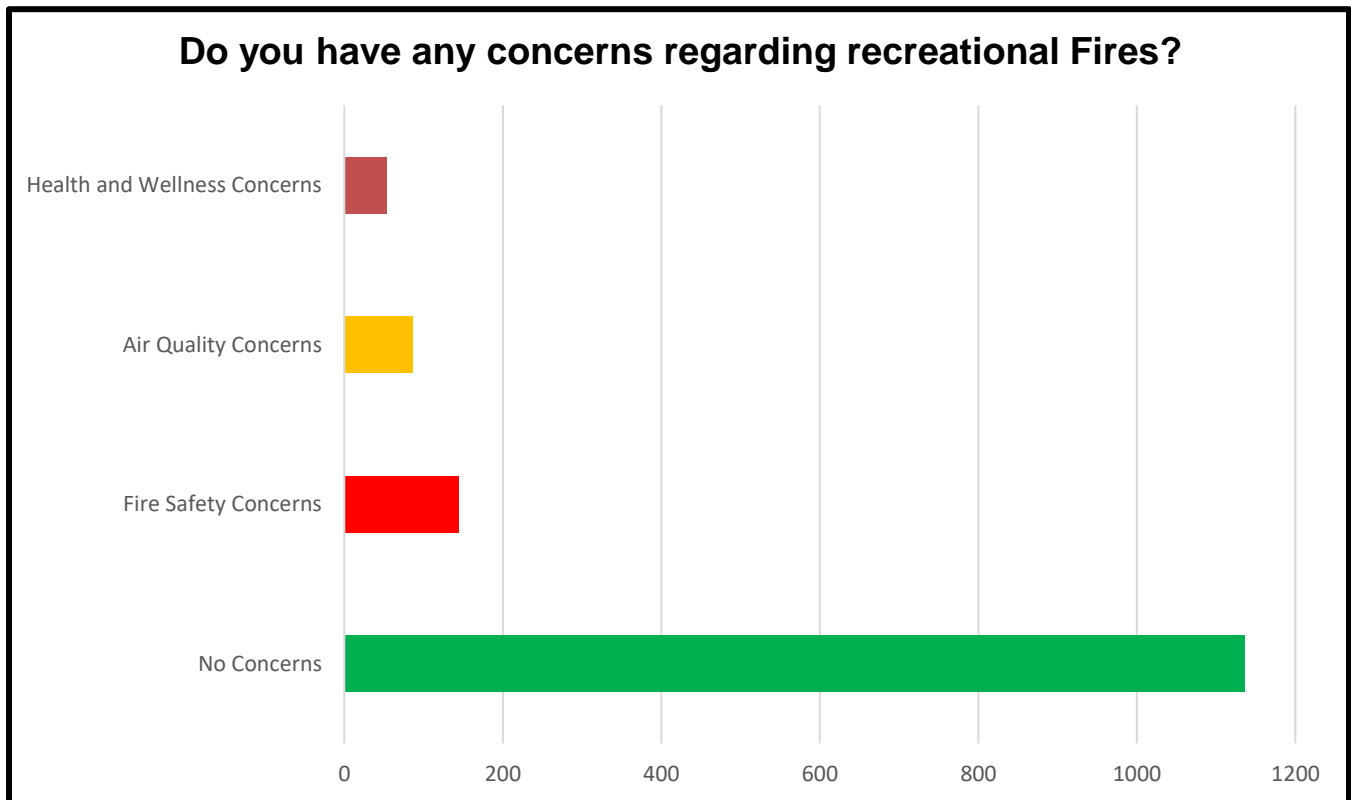
Question 3:



Question 4:

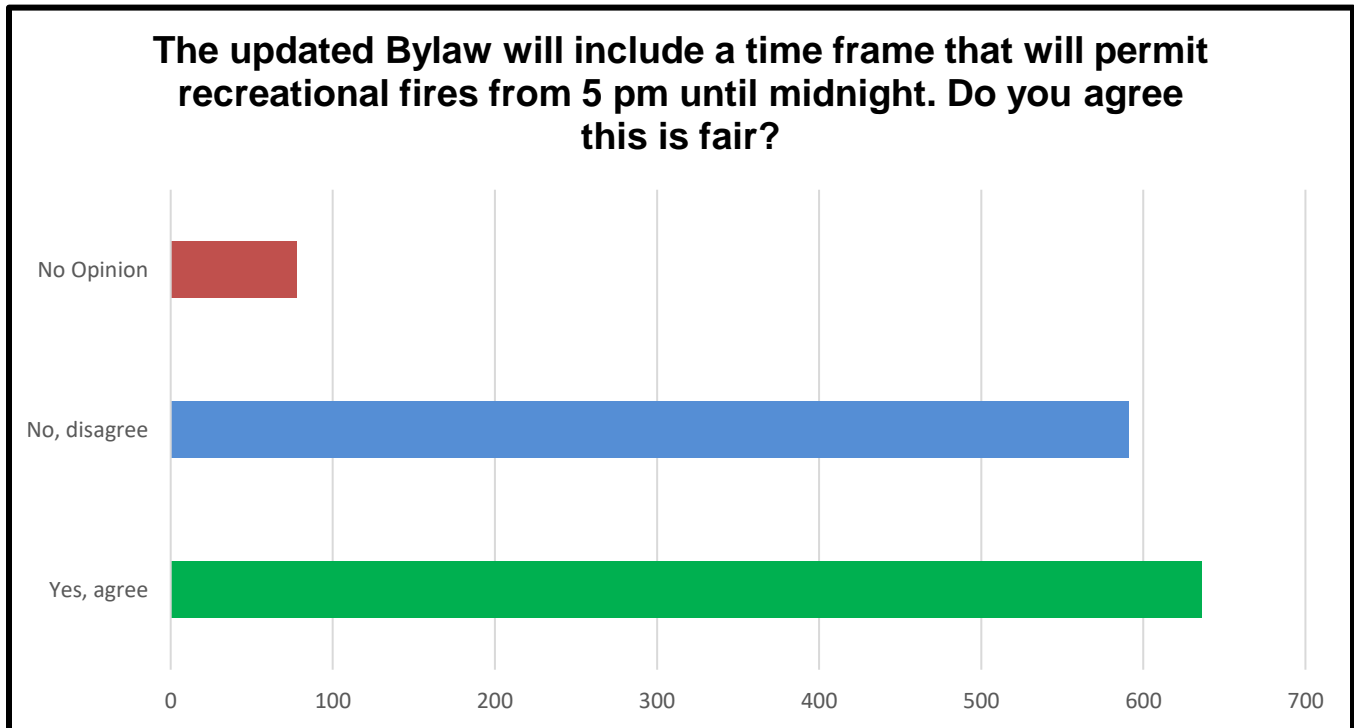


Question 5:



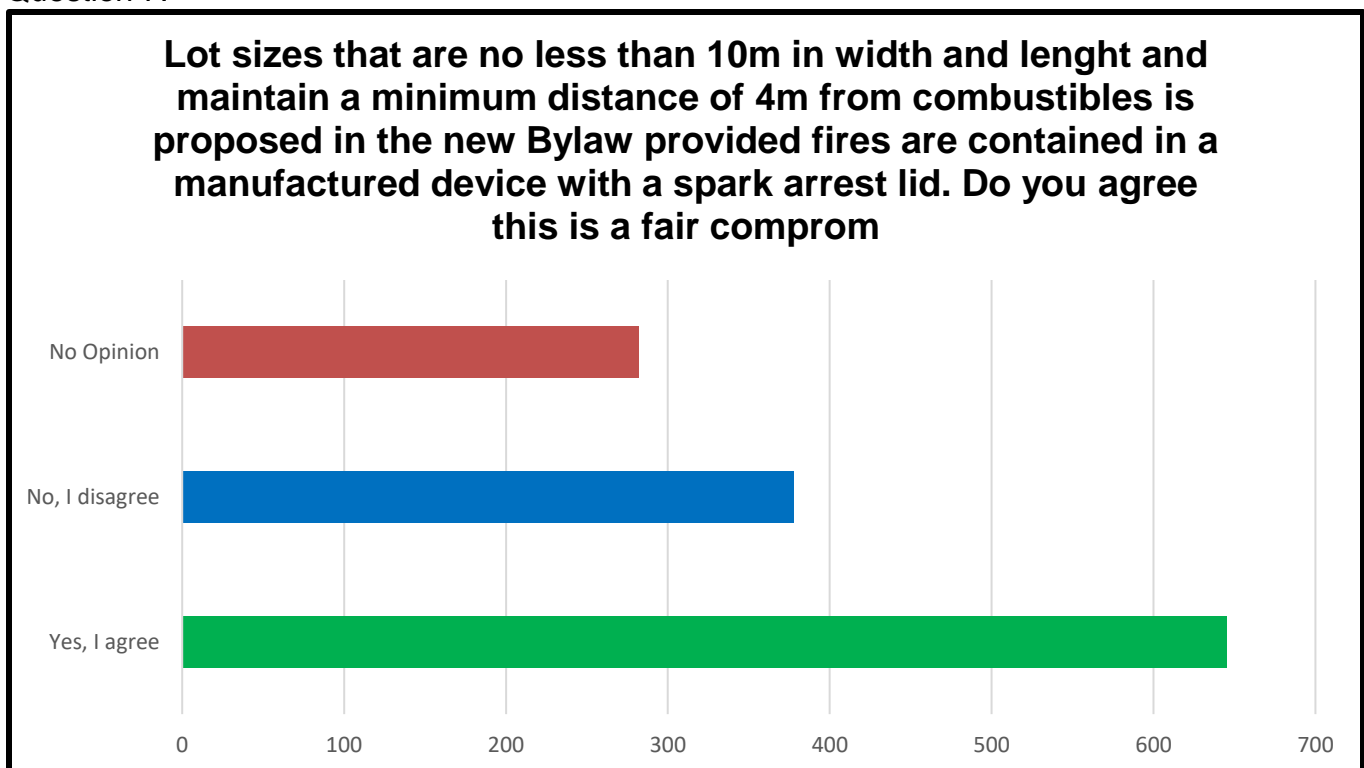
Note: Comments are provided in the attachment.

Question 6:



Note: Comments are provided in the attachment.

Question 7:



Note: Comments are provided in the attachment.

Recommended Changes to Bylaw:

Based on the survey results and extensive research, the following are proposed changes to the Bylaw:

Recreational Fires:

Current Bylaw: Property Size and Clearance to Combustible Safety

The Fire Prevention Division has attended several residents that have been conducting contained site fires that do not have permits or meet the setback requirements of the current Bylaw, lot size and clearance to combustibles or buildings. This includes the entire street based on lot sizes that are less than 15m in width. Small lot sizes require particular attention to the safety of residents and property. We realize that some properties will not meet the minimum requirements however, fire safety remains the Fire Services top priority. Careful considerations have been employed to find a balance between offering options to smaller lot owners and fire safety. For those residents whose lot size will not conform to the requirements of the Bylaw, propane and/or natural gas outdoor fireplaces or fire bowls can be purchased, that would not require a permit.

Proposed Bylaw:

- a) if the width of the lot at the point at which the Recreational Fire is to be held is fifteen (15) metres wide or more, within seven (7) metres of any building, structure, or other combustible material, unless expressly authorized otherwise by the Fire Chief in the Permit; or,
- b) if the width of the lot at the point at which the Recreational Fire is to be held is less than fifteen (15) metres, within three (3) metres from any building, structure, or other combustible material, unless expressly authorized otherwise by the Fire Chief in the Permit.

For part a), for lot sizes that are 15m wide or more, existing fire pits that meet the specified requirements will be permitted without any changes or a spark arrest lid requirement. The Fire Department acknowledges that several residents who meet the 7m setback requirements have been safely and responsibly conducting recreational fires for years and will not be required to change the configuration. However, Fire Services will continue to recommend and encourage the use of spark arrest lids.

For part b), lot sizes less than 15m, the application process will require residents to purchase an approved device to permit a recreational fire that includes a lid with a screen to keep the fire contained. Due to the reduction in clearance requirement for smaller lots sizes, the Fire Department had to consider the safety of residences and structures.

Wilmot Fire Department utilizes NFPA standards and best practices to determine the most appropriate and safe clearances for the recommended clearance to combustibles. NFPA states that all recreation fires should be a minimum of 7m (25 ft) from any combustibles. Based on several reviewed Bylaws 7m was deemed to be too excessive. However, safety will not be compromised. Requiring manufactured fire bowls with screen lids will allow for reduced clearances on lot sizes less than 15m. Manufacturer's instructions for several manufacturers of

wood burning fire bowl/pit with screen lid were carefully reviewed. Depending on the manufacturer, clearances ranged from 2.4 m (8 ft) to 4.6m (15 ft). Originally 4m was proposed in the Bylaw. On further review of the various manufacturers, it was found that most recommended 3m and therefore the recommendation for clearance on lot sizes less than 15m is set at 3m clearance to combustible materials and buildings. This compromise will permit some residents with small lots sizes to meet the requirements while maintaining a reasonable safety margin.

Current Bylaw: Set time to permit Recreation Fires:

The current Bylaw does not have any restrictions and allows residents to burn any time of the day. The Fire Prevention Division has observed that most, if not all, daytime fires consisted of yard waste or other prohibited items which is not a permitted activity. These fires lead to complaints about air quality, cause residents to head indoors and close windows. To facilitate a balance between permitting approved recreational fires and air quality during hot summer days, restricting the time recreational fires occur is a fair compromise with the density of housing the Township has and will continue to have.

Proposed Bylaw:

The purpose of this addition to the Bylaw is to provide residents with an opportunity to enjoy their property while balancing the enjoyment for residents that chose not to have recreational fires. Burning during the day, all day, will be limited to Agricultural fires. The survey proposed Recreational fires from 5:00 pm until midnight. The noise Bylaw requires residents to turn off any loud music and lower conversations at 11 pm. Several survey respondents indicated they have recreational fires during lunch and earlier in the day during winter months. With overwhelming support for recreational fires, the Fire Department wanted to provide some relief for residents that wanted to open windows during the day, hang out laundry or enjoy their own properties.

The survey showed a high number of people who wanted to burn yard waste all day. This type of activity is prohibited and will continue to be prohibited. The Region has an excellent waste pickup program and includes items like leaves which are composted. These types of fires lead to poor local air quality and complaints from neighbours. Based on survey feedback, the Fire Department is recommending the time frame will be set from 12 noon until 12 midnight. Eliminating all day fires that burn yard waste or garbage is our primary goal to ensure that local air quality is acceptable. This balance will provide relief to those who choose not to have recreational fires while still permitting residents to enjoy an afternoon lunch or warm up after cross country skiing using their recreational fire. Stopping at midnight allows residents an additional hour past the 11 pm noise Bylaw to ensure the fire is 100% extinguished and not left to smolder overnight which is a prohibited practice.

Current Bylaw:

The current Bylaw lists several prohibited items from burning including yard waste such as leaves, grass clippings, refuse or debris. The current Bylaw include some environmentally sensitive materials such as tires, plastics, asphalt products, painted or stained wood, plywood and other laminates, pressure treated wood, or other hazardous substances, however, additional prohibited items have been included within the new proposed Bylaw under

Prohibited Materials outlined in the definitions. The additional items will provide residents with guidance on what can and cannot be burned and enhance enforcement capabilities.

Proposed Bylaw:

The list of items that are environmentally dangerous for burning has been expanded. The listed items will allow for enforcement and messaging that is clear and will protect the environment by preventing burning of prohibited items. The need for this provision in the Bylaw has been demonstrated numerous times during burn permit inspections. The survey did not include a question to the public regarding burning of prohibited items, as residents are responsible to learn this information and will be held accountable to be responsible stewards to the environment.

Current Bylaw: Agricultural Properties:

Agricultural properties may burn with a permit within 30 m of a building provided that the fire size does not exceed 2.5m x 2.5m x 1m high (8' x 8' x 3'). Fire Prevention Division consistently finds that pile sizes far exceed the current Bylaw requirements. Most notable, some residents while conducting larger Open Air Burns do not monitor the fire or have suitable equipment to control the fire despite this being a condition on the permit. Further, some piles contain prohibited materials.

Proposed Bylaw:

The proposed Bylaw indicates that agricultural burns must be controlled and have safety measures in place as well as being environmentally responsible. The following items are now included;

- Distance to combustible buildings/structures increased to 50 metres
- Pile size increased to 3m X 3m X 3m and with approval may be larger if strict measures are followed.
- Set a maximum permitted wind speed of 15 km/hr during the day and continuously monitor during the Open Air Burn.
- Enhanced the requirement to monitor the fire and provide required equipment to control the spread of fire with a responsible person(s).
- The requirement to stay away from travelled roads as smoke can cause visibility issues for drivers.
- A comprehensive description of what is permitted and what is not permitted to be burned to ensure responsible stewardship of the environment.
- Required to burn during daylight hours only.
- Required to contact Fire Dispatch before lighting the fire and once the fire is completely extinguished.
- Sign(s) are posted at the roadway while the burn is conducted so the public knows that a controlled burn is in progress.

The survey did not include questions regarding Agricultural Open Air Burning. However, the proposed Bylaw has improved safety measures, communications, and clarity to residents.

Exemptions:

Fire Services included exemptions after speaking with legal and include the following:

- by the Township or by the Region.
- within a Campground.
- at a site where a Strike is occurring.
- for any traditional, cultural, ceremonial, or religious purpose.
- in a Barbeque; or,
- for a device intended for heating, power, construction, manufacturing, or maintenance activities that is designed and certified for such purpose.

Burn Permits and Website:

Annual permit renewals are an effective method to remind residents of permit requirements, improve fire safety awareness, improve tracking methods, and enhance communication. Burn permit revenues cover the costs to administer and maintain the program by the users.

Residents will access a website dedicated to Open Air Fire Permits. Permits will be divided into three types. Two of the permits will require an annual renewal by the property owner. The third type will accommodate Agricultural Permits and will require an application for each event. The website will include access to permit applications, detailed instructions on how to apply for a permit, a copy of the Bylaw and public education materials. Residents will be required to follow a step-by-step process that will require them to complete the application based on their property, including photos, review the Bylaw, and review fire safety information followed by an online payment system.

Permits will be valid for twelve (12) months and reminders will be sent when the renewal date is approaching. Fire Prevention will review all applications and approve or attend the location if required. This process will reduce the time required to process applications significantly. Residents will agree to accept responsibility to the terms and conditions of the permit. Several Fire departments across Ontario use this method with great success and resident satisfaction.

Other advantages to the web-based platform include direct access for fire crews to receive real-time information such as when Fire Prevention revokes permits, notification of Agricultural Controlled Burns and their location, issued burn bans and more. Residents will experience the same benefits of real-time information to keep them informed. For those that are not connected digitally, a process has been developed to accommodate these residents and the Township will continue to issue press releases for burn bans or air quality advisories when required.

ALIGNMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT STRATEGIC PLAN:

This report highlights community engagement ensuring we communicate Township matters and the continued enjoyment to maintain quality of life through ensuring their safety.

ACTIONS TOWARDS UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Good Health and Well being that promotes well being for all ages.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Annual permit fees collected will create a user fee-based system. This system will not impact the general tax base, only residents who purchase a permit. The fee will cover the cost of the online platform and administrative costs to oversee the program. The proposed annual fee of \$20.00 per permit is recommended to cover these costs. Agricultural permits will remain at \$45.00 per event/permit.

ATTACHMENTS:

Bylaw 2021-40 to regulate the setting of Open Air Fires

Survey Results: Open Air Fires 2021

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT**BY-LAW NO. 2021 - 40**

Being a by-law to regulate the setting of open air fires including establishing the times during which open air fires may be set and to repeal By-law No. 2004-42

WHEREAS section 7.1(1)(b) of the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997*, S.O. 1997, c. 4, as amended (the “**FPPA**”), states that a Council of a municipality may pass by-laws regulating the setting of open-air fires, including establishing the times during which open-air fires may be set;

AND WHEREAS section 7.1(3) of the FPPA states that a by-law under this section may deal with different areas of the municipality differently;

AND WHEREAS section 7.1(4) of the FPPA states that a municipality may appoint an officer to enter upon land and into structures at any reasonable time to inspect the land and structures to determine whether by-laws enacted in accordance with that section are being complied with;

AND WHEREAS section 2.4.4.4(1)(b) of the Fire Code, O. Reg. 213/07, as amended (the “**Fire Code**”), prohibits open air burning unless approved, or unless such burning consists of a small, contained fire, supervised at all times, and used to cook food on a grill, barbeque or spit, and is commensurate with the type and quantity of food being cooked;

AND WHEREAS section 128(1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended (the “**Municipal Act, 2001**”) provides that a local municipality may prohibit and regulate with respect to 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 with ember to be or could become or cause public nuisance by creating negative health effects on neighbouring residents, increasing fire exposure hazards, infringing the use and enjoyment of neighbouring properties;

AND WHEREAS section 129(a) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* provides that a local municipality may prohibit and regulate with respect to noise, vibration, odour, dust and outdoor illumination;

AND WHEREAS in section 446 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* that if a municipality has authority under the Act or under a by-law under this or any other Act to direct or require a person to do a matter or thing, the municipality may also provide that, in default of it being done by the person directed or required to do it, the matter or thing shall be done at the person’s expense;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The Corporation of the Township of Wilmot enacts as follows:

1. SHORT TITLE

1.1 This by-law may be referred to as the “Open Air Fire By-law”.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 For the purposes of this by-law:

- 2.1.1 **"Approved Device"** means a commercially manufactured device designed to contain a fire, complete with a mesh spark arresting screen to control sparks and embers, such as, but not limited to, chimineas, fire bowls or outdoor fireplaces;
- 2.1.2 **"Barbeque"** means a portable or fixed device including a hibachi, a permanent structure designed and intended solely for the cooking of food in the open air, and other similar devices, designed and intended solely for the cooking of food in the open air but does not include devices designed for personal warmth, fire pits or recreational fires;
- 2.1.3 **"Campground"** means a campground that meets all of the criteria outlined in section 8.7 of Ontario Regulation 207/96 entitled "Outdoor Fires", under the *Forest Fire Prevention Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. F.24, as amended;
- 2.1.4 **"Council"** means the Council of the Township;
- 2.1.5 **"Equipment and Resources"** means sufficient personnel and equipment, such as rakes or shovels, sustainable water supply, heavy equipment, that are reasonably suitable to control and/or extinguish an Open Air Fire;
- 2.1.6 **"Fire Ban"** means a period of time during which the Fire Chief determines that Open Air Fires are prohibited;
- 2.1.7 **"Fire Chief"** means the person appointed by the Township to act as the Fire Chief for the Township pursuant to section 6 of the FPPA, or their designate;
- 2.1.8 **"Municipal Law Enforcement Officer"** means a person appointed by the Township under section 15 of the *Police Services Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.15, as amended;
- 2.1.9 **"Open Air Fire"** means a fire that takes place outside of a building or structure in the Township and includes Recreational Fires;
- 2.1.10 **"Permit"** means a permit issued by the Fire Chief to set and maintain an Open Air Fire for a specified period of time;
- 2.1.11 **"Permit Holder"** means a person to whom a Permit has been issued by the Fire Chief;
- 2.1.12 **"Person"** means an individual or a corporation;
- 2.1.13 **"Prohibited Materials"** means:
 - (a) newspaper, cardboard, fliers, office paper or paper;
 - (b) automobile and truck bodies;

- (c) tires, rubber, oil, grease or paint;
- (d) cloth, rags, carpet or mats;
- (e) Styrofoam;
- (f) plastics or plastic materials including, but not limited to, nylon, PVC or ABS plastics, polystyrene or urethane foam, synthetic fabrics, plastic film, bale wrap and plastic containers;
- (g) construction or demolition waste materials, such as shingles, tiles, drywall, insulation, painted or treated wood or other materials whose contents include any of the above;
- (h) weeds, brush, leaves, grass clippings, yard waste or crop stubble;
- (i) animal-related refuse, such as fecal deposits, manure, or carcasses;
- (j) flammable or combustible liquids or accelerants;
- (k) chemicals including, but not limited to, pesticides, Asbestos, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) industrial lubricants or oils containing heavy metals, perchloroethylene (perc) waste from dry cleaners or discarded batteries of any description, paint, varnish, or solvents;
- (l) furniture;
- (m) painted or treated wood or other materials, such as treated skids or pallets; and,
- (n) material that is normally collected under the Region's waste collection program, such as any household garage, refuse or waste or any recyclable materials.

2.1.14 “**Recreational Fires**” means a type of Open Air Fire conducted in a ring made of brick, concrete, rock, or in an Approved Device, for the principal purpose of warmth or recreational enjoyment;

2.1.15 “**Region**” means the Regional Municipality of Waterloo;

2.1.16 “**Rural Area**” means any lands zoned “Z1 (Agriculture)” in the Township of Wilmot’s Zoning By-law 83-38, as amended;

2.1.17 “**Strike**” means a strike as defined in the *Labour Relations Act, 1995*, S.O. 1995, c. 1, Sched. A, as amended; and

2.1.18 “**Township**” shall mean The Corporation of the Township of Wilmot.

- 2.2 In this by-law, whenever a word imparts the masculine gender, it is deemed to include the feminine gender.
- 2.3 In this by-law, the singular sense is deemed to be inclusive and interchangeable with the plural sense.

3. GENERAL PROHIBITIONS

Permit Required

- 3.1 No Person shall set or maintain an Open Air Fire or permit an Open Air Fire to be set or maintained, at any time, without a Permit.

No Open Air Fires During a Fire Ban

- 3.2 No Person shall set or maintain an Open Air Fire or permit an Open Air Fire to be set or maintained, at any time, during a Fire Ban.

Must Comply with Permit Conditions

- 3.3 No Person shall set or maintain an Open Air Fire, or permit an Open Air Fire to be set or maintained, at any time, in contravention of any of the conditions of a Permit as outlined in sections 6.1, 6.2 or 6.3 of this by-law.

4. SPECIFIC PROHIBITIONS

- 4.1 No Person shall use, or cause to be used, a Barbeque on a balcony of a building or store any kind of fuel intended for a Barbeque on a balcony of a building.

5. APPLYING FOR A PERMIT

Application Requirements

- 5.1 Any Person may apply for a Permit, in the form prescribed by the Fire Chief, by submitting, at a minimum, the following information prior to the commencement of the proposed Open Air Fire:
- (a) the name, address and other contact information of the applicant;
 - (b) the purpose or rationale, if any, behind having an Open Air Fire;
 - (c) the date, time and location of the proposed Open Air Fire;
 - (d) written consent from the owner of the location at which the proposed Open Air Fire is to occur, if not owned by the applicant;
 - (e) the distance between the proposed Open Air Fire and any buildings or structures at the location in question;

- (f) the proposed material to be burned in the Open Air Fire;
- (g) the name of the contact person who will supervise the Open Air Fire;
- (h) the applicable fee, as set out in the Township's Fees and Charges By-law, as amended;
- (i) such further and other information as the Fire Chief may request.

Decision of the Fire Chief

- 5.2 Upon receiving a complete application pursuant to section 5.1 of this by-law, the Fire Chief may:
- (a) issue a Permit;
 - (b) refuse to issue a Permit; or
 - (c) issue a Permit with additional conditions pursuant to section 6.2 of this by-law.
- 5.3 In determining whether or not to issue a Permit, or whether to impose additional conditions to a Permit pursuant to section 6.2 of this by-law, the Fire Chief shall consider the following:
- (a) the health, safety and well-being of persons and property within the Township;
 - (b) the general intent and purpose of this by-law; and,
 - (c) whether the applicant has previously contravened any of the provisions of this by-law or failed to comply with any of the conditions of a Permit that was previously issued under this by-law.

Permit Not Transferrable

- 5.4 A Permit issued by the Fire Chief is for a specific Person in order to allow them to set or maintain an Open Air Fire, or to permit an Open Air Fire to be set or maintained, on a specific date, at a specific time and at a specific location and is, therefore, not transferrable to any other Person or for any other date, time or location.

Duration of Permit

- 5.5 A Permit issued by the Fire Chief shall specify the time period during which it is effective but in no case shall a Permit be effective for more than one (1) calendar year.
- 5.6 If a Permit has expired, the Permit Holder shall immediately extinguish the Open Air Fire for which the Permit was issued.

Revocation of Permit

- 5.7 The Fire Chief may suspend or revoke a Permit, at any time, if:
- (a) the information provided on the application was false or misleading;
 - (b) any provisions of this by-law are not being complied with;
 - (c) the Open Air Fire is causing a public nuisance, as determined by the Fire Chief;
or,
 - (d) the Open Air Fire is impacting, or could potentially impact, the health, safety and well-being of persons and property within the Township, as determined by the Fire Chief.
- 5.8 If a Permit has been suspended or revoked, the Permit Holder shall immediately extinguish the Open Air Fire for which the Permit was issued.

6. CONDITIONS FOR ALL PERMITS

Conditions for All Permits

- 6.1 All Permits shall be subject to the following conditions:
- (a) No Person shall set or maintain an Open Air Fire, or permit an Open Air Fire to be set or maintained:
 - (i) without having, readily available in the vicinity of the Open Air Fire, all necessary Equipment and Resources to control fire spread;
 - (ii) within fifty (50) metres of any building, structure or other combustible material in a Rural Area for an Open Air Fire other than a Recreational Fire;
 - (iii) within four (4) metres of a residential overhead wire or seven (7) metres of a powerline;
 - (iv) in a barrel, such as, but not limited to, a steel drum;
 - (v) so as to decrease the visibility on a highway;
 - (vi) so as to create an odour or smoke that would be likely to disturb the inhabitants of the Township;
 - (vii) when wind speeds in the vicinity of the Open Air Fire are higher than 15 km/hr;
 - (viii) when rainy or foggy weather are present; or,

- (ix) when a smog alert or advisory has been declared by the federal or provincial government for an area incorporating the Township.
- (b) No Person shall leave an Open Air Fire unattended or unsupervised at any time.
- (c) The Permit Holder shall attend at, and supervise, at all times, the Open Air Fire for which they received a Permit.
- (d) The Permit Holder shall ensure that an Open Air Fire is completely extinguished prior to leaving the location at which the Open Air Fire occurred.
- (e) No Person shall burn any Prohibited Materials in an Open Air Fire.
- (f) No Person shall lose control of an Open Air Fire so that it poses a danger to the health, safety or well-being of persons or property within the Township.

Additional Permit Conditions

- 6.2 The Fire Chief, in addition to the conditions outlined in section 6.1 of this by-law, may impose any additional conditions to a Permit that the Fire Chief deems reasonably necessary to protect the health, safety and well-being of persons and property within the Township.

Recreational Fire Permit Conditions

- 6.3 All Permits for Recreational Fires, in addition to those conditions imposed by sections 6.1 and 6.2 of this by-law, shall be subject to the following conditions:
- (a) No Person shall set or maintain a Recreational Fire, or permit a Recreational Fire to be set or maintained:
 - (i) larger than one (1) metre in diameter, unless expressly authorized otherwise by the Fire Chief in the Permit;
 - (ii) outside of the hours of 5:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m., unless expressly authorized otherwise by the Fire Chief in the Permit;
 - (iii) if the width of the lot at the point at which the Recreational Fire is to be held is fifteen (15) metres wide or more, within seven (7) metres of any building, structure or other combustible material, unless expressly authorized otherwise by the Fire Chief in the Permit; or,
 - (iv) if the width of the lot at the point at which the Recreational Fire is to be held is less than fifteen (15) metres, within four (4) metres from any building, structure or other combustible material, unless expressly authorized otherwise by the Fire Chief in the Permit.

Order to Extinguish

- 6.4 If, for any reason, the Fire Chief requests that an Open Air Fire be extinguished, the Permit Holder shall immediately extinguish the Open Air Fire.

7. FIRE BANS

- 7.1 Notwithstanding any of the provisions of this by-law, the Fire Chief may institute a Fire Ban, upon a notification being published on the Township's website, if it is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of all persons within the Township, as determined by the Fire Chief.
- 7.2 No Permits may be issued during a Fire Ban and any Permits that have been issued shall be immediately suspended during a Fire Ban.
- 7.3 In addition to publishing a notification of the Fire Ban on the Township's website, pursuant to section 7.1 of this by-law, the Fire Chief shall immediately notify, in writing, any Permit Holder affected by the Fire Ban. The Fire Chief may also provide written notification of any Fire Ban to anyone else, including any local media or social media as deemed necessary by the Fire Chief, in order to notify the citizens of the Township of the Fire Ban.

8. EXCEPTIONS

- 8.1 Notwithstanding any other provision of this by-law, a Permit shall not be required for an Open Air Fire that is set or maintained, or permitted to be set or maintained:
- (a) by the Township or by the Region;
 - (b) within a Campground;
 - (c) at a site where a Strike is occurring;
 - (d) for any traditional, cultural, ceremonial or religious purpose;
 - (e) in a Barbeque; or,
 - (f) for a device intended for heating, power, construction, manufacturing, or maintenance activities that is designed and certified for such purpose.

9. INSPECTIONS**Any Reasonable Time**

- 9.1 The Fire Chief or a Municipal Law Enforcement Officer may enter upon land and into structures at any reasonable time to inspect the land and structures to determine whether this by-law is being complied with.

No Hindrance or Obstruction

- 9.2 No person shall hinder or obstruct, or attempt to hinder or obstruct, any person who is exercising a power or performing a duty under this by-law.

Powers During Inspection

- 9.3 For the purposes of an inspection, the Fire Chief or Municipal Law Enforcement Officer may:
- (a) require the production for inspection of documents or things relevant to the inspection, such as the Permit;
 - (b) inspect and remove documents or things relevant to the inspection for the purpose of making copies or extracts;
 - (c) require information from any person concerning a matter related to the inspection; and,
 - (d) alone, or in conjunction with a person possessing special or expert knowledge, make examinations or take tests, samples or photographs necessary for the purposes of the inspection.
- 9.4 A sample taken under section 9.3(d) of this by-law shall be divided into two parts, and one part shall be delivered to the person from whom the sample is taken, if:
- (a) the person requests that the sample be divided at the time it is taken and provides the necessary facilities; and
 - (b) it is technically feasible to divide the sample.
- 9.5 If a sample is taken under section 9.3(d) of this by-law and the sample has not been divided into two parts, a copy of any report on the sample shall be given to the person from whom the sample was taken.
- 9.6 A receipt shall be provided for any document or thing removed under section 9.3(b) of this by-law and the document or thing shall be promptly returned after copies or extracts are made.
- 9.7 Copies of or extracts from documents and things removed under section 9.3(b) of this by-law and certified as being true copies of or extracts from the originals by the person who made them are admissible in evidence to the same extent as, and have the same evidentiary value as, the originals.

10. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

- 10.1 The Fire Chief shall be responsible for the administration of this by-law.

- 10.2 The Fire Chief or a Municipal Law Enforcement Officer are authorized to enforce this by-law.

11. FEES AND CHARGES

- 11.1 Council may impose fees and charges to recover its costs in relation to the administration and enforcement of this by-law.

12. REMEDIAL ACTION

- 12.1 If a Person fails to do a matter or thing, as directed or required by this by-law, the Township may, in default of it being done by the Person directed or required to do it, do the matter or thing at the Person's expense. The Township may recover the costs of doing a matter or thing from the Person directed or required to do it by action or by adding the costs to the tax roll and collecting them in the same manner as property taxes.
- 12.2 For the purpose of section 12.1 of this by-law, the Township may enter on land at any reasonable time.
- 12.3 The costs outlined in section 12.1 of this by-law shall include interest at a rate of 15 per cent per annum, calculated for the period commencing on the day the Township incurs the costs and ending on the day the costs, including the interest, are paid in full.
- 12.4 The amount of the costs, including interest, constitutes a lien on the land upon the registration in the proper land registry office of a notice of lien. The lien is in respect of all costs that are payable at the time the notice is registered plus interest accrued to the date the payment is made. Upon receiving payment of all costs payable plus interest accrued to the date of payment, the City shall register a discharge of the lien in the proper land registry office.

13. OFFENCES

- 13.1 Any Person who contravenes any of the provisions of this by-law is guilty of an offence and, upon conviction, is liable to a fine as provided for in the *Provincial Offences Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.33, as amended.

14. SEVERABILITY

- 14.1 If a Court of competent jurisdiction should declare any section or part of a section of this by-law to be invalid, such section or part of a section shall not be construed as having persuaded or influenced Council to pass the remainder of this by-law and it is hereby declared that the remainder of this by-law shall be valid and shall remain in full force and effect.

15. REPEAL

- 15.1 By-law 2004-42 is hereby repealed as well as all by-laws amending same.

15.2 Any permits that were issued under By-law 2004-42 are hereby revoked and of no force or effect.

15.3 Any existing investigation, legal proceeding or remedy under By-law 2004-42 shall be continued as if By-law 2004-42 had not been repealed.

16. COMING INTO FORCE

15.1 This by-law shall come into force and effect on January 1, 2022.

READ a first and second time this 13 day of September 2021.

READ a third time and finally passed this 13 day of September 2021.

Mayor

Clerk



Open Air Burn Bylaw Specific to Recreational/Backyard Fires

The Township of Wilmot is revising the current Open Air Burning Bylaw. The Wilmot Fire Department is engaging in a public consultation survey to collect information relative to recreational/backyard fires in the community. Please complete the survey and share your thoughts.

1. Do you own or rent property in the Township of Wilmot?

- ☐ I am the registered owner of property **1206**
- ☐ I am a tenant and rent property **99**

2. Select the type of property you occupy?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Detached House 1078 | <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-detached House 102 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Row or Townhouse 14 | <input type="checkbox"/> Apartment 17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Duplex 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Triplex 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Residential/Commercial Mix (e.g., apartment above a store) 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Land (with dwelling) 71 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Home 0 | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant Land (non-agricultural) 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational 0 | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Land (without dwelling) 1 |

3. Which best describes your interests in the Open Air Burning Regulation Bylaw? (Select all that apply?)

- ☐ Property owner/occupant who enjoys “recreational” fires. **1196**
- ☐ Property owner/occupant who wishes to have “yard waste” disposal fires. **257**
- ☐ Property owner/occupant who has “open air” located on agricultural property for the purposes of farming operations. **49**
- ☐ Municipal staff (any division, public works, parks, rec, police, fire, bylaw) **19**
- ☐ Member of the public impacted by smoke from open air burning. **50**
- ☐ Property owner/occupant who does NOT have “yard waste” or “open air” fires. **121**

4. Are you in favour of recreation fires in Wilmot Township?

☐ Yes, I agree **1250**

☐ No, I disagree. **55**

5. Do you have any concerns regarding recreation fires?

☐ I have no concerns. **1136**

☐ I am concerned about fire safety **145**

☐ I am concerned with air quality **87**

☐ I have concerns about health and wellness. **54**

Please provide comment(s) regarding the selected concern?

Comments provided in attachment

6. The updated bylaw will include a time frame that will permit recreational fires from 5 pm until midnight. Do you agree this is fair?

☐ Yes, I agree **636**

☐ No, I disagree **591**

☐ No opinion **78**

If you disagree, please explain.

Comments provided in attachment

7. Lot sizes that are no less than 10m in width and length and maintain a minimum distance of 4m from combustibles is proposed in the new bylaw provided fires are contained in a manufactured device with a spark arrest lid. Do you agree this is a fair compromise?

☐ Yes, I agree **645**

☐ No, I disagree **378**

☐ No opinion **282**

If you do not agree, please explain.

Comments provided in attachment

8. Do you have any additional comments to add?

Comments provided in attachment

Burn Bylaw Survey Comments from Question 5

5. Do you have any concerns regarding recreation fires?

- ☐ I have no concerns. **1121**
- ☐ I am concerned about fire safety **140**
- ☐ I am concerned with air quality **84**
- ☐ I have concerns about health and wellness. **52**

Please provide comment(s) regarding the selected concern?

- "Clean, dry wood to be used for rec. fires only- no burning of construction waste like pressure treated wood
- I do understand this is difficult to enforce..."
- If people follow guidelines, ie monitored, hose or extinguisher closeby, not too close to buildings, not when area is too dry, then I have no concerns.
- I have concerns with fires during dry periods.
- I would hope there is a little education/communication on the safest way to have a fire and to put it out to make sure that information is available to everyone.
- "I have seen several residents in Baden already having recreational fires without following current by-laws or likely without a permit. There's fires occur out in the open, close to many other items and it appears alcohol and marijuana use is also involved during the fire. I worry that these users would not be in a position to ensure fires are properly extinguished and could lead to fire safety issues in the neighbourhood.
- I think that if people were following the rules and had proper permits I would be ok with these adjustments and possibly even be interested myself."
- Dont like the smoke coming into our house when we have the windows open. Bad for my kids to breath in. Makes everything smell. Also have neighbours who leave them burning over night when they go to bed
- I currently have neighbours that have recreational fires late, late into the night. My family is often woken up by drunken backyard fire parties. Not to mention the smoke coming in my windows. I do not believe backyard fires belong in subdivisions at all.
- Blowing smoke outside and the inside homes Affects those with breathing problems and leave a residue of burn wood smell on any fabric material
- Our neighbours burn too close to the house....the houses are close together ao the smoke pours in our windows when we want fresh air (and we live on a larger lot in Baden)...and they have them at daytime hours when your are trying to enjoy dinner on our deck, also into bedtime hours which means we cant sleep with our windows open for fresh air.
- There used to be a set distance limit that required firepits to be a certain distance from structures and property lines. Unsure how residences in settlement areas are getting permits due to the small lot sizes and close proximity of homes to each other. Maintain the standards and dont issue permits unless meets standards. And if there are issues then conduct enforcement.

- I have a neighbour who was having fires in their backyard, and it was awful. They were always leaving the fire unattended, we couldn't have our windows open because of their noise, and the smell if the fire. They never put the fire out properly, and would leave it burning until 2 and 3 o'clock in the morning.
- Large fires using softer woods that cause more sparks. Emphasis should be placed on using hard woods that burn a little safer in smaller backyards
- Hoping people will be responsible and not leave fire unattended
- "As it is now, we already cannot open our windows on nice evenings without smoke coming into our house. Almost every night we want to have fresh air in the house to cool off from the heat of the day without using air conditioning wood smoke enters our house. We've gone on walks in the evening in our neighborhood and come home with our clothes smelling of wood smoke.
- The enjoyment of clean air of the many should outweigh the enjoyment of a fire by the few (e.g. one family's fire causes smoke to be spread over several properties, i.e. needs (clean air) versus wants (recreational fire) - smoke does not respect property lines).
- The current property widths in my area (Baden, north of the castle) don't appear in general to allow for backyard fires under the current bylaw, yet many people do have them already. I get that some enjoy a nice fire on a summer evening, but should that enjoyment be considered more important than all the surrounding houses not having clean air and the option to open their house windows? People at times can be irresponsible (e.g. backyard party with alcohol) and accidents happen, so I do have concerns about fire safety, especially with all the wooden fences in my neighborhood and property frontages that do not allow for a safe distance in backyards from these wooden structures.
- As our Township urban areas continue to grow, I can see the issue growing. We should consider following the City of Waterloo's lead with their recent banning backyard recreational fires."
- People need to *safely* enjoy backyard campfires ie no accelerants to be used, and not directly beside or on top of a wood deck/structure. Township could provide social media marketing campaign illustrating/communicating this.
- The sparks from the neighbours fire have in the past damaged my laundry i had hanging out before they started the fire. and we have asthma in the family and smoke can make it hard to breath.
- "We have lost young cedar trees on the perimeter of our property due to neighbours having a large, hot fire.
- We have had smoke in our house through an open window due to another neighbour burning green corn husks.
- Another neighbour was burning brush and my husband happened to be on a ladder trimming a tree. The smoke caused him to choke and could have caused a fall."
- People not being smart about their fires
- Citizens should be informed by the Township about fire safety for open-air burns (distance from structures, acceptable burn materials, water supply, etc.) Perhaps a combination of media (social media, hard-copy inserts in tax bills, newspaper ads) would be most effective.
- Ensuring those having fires have proper access to douse any stay flames.
- Just making sure the fire is always out, we use propane not a wood burning fire.
- "Open air burning of yard waste should be done with the consideration of the impact of smoke on neighbours. I would be interested in a by-law amendment that allows open air burning of yard waste but perhaps have residents adhere to a schedule of sorts. Something similar to how the the region's watering schedule runs. Allow open air burns of yard waste but only on a

designated day of the week, determined by street address? I live near someone who burns all day long some days. They also allow others to bring yard waste from other properties to burn in their back yard.

- With regard to strictly recreational fires, implementing a timeframe seems reasonable."
- I don't think open air fires should be permitted as they flare up health issues for many and I am worried about fire safety as I have seen some close calls. I also think setting off fireworks in town is very dangerous too. I live off of Country Creek and Village Green Way in Baden. There are always trailers permanently parked on the street. Isn't that another bylaw that should be enforced?
- Nearly every family in the neighbourhood are having fires without holding a fire permit and which definitely do not comply with fire permit requirements. Some using gasoline to throw on lit fires. Some burning household garbage, rubber goods and plastics. Where is the bylaw enforcement in Wilmot?
- My wife suffers from COPD and asthma.
- My wife has breathing problems and the smoke bothers her,
- This statement is not from me having a fire, but for other people in the neighbourhood that are not responsible. (ie. letting a fire smoulder all day causing lots of smoke and nauseous fumes)
- "Some residents don't seem concerned with how close their fires are to flammable things, such as trees and fences.
- Some of the homes have very small yards and when people burn the smoke carries to yards that belong to people with breathing issues, therefore they can't enjoy being outside.
- Some people have fires constantly going, which hinders their neighbours ability to enjoy being outside."
- have breathing difficulties (asthma) and smoke is one of the irritants
- "Effects people with asthma and other respiratory problems
- Can't have the windows open in the evenings.
- Yard waste does not have to be burned it's picked up by the regions waste contractor bi weekly."
- I would want to make sure people are having recreational fires safely and know the best practices for doing so.
- Would like a means of enforcement when township office is closed
- "I believe that 95% of backyard fires are safe and take in to consideration of their neighbours, but in that 5% of backyard fires these considerations are not always in place.
- There for rules/bylaws are needed for
- size of fire
- Location of fire (not right beside your fence or on your wood deck)
- Materials being burned (garbage)
- Time of day
- If these rules are being followed then yes by all means enjoy"
- I think a hose or water source should be near at hand for all backyard fires. They should also be supervised at all times. common sense.
- campfires are a source of air pollution. Burning wood pollutes the air by releasing large compounds of nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, particulate matter, and other potentially toxic volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Carbon dioxide, in particular, is the number one greenhouse gas, playing a central role in global climate change.
- "Unfortunately far too many people are careless when it comes to fires, allowing them to get too big, too close to other flammable materials and here on Laschinger Blvd.in New Hamburg too close to the bush/walking trail. Setting a specific setback distance does little when people either

don't follow it or don't take into account the wind. Far too many times we have seen sparks/embers heading right for the bush.

- The issues regarding air quality and health issues are already proven and well documented and to ignore these would be irresponsible and foolish."
- It's rude and disgusting when a neighbour lights up a fire and you have windows open. If you want a fire, get a bigger property or go camping! I am 100% behind banning fires. I hate it.
- There are rules that need to be followed such as distance from buildings, water nearby and fire pit provisions/construction.
- People could potentially burn things they do not suppose to
- I'm concerned that fires could be lit in dangerous situations or locations.
- I do believe people need to be conscious of what they burn, when they burn and being present when things are burning. We have a large property and are surrounded by farm field - we still have our fire pit at the back of the property furthest away from the house. For those living in residential area with neighbours close I do think pits need to be inspected and okayed so everyone is safe.
- It is easy for sparks from open fires to travel to a neighbor's roof.
- Tire rim pits without spark arrest are a concern
- We have a neighbour who backs onto the side of our property and they have fires very, very frequently all times of the day. Even though we are in town, they burn yard waste and other items. I once witnessed a small set of painted stairs go on the fire. Often the wood burned is far wider than the steel ring and many times burning wood has fallen on the ground. Sitting on our deck means inhaling smoke a lot of the time. The owner has even posted pictures of their fires on Facebook...they're proud of how much wood they can stack on. We plan on moving next year and that's the only thing I won't miss about our location.
- We need more education for those who are not familiar with recreational fires!
- I believe some members of the community (such as my neighbours) have their fire pit too close to the fence line. Would be nice to see bylaw for random visits to check, ensure and enforce the regulations for having a fire in one's back yard.
- "I am concerned about unintentional field or bush fires caused by inexperienced people having fires.
- I am also concerned about people who do not have sufficient space (land) having fires and not being concerned where the smoke from that fire is travelling and the bother it could be causing to people with breathing issues."
- Some backyard fires have more smoke than flame as wet wood and other materials are being burned. Makes it unbearable for others to be outside
- Recreational fires are fine, but we have neighbours who burn construction materials and whatever they have sitting around. Usually they will keep the fire going all day and keep adding to it, but are not using it as a campfire to sit around. I have spoken to them to ask that they consider their neighbours having to breathe in these fumes and deal with excessive smoke. I hesitate to report them in an effort to be a good neighbour. Does enforcement only happen after a complaint? Maybe random checks could also be done?
- Always a concern
- "My son and my wife both have had breathing issues (asthma), which can be exacerbated by smoke.
- Heavy smoke can also be unpleasant and obnoxious."
- "1. I have concerns about fire safety. I have witnessed situations where a contained site fire, with a valid permit from the Township got out of hand at a party where alcohol was being consumed. It would be foolish of anyone to think that there would be no alcohol involved around a large number of these recreational fires."

- 2. We are currently as a society staring global warming in the face as being our biggest challenge. We need to do everything possible to cut down on greenhouse gases, and I believe that includes wood smoke.
- 3. I am an Asma sufferer and find that some evenings I can't sit on my deck, or have a window open to get fresh air into my house, because of smoke from someone's backyard fire. I would note that these are from a block or two away, as my immediate neighbours do not have fire pits."
- The yards on my street are too small to safely have the types of 'yard' fires i have seen here. Too much irresponsibility. Fires too close to fences, sheds and wood structures.
- Making sure fires are tended to and managed safely and under wraps by a certain time ie: midnight
- I agree that we should be able to have recreational fires and be able to burn yard waste as in small branches and dry leaves, soaking wet leaves create too much smoke and can have a negative effect on the neighbors and environment. My concern about fire safety is that all persons having fires should have access to water to put out said fire when turning in for the night. Also the common sense to keep children, animals and horseplay away from a fire.
- I am concerned about people not practicing safe fire behaviours like preventing spread, proper containment, excessive accelerant use, proper extinguishing of fire etcetera.
- I am concerned about people burning garbage, wood products, and other inappropriate materials that can lead to containment issues and air quality issues.
- Sometimes I can smell them through the next day and the smouldering fire stinks
- Just concerned about people burning wet wood and leaves.(yard waste or garbage)
- Don't get rid of this .
- We are very careful with our backyard fires and want to see that same care throughout the township.
- I don't believe everyone seeks permits and don't believe people plan for what could go wrong. All of our backyard fences are connected. If a fire did get out of control, the damage would go further than their own property. I don't like other people taking risks on my behalf.
- My husband has asthma and when neighbors have a fire we have to close our windows. It is bothersome and unfair especially when we also want to enjoy the fresh air.
- People should not leave fire and have a water hose (turned on of course) at the fire just in case.
- As with anything involving fire, education and safety should be a concern.
- Need to ensure that there are clear rules about fire pit location, smoke issues, etc. Need to actually have bylaw officers on duty during times when people have fires to be able to enforce issues - i.e. weekends, evenings, etc.
- Yard size and neighbour proximity could be considered.
- Fires spreading into dry fields is a concern.
- Everyone should be concerned about fire safety. I am not concerned about current backyard fires in New Dundee.
- Small yards that cannot achieve the present standards to have a burn permit are illegally having fires.
- Small yards that don't meet the present standards to obtain a permit. It's unfortunate that not all residents have yards that meet standards. But those that do should be able to continue.
- Neighbours fire is 4ft away from my fence. Worried about embers etc. Floating over fence and having my shed, trees even dry grass etc catch fire.
- "We are supposed to be reducing carbon emissions because of global warming.

- https://www.researchgate.net/publication/351458766_Impacts_of_Wood_Burning_on_Air_Quality."
- Just want to be sure people aren't dumb, and have enough space to safely burn.
- I am concerned that people might burn treated lumber.
- Property's are in close proximity.
- My concern is around daytime fires that cause me to take in my laundry from the clothesline.
- It's important to educate the public on how to have safe backyard fires. The bylaw should be updated to allow fires but permits should come with backyard fire safety information.
- I think residents need to be responsible when having a recreational fire. Fire pits should be contained in non combustible barrier and kept to a safe, manageable size.
- Concern with lack of attention when burning (unattended burn pits), what people burn (garbage, plastic, yard waste) and timing of fires (humid days; poor air quality days).
- Ok with backyard fires in general. However some residents ruin it for the rest of us. Letting your fire smoulder away all weekend unattended. Burning during high humidex. Burning yard waste. Calling bylaw is not really an option most of the time and calling Fire dept doesn't seem like a good use of that resource.
- There should be guidelines and rules about what cannot be burned that could affect our safety and health in the air we breathe from the burning of materials in backyards to prevent the burning of hazardous waste and chemicals.
- There need to be rules to keep it safe.
- "The yards in our area are very small and there are lots of trees. The homes are close together.
- The homes are getting older and more likely to burn if sparks fly."
- Fires must be a safe distance from buildings, etc., be monitored, and not be blowing smoke at a neighbour's property.
- Some neighbours have fire pits that are very close to structures. I feel that all existing fire permit holders should have to re apply for their permit and all new permits should be inspected.
- In extremely dry conditions I would expect a fire ban to be put in place.
- "-We have had those around us burning treated wood and other materials that are unsafe. Not safe. For anyone in the area or the environment!
- -Yards burning do not meet by-law space requirements.. too close to trees, sheds, homes, fences etc..
- -Smoke from these fires means we have to close our windows on nice evenings when it would be preferable to enjoy some fresh cool air.
- The smoke aggravates our daughters asthma.
- -I am absolutely against the burning of yard waste for environmental reasons... we have great yard waste pick up available so no need for this at all."
- Irresponsible people having fires and getting careless
- Our observation has been that when new people move in they have moved their fire pit. In some cases closer to their home and to the property line without apparent township approval. Some will burn their yard waste without using a safe containment/ deep pit/ barrel and it gets quite large.
- I would like there to be stipulations that there must be a proper firepit used, distance between firepit and structures as well as propane or oil tanks, a water source must be available, size of the fire should be kept minimal (i.e. no bonfires) and only fenced yards may have firepits (same as a pool.)
- Concern regarding fires being left unattended & close to wooden structures & trees.
- I have concerns if people are burning things other than wood, such as plastic.

- "For fire safety I'm concerned about people having fires either when the grounds and surrounding bushes/trees are very dry, they don't always pay attention to a fire ban notice in those conditions. We could be looking at entire neighborhoods going up depending on the tree lines and so forth if just one person is not being careful.
- For air quality, when people use clean wood and no other additives it's not that big a problem - but some people put wet wood or other materials which product a LOT of smoke, and neighboring houses are required to close their windows (not fair when the weather is nice!) or put up with the smell of smoke in their beddings / furniture / etc when they go to sleep."
- I don't mind camp fires at campground, but not in these small back yards. We often have to close our windows and go inside because we are smoked out from neighbours campfires. It causes allergic reaction, asthma and our house to be filled with smoke smell. We can not enjoy our own back yard .it could be a safety issue when some fires are quite large
- Does nobody listen to the news? Forests have been on fire right now and the air quality is bad, impacting our health and wellness. Why would we want to encourage people to destroy nature and forests? I am also concerned about kids and teens taking advantage of this bylaw and risking their and others' safety and property.
- I have breathing problems which are irritated by smoke. I don't feel that open fires are safe in backyards of houses in subdivisions.
- Smoke gives me WICKED HEADACHES (let alone those with COPD and asthma who cannot breathe), and I worry about mould exposure from my home since I rarely can have windows open since a neighbour often has an indoor woodstove burning (outside fires would force us to never enjoy the fresh air, inside or out).
- I would like to enjoy my backyard and occasionally have a recreational fire. However, in my neighborhood there are others that insist on burning yard waste which negatively impacts me from a health perspective. If recreational firepits are continued there needs to be more aggressive by-law enforcement for those that continue to burn yard waste!
- Last year one of my neighbours had to quarantine for 2 weeks while they had to put up with smoke blowing to their property from another neighbor who was burning almost every day of the quarantine period There are a lot of people who show now respect for others when they create large smoky fires
- Not all people who have recreational fires have any consideration for their neighbors. Quite often these people burn material that spews smoke/ash that causes throat burning. This can not possibly be healthy for people nearby. In the past, I have experienced a neighbor that would have unattended fires almost all night, with flames flaring to nearly 4 feet. This concerned me when it was during a water restriction (dry) period.
- "With rapidly deteriorating climate I think that adding more pollutants to the atmosphere to be irresponsible.
- Every little bit hurts."
- Property should be big enough and the smoke from the fire should impact neighbours.
- We have neighbors that have a fire and leave it smouldering all night.
- "As the parent of a child with breathing problems, it is disheartening that my neighbours in town can have open air fires and pollute the neighbourhood air. It is common for us to have to close all windows and to stay inside to avoid the campfire smoke. We certainly cannot enjoy our own backyard at those times.
- With the existing air pollution, it doesn't make sense that our community would contribute further to that with campfire or open burn smoke."
- "A family member has asthma. Most days (at least 4-6 days a week) we are unable to open our windows, or sit outside due to smoke from multiple neighbours fires.

- With a time bylaw, at least during the day we could enjoy sitting outside or opening windows to fresh air."
- We have 2 large willows that shed branches every time we have wind. So we like to be able to clean them up and burn them when able. We don't have any concerns other than people starting fire with fuel. I would not intentionally inconvenience anyone with having a fire with too much smoke or blowing in there yard.
- I enjoy a backyard fire in the evening, small maintained fire. In times when there has been a shortage of rain for a length of time I am ok with a temporary fire ban.
- I wouldn't want there to be a concern of smoke entering neighbouring buildings. I think residents should have to follow whatever setback requirements there would be.
- Water has to be close by the fire, no overhanging trees or roots nearby, care of children and pets by a fire or other people's health who are at the fire (drunk or physically/mentally disabled), not leaving the fire unattended, combustibles nearby, and height of your neighbours' bonfire when trees are too close.
- "Mostly due to people who burn garbage or pressure treated wood.
- Normal, respectful fires I'm good with."
- There should be signs explaining that gasoline is not a safe accelerant and how to safely make a fire pit and how to start one.
- If being responsible fire safety is a must
- As long as people are responsible and follow safety guidelines as well as attending to any fire it would not be a problem. Issue is close dwellings with backyards packed or cluttered. It would be important to have a distant fire pit or stand away from the house or other garden items. Also following fire advisories, if it is too dry no fires allowed
- "- Neighbours continue to use an enclosed fire pit far too close to fence along property line.
 - Smoke often fills the yard and we have to close windows because of it
 - I am not against backyard fires, but they should be properly sited"
- "home owners frequently burn yard waste including pressure treated wood
- home owners frequently burn on days when the product being burned is wet and does nothing but smoke"
- Recreational fires only when burning dry wood and minimizing any impact of smoke affecting neighbors. Only when winds are not sending smoke onto a neighboring property.
- Education from a reliable resource, with all three concerns, is required and helpful before engaging in a recreational fire.
- I know of some residents that get their fire to a bed of coals and then just go in the house. Smoulders for hours.
- Recreational fires would be fine. It seems that many people that have a fire pit burn other sorts of trash like yard waste and pieces of their decking which is happening right now as I write this. They moved in just over a month ago and this is the third time to burn trash. I suspect this fire pit has never had a permit. New owner likes to burn. I cannot even sit outside because of the stench. We frankly pay a lot of tax for our half acre lot to not be able to enjoy clean air. If people could simply have recreational fires it would be fine but when they have to sit a long way from the fire then why do they burn this crap.
- Residents need to apply common sense to minimize impact on neighbours and to maintain safety. Burn location, wind & weather, only dry seasoned firewood, no garbage, etc
- "I believe the results should be made public. No decision should be made above the public survey."

Burn Bylaw Survey Comments from Question 6

6. The updated bylaw will include a time frame that will permit recreational fires from 5 pm until midnight. Do you agree this is fair?

☐ Yes, I agree **625**

☐ No, I disagree **583**

☐ No opinion **77**

If you disagree, please explain.

- 11 pm would be a better end time, ensuring fires will be done by Midnight, this will allow some burn down time for fire, noise of attendees / guests leaving the fire / residence
- What is the purpose of limiting between 5 and midnight? Specifically, why 5, why not 4 or 3? Seem very arbitrary. Not looking to be difficult - I guess I just don't understand the reasoning. I live in a residential area and my neighbor has open air fires during the day and they do not disturb our family. They are always kept small with very little smoke.
- Parents with small children would like to start a fire earlier due to bed time. Why is there a time limit on a fire? This is ridiculous. Bars are allowed to close at 2am but i cannot have a fire past midnight? Come on. Really?
- If someone is planning on barbequing a supper (evening meal), I think starting a fire at 4 or 4:30 pm might be better. The fire takes a while to get to the barbequing state. I do understand your limits though.
- 5pm until 2am would be a better window of time.
- I will be burning brush on my large rural property at a time weather & convenience permitting
- If recreational fires are acceptable I don't understand why the 'when' would be restricted as it relates to time of day
- Should be no times , as this should be a judgement call
- Its nice to have a small fire while outside working around the yard during the day.
- Owners of large properties should be able to burn yard waste during the day as long as it does not impact neighbors
- Dont underatand why time frame is needed
- I don't think they should be allowed at all, smoke comes in my windows and the noise keeps me awake.
- On colder days doing yard work or just enjoying the outdoors it is nice to have a fire going for warmth.
- I do not believe that bonfires are necessary in an urban setting
- You should be able to have a fire when ever you want if yiur the home owner
- my property. I will have it when I want it.
- Day firers in fall and winter are enjoyable
- I think fires should be permitted at any hour of the day. Our family is home i the summers and in weekends. We would like the freedom to roast marshmallows mid day.
- I think 6 to 10:30 would be a better time optin.

- I believe fires should be allowed at any time of day. I don't have any issues with fires happening throughout the day for myself or my neighbours. It feels a bit extreme to be limiting fires to certain times of day
- I don't think 5pm start is necessary, perhaps permitted between 9am and midnight. Winter is great for day time recreational fires.
- Why only starting at 5pm... sometimes it's fun to have a fire in the morning or afternoon before 5pm
- I should be able to have them when I want.
- I have young kids, and especially in winter, we'll have a bonfire in the afternoon to warm up from playing all day. I do not wish to be restricted on when I can have a fire.
- Limiting start time to be 5pm would make it more difficult to enjoy cooking larger meals over the fire that require longer cooking times and need to be started earlier. Allowing for kids to eat and still have time to enjoy the fire before bed.
- I don't think placing a specific time on fires is necessary. If you have a property to support a fire why the need for fire curfew?
- Don't want fires. People won't adhere to the time frame. Bylaw officer won't be around at 2 AM on a weekend to tell the neighbour to put it out. We have a neighbour that parties to 3 AM on the weekends and make a lot of noise.
- Recreational fires often coincide with noise...fires should end at 11 to compliment noise bilaws. 5pm is also too early. We often can't sit outside to eat dinner due to neighbours who have fires that fill our yard with smoke.
- Responsible homeowner should not have a time frame. It is not a trailer park and of course should never be left unattended. Homes should continue with the permit, that was originally inspected to ensure safety of the location.
- I live in the country with few neighbours. We are all respectful of one another and have never had an issue of anyone having a late fire AND being loud or disrespectful. Time limits should relate to settlement areas only
- "We enjoy cooking over the fire. Breakfast, lunch and dinner.
- With covid camping hasn't been an option. This gives us the feel of camping when that hasn't been an option."
- It's disruptive to people who have children or other people living in the house that have to wake up early (shift workers, etc.) if people are out in their backyards being loud. It shouldn't be allowed passed the regular noise bylaws hours.
- I don't think a time restriction should be put in place, as long as people are being respectful of their neighbors
- We enjoy cooking over the fire, full meals, popcorn, smores, etc. having a starting time of 5pm will limit this ability as you have to start and get a fire hot enough before cooking.
- You might be out past 1.
- I don't think the time should be cut off at midnight as long as noise bylaws are not being broken.
- There should either be no time limit or it needs to be longer. 12pm to 2am. I should be allowed to cook lunch over a fire if I want to.
- It might be better to expand this on the weekends. Later, but also earlier to allow for coming hotdogs over the fire with a family for example.
- Fire safety, air quality, health & wellness and any other given concerns that may arise by some (that I can see) do not suddenly become more of an issue Or concern after 12:00am. Residents may sit with friends and socialize on their patio/deck well past that time pending they're being respectful of neighbours and the noise volume. Why not by a recreational camp fire as well?
- What does the time matter?

- We enjoy fires with our young children to roast hotdogs and marshmallows. 5 pm is a bit late for young children
- The enjoyment of clean air of the many should outweigh the enjoyment of a fire by the few (e.g. one family's fire causes smoke to be spread over several properties, i.e. needs (clean air) versus wants (recreational fire) - smoke does not respect property lines). Some families like to open their windows in the evening to enjoy the cool fresh air. People with sensitivity to smoke or asthma may enjoy being outside after 5 pm as well.
- If there is a safe contained fire pit with water close by to extinguish, there shouldn't be an issue with having a fire at any time of day
- 4 pm is more reasonable for families with younger children, especially if using the fire to cook. Why does the time matter?
- If we have a daytime bbq with family, we like to have fires and roast marshmallows. We rotate through who hosts and it would be a real damper for our kids to not be able to enjoy this tradition. It may also be cold some days and would suck to be prohibited from doing this.
- I don't think there should be a time restriction.
- "I disagree.
- I enjoy lunch time fires with my children, especially during winter when it gets dark early."
- As a family we enjoy cooking over our campfire. But having young children we often start our supper over the fire earlier than 5 pm in order to have supper and clean up before their bedtime. Please consider families when you make this decision.
- I think 11 pm is better for time so they wind down and move inside and cut out the loud music I can hear in my bedroom thru closed windows!(new windows even)
- No property in New Hamburg is big enough or space enough between neighbours to allow fires. Especially smoky ones.
- 11 would be better
- I agree with midnight but sometimes but we have had an afternoon fire. Perhaps noon to midnight would be my suggestion
- I agree on an end time. But why does it need to be 5pm start time?
- I don't feel there is a need for a time frame.
- I think any time of the day is acceptable for a fire.
- Recreational fires should be able to occur during daytime or evenings hours. Winter time is a good example of gathering outdoors during the day and having a recreational fire.
- If you are having a quiet fire with family and friends on your own property it should not matter what time it is.
- Not sure why time frames need to be there. We are supposedly a free people and if we wish to have a fire before 5pm for whatever reason, if done safely and in accordance with the bylaw why should we have this limitation? I believe as well with the time limit for midnight. If the fire goes beyond midnight and we are not violating any noise violations or any other disturbances why such limitations on our freedoms and rights to enjoy a backyard fire in a respectful way?
- I feel it's a waste of time and resources to put time restrictions! Let's not waste tax payers money and allow residents to have a fire whenever they want!!
- Should be able to burn anytime.
- No time restrictions necessary
- Young children would like to enjoy rec fires during the day as well as we like to cook on the fire during the day with the kids. It's ok to get time frame but maybe start a little earlier - 3 pm
- Sometimes we like to do an afternoon fire especially if it's cool.
- Some people work until 11pm. They will get home, relax and have a fire. I would move the time to 2am. Or even 1am

- What if I want to have a morning fire?
- Some people prefer daytime fires. Midnight is too late.
- Recreational fires are an important part of rural/small town social interaction that could as easily happen on a Sunday afternoon with Seniors as at 1 am with some teens who are socializing at a properly licensed fire pit. (Having raised a teen, I was always happy to see their friends around a campfire and staying out of trouble) Time restrictions would discriminate by age at both ends of the spectrum.
- I cook over my fire pit at times during the day/evening
- If you are quiet after 11. Who cares
- Fires should be permitted earlier in the day, especially in the colder months.
- If you are a responsible person you should be able to enjoy a fire with your family and friends past midnight
- We may have a fire in the middle of the day in the winter or any other time of year for that matter. A time frame on when you can have them is counterproductive and obviously won't fit everyone's time table. Let people enjoy their property on their own time and stop trying to regulate recreation.
- Earlier start, 4pm. Allows for open fire cooking and younger children with early bed times to take part in family time
- Health issues should take precedent.
- I disagree with it coz what the point of having a bylaw that will never be unforced like most bylaws with in the township and police are not going to be both with fire pit calls (like noise complaints) Most fires take place at night and weekends and there is no bylaws that work after 4:30pm or on weekends. So what's the point of going to all this work and wasting taxes paying dollars on this issue.
- Why the deadline. If people want to have a cooking fires from 4-5 they should be allowed.
- Many times we enjoy an afternoon fire..and often have it out before 5pm. Why ruin a fun event with time limits .. this will only cause problems
- Fires should be allowed anytime of day, as long as they are not disturbing to others
- Should be able to have a fire whenever you want. You know, like freedom.
- In the daytime, in the winter, we like to have a fire.
- If I want to have a fire all night should not matter to anyone else as long as I keep the noise down
- As homeowners we should be able to have fires in the afternoon should we choose, not from 5 onward. I see people not following this and wasting bylaw officers time. If held respectfully people should have fires whenever they see fit as long as it doesn't infringe on other bylaws concerning noise.
- No, I disagree.
- Let people have a fire when they want. Why are you trying to tell people when they can enjoy their property?
- I don't think there should be an issue if someone wants to have a fire before 5pm. Also, if someone wants to have a recreational fire after midnight there shouldn't be an issue either, if there are concerns regarding noise existing noise bylaws should cover this
- As long as neighbours don't mind why place a time -
- I do not think limiting the time for a backyard fire has any purpose. We may have a lunch time for and cook our food on it. Or we may have a rare late night marshmallow campfire that might go after midnight. Rare but possible.
- We use our fire pit at anytime during the day or night, time restrictions would tell me when I could cook a hotdog or enjoy a fire.

- We often want to have a campfire on a Saturday or a Sunday afternoon in the winter when friends drop by to skate. We can only do this if we know ahead and speak with someone at the fire department during the previous week. The Sunday fire/burning ban is ridiculous.
- Sometime a fire during the day is nice. Could be teaching children cooking skills. Cleaning up cardboard or paper.
- We have been living in this premise for over 40 years now and have never been regulated on this topic. I think we live with far too many rules and regulations as it is. What's next!!
- Sometimes when its cold its nice to enjoy a fire mid day .
- During winter months especially, there is nothing better than having hot choc and grilled cheese on a fire for lunch or just to get warm. If fires are built right, they only smoke for a couple of minutes and are away from structures according to rules in place now. People just have to use their heads and have respect for others and IT WORKS real well already.
- You should be able to enjoy a recreational fire in the afternoon.
- Home owners who work shifts should be able to enjoy their backyards after work.
- have been to many backyard recreational fires - allowed and not allowed - and without question they are not meeting the guidelines after a few drinks have been had - have witnessed on severe burning and have attended one that got so out of control the fire department and police were called - best judgement is seldom used when drinking and having fun and someone suggests "lets burn that muskoka chair"
- Why should a time be imposed. My kids love a fire during the day to make smores.
- Fire pits should only be allowed on camp sites where people will expect them not in backyards with neighbours so close. Smoke drifts.
- Why limit until midnight - noise is already addressed in a bylaw - people should be able to enjoy a fire after midnight as people's schedules are all different
- From time to time, we have small amounts of brush we burn while doing yardwork in the daytime. This material is not ideal for recreational fires. We have young children who enjoy a daytime campfire.
- We use our backyard fire to cook some meals and we start in the afternoon or also have had a fun in the afternoon after outdoor skating ! Please don't restrict during the day (midnight is okay - people have to sleep!)
- Allow them or don't. Why does timeframe matter?
- I would like to be able to burn my yard waste during day apposed to just at night. My property is on outskirts of town. Fires burn all the time currently in my part of town at anytime of day and week. I'd like that to continue.
- I believe most home owners are responsible individuals and do practice safe procedures
- If you have younger family you may want to have them earlier in the day.
- Growing up we had lovely fires at 2am...quiet, solitude. Well cared for. Also, what about burning yard scraps in the afternoon?
- bylaw isn't available during these hours, i do not want to call police or the fire department (costly) and taking them away from their primary roles.
- Sometimes we have daytime fires in the fall and winter alongside outdoor activities like sledding or skating. A daytime fire allows us to enjoy fire-cooked meals during colder weather and to stay outside longer.
- It is nice to have afternoon fires as well
- during cooler weather months when we are enjoying outdoors its nice to have a fire. at any time of day or evening. would not want time restrictions.
- "While the proposed time frame, if followed would be an improvement when it comes to being able to hang laundry out to dry as opposed to having to run the electric dryer it does absolutly

nothing to address the obvious issue of not being able to leave your windows open at night because of the smell of smoke, instead having to close them and turn on the air conditioner when otherwise wouldn't be necessary.

- We are constantly asked by all levels of government to reduce the amount of electricity we use, with many government programs aimed at helping homeowners achieve this very important goal. We have been asked to set our thermostats higher, buy expensive light bulbs, purchase more energy efficient appliances, etc. To allow fires during the proposed time frame completely undermines these extremely important issues. It would be completely unfair to force people to use additional electricity and bear the cost of it simply because some people want an outdoor fire.
- I also note that the proposed time frame coincides with the township offices being closed leaving me to wonder who we call to report a problem, and if it is the fire department or the police this is a waste of resources and taxpayer money. We all know that the smoke and the smell travel a great distance so the idea of asking a "neighbour" to put out a fire that is impacting you is unrealistic and should not be our responsibility to police.
- I feel the only responsible solution to this would be a ban on all fires except propane or natural gas.
- The time has come for people to realize that wood burning fires no longer have a place in an urban setting."
- On weekends when we do yard cleanup we burn it in our fire and sometimes that is early afternoon (definitely before 5pm) or is the 5pm-midnight specifically during the week?
- There is no need for this. Why shouldn't I have a fire anytime I want on my own property.
- I believe that people own their property and should be able to have a fire when they want to. As long as they are quiet after the noise bylaw kicks in they can continue having a fire. I think they should also be able to have a fire during the day as we need to stop making so many rules for everyone!
- Complicating a bylaw is not necessary. eg Determining if a fire is recreational, yard waste, cooking.
- Should not be time limit as long as fire is attended too
- We enjoy fires in the winter when we sled or skate. It brings people together
- None at all
- With small kids, we often do lunch over the fire. And in winter it's nice to have a daytime fire to warm up with a cup of hot chocolate.
- If I want a fire at 7am I'm going to have one at any time
- I'm not sure the advantages of 5pm to midnight. A timeframe of 1am to 6am of no fires sounds more appropriate.
- I think people should be able to have recreational fires at any time.
- We would enjoy a fire in the winter on a Saturday during the day. As there was not much else to do. But most times it will be a Friday or Saturday evening
- Daytime fires in winter after a skate on Alder Lake, drinking hot chocolate with our family is our favourite thing to do
- I routinely have fires past midnight. Would like to continue doing so.
- If done safely, should be permitted any time
- We have family gatherings that start earlier than 5 pm and the kids enjoy roasting hot dogs, on occasion we gather at 11 am and everything's done by 5.
- What if I want to roast hot dogs for lunch?
- It should be up to the property occupant what time they'd like a fire
- I have fires during the daytime all the time with my family. We love having recreational fires any time of day. Meals cooked over an open fire instead of turning on appliances is wonderful for

breakfast, lunch and supper!! Sitting around a fire during the day with our trailer set up in our backyard to pretend we are gone camping. I love fires anytime of day so please don't take that away.

- "On a cold damp day it could be nice to have an earlier fire.
- You might want to do a lunch or snack item on the fire earlier in the day."
- Afternoon fires are fun when you have young families. Enforcing time of day limits on fires is a waste of resources.
- No you should be allowed to have a fire any time of day as it could be a means of cooking food. But not burning yard waste.
- Although the majority of fires would be in the evening, I don't think it's fair to put a time frame on it.
- I would like to be able to burn yard waste during day on weekends if needed. Also recreational fires should be permitted to 2a.m. so people can quietly enjoy fire with friends.
- I think 5pm to 2am would be better. But I'm generally in favour of being allowed to burn.
- I mostly agree with this, but would like to see 1am, instead of midnight.
- I enjoy a fire during the day as well as evenings.
- 5pm to midnight sounds fine for most people as we are at work during the day, but on the weekends at least we shouldn't be limited by that rule.
- Especially in the winter having the opportunity to have a fire well socializing outside is great. No reason to take that ability away from residents.
- We should be able to have a fire whenever we want. Hot dogs are good at lunch over a fire!
- I think people should be able to burn yard waste and have a recreational fire when they want. I do however believe that property size should come into effect. We are in Petersburg where lot sizes are quite large and therefore the smoke doesn't impact other all that much. With large properties comes more yard waste and more burning of such yard waste. Also bylaws are fairly silly in Wilmot Township as the bylaw officers have bank hours and frankly the WRPS does not have the time or resources to enforce silly bylaws such as smoke and noise violations which most often happen after 5 pm. So that should also be a consideration when making bylaws...who will enforce??
- My husband works shifts and often likes to have a bonfire out back with the boys in the afternoon as after dinner is too late for both him and our young boys.
- What is magical about 5pm? Midnight is fine but for little ones in winter 5pm is too late. Why not 12-12?
- Why a time limit. Could I not have a fire Saturday afternoon in the cool fall air? Silly to have a time
- Until midnight Friday and Saturday, other days until 2200 hours.
- I feel recreational fires can start earlier than 5pm
- If my neighbours have a fire until 1am and they're safe and quiet about it, I don't see how it's my business.
- I'm tired and often enjoy a small woodfire mid-day, especially when the grandkids are visiting. This time restriction also won't allow me to cook a meal in a dutch oven (like baked beans) for a dinner because that meal would be started over a slow burn of coals early in the day. I may be one of few who cook on open fires but it is a skill I have, and hope to teach the younger generation.
- I am unable to enjoy my outdoor space when neighbours are having fires. The burning smell sends me indoors!
- 11pm is plenty late enough as firepits should align with noise bylaw

- I think there should be a bigger window for fires. I agree that it shouldn't be allowed late into the night but it should be open earlier in the day.
- Wish to burn yard waste anytime
- Kids go to sleep early. Why can't we just have a recreational fire whenever.
- If one wants to cook their meal on a recreational fire, it needs to be lit and burning long before 5 pm.
- if you wish to cook on the fire, you have to start the fire before 5 pm.
- Should be able to have a fire whenever you want.
- I've lived in Wilmot Township my whole life and never gone through this before and as long as it doesn't bug you neighbours or you don't live in apartment or a semi it should be fine not change everything for new people moving into Wilmot Township
- There is no reason to limit the time frame- i have plenty of fires that last well past midnight and affect no one. I also see no reason to not be able to have a mid day fire on a cool day.
- I do not see no need for this unless there's a fire ban on due to dryness . time of day shouldn't matter.
- Not everyone lives by the same schedule and insisting upon time limits is authoritarian.
- I should be able to have a fire whenever I want as long as there's no fire ban on due to dry conditions
- Daytime fires are often nice to have going if we have people over (when we are able of course), so we would like them to continue. We are careful to ensure our fires aren't smoky and avoid windy days.
- I should be able to have a safe fire whenever I want, as long as a fire ban is not in place.
- No time frame
- I think wasting money on policing a small backyard campfire sounds ridiculous
- You should be able to burn any time of day
- Disagree with the midnight cut off time. I think it should be later (3am)
- Day fire
- "5pm - 11pm would be more reasonable. Keep it online with the 11pm noise bylaw.
- We have experienced loudness from neighbours voice and music until 3am while they have people over for a fire"
- I think people should be allowed fires after midnight.
- You should be able to have fires anytime of day. I enjoy cooking breakfast over the fire for my family on weekend mornings.
- This bylaw will not cover any of the concerns I have.
- With the increasing demand for campsites across the province, and previous lockdowns, having a campfire in the backyard for lunch has been an option when it may rain later.
- We have an outdoor rink in our backyard and like to have a fire in the winter to stand by to keep warm and watch our kids
- I think you should be able to have a fire as long as the noise/ size of the fire itself is at a reasonable level. As well as long as there's proper water supply to put it out I don't think it should be an issue.
- I think they should be allowed any time.
- If I'd like to have a recreational fire I don't understand why there needs to be a timeframe in which I can do so. If I choose the afternoon for recreational purposes say in the fall when there's cooler weather I would like to do so I do not want to be bound by a time to which I can have a recreational fire I recreational time is when I says
- If you are having a controlled fire. I don't see why after 12 should be not aloud.
- It's nice to have a fire any time of day

- Sometimes it is nice to have a fire during the middle of the day during the cooler months on the weekends especially having to wait till 5 PM is too late in the day. Also with the noise byelaws you have to be quiet after 11 PM so what does it matter if the fires happening until later in the night if you're quiet with your friends the noise byelaw will take care of any noise complaints.
- We have bigger fish to fry besides fire timelines
- A fire past midnight should be allowed. If loudness is the concern, another bylaw would apply. The fire itself would not impact neighbouring properties.
- Time should be seasonally dependent
- We own our own home. We have our own backyard. If the kids want a fire in the middle of the day so be it. How is that hurting anyone.
- Let's be respectful and use common sense. Do we really need to regulate everything?
- Sometimes you just want to roast a hot dog at 2 in the afternoon or at 2am! This part of the bylaw would over-regulate personal choice and activities. The midnight cut-off seems more connected to potential noise complaints, which are already managed via another by-law.
- Should be allowed to have a fire when you want.
- You guys are ridiculous next we wont be able t have supper between 5 and 7 drop it and get a life this is one of the only things left to enjoy you guys lost all respect from me
- Why does it matter when i want to have a fire?
- Depending on the time of year and when thee sun sets, people with children may want to starr a fire earlier.
- We stay up past 12 am. We are not loud and we have not had any complaints from our neighbors.
- Wilmot residents should be able to have a fire on their own property whenever they choose to.
- Why 5pm if my kids want to roast hot hogs for lunch on a fire we would have to wait till 5?
- No time slot is acceptable for someone to infringe on my right to breath clean air.
- 5pm to 11pm i wiuld agree with as it coincides with the noise by laws. Bonfires, usually equal drinking and a party.
- People have the right to have a fire and should not have to be baby sat by bylaw. So many rights have already been taken away, do not take this away too.
- Why can't it start before 5??
- Not everyone works a 9-5 job some work after 5pm
- We are sometimes at our fire after midnight. Please note we only have small fires, no large bon fires.
- I disagree because most people dont start a recreational fire until just nefore dark and like to sit by the fire as long as wanted. Not to be rude but telling people to put their fire out at twelve is like having a curfew and with having all the restrictions we've had for the last two years due to covid, it would just feel like another higher up facility trying to control our lives (no offence) but having a fire and being outdoors is freeing and relaxing
- Needs to be set to a certain day i.e. weekends (including Fridays)
- We use ours to make dinner on an open fire rotisserie/ needs to start before 5pm
- We don't live in a city.
- As a home owner and tax payer I feel it is inappropriate for the township to tell me when i have to end my fire. We sometimes have an afternoon fire that commences prior to 5pm or we work late and cannot start early in the evening so having to stop our fire by midnight feels like a curfew.
- "I don't see the need for a time frame to be in place for the by law.

- I understand that it would make sense for emergency personnel to know a general time when potentially more fire calls could occur. If it's to ensure proper staffing then i can get behind that, but otherwise I see no reason to place this constraint on open recreational fires."
- I feel like people should be allowed to have fires at anytime during the day
- We have had fires during the day to cook on it.
- Families with young kids might like to have their bonfire over the lunchtime or at least begin early afternoon as kids go to bed early. I don't have a problem with cutting it off at midnight if a time frame must be added to the bylaw, but I don't agree with 5pm. I would be more in favour of no set times added to the bylaw.
- "i think being permitted to have fires im the afternoon is fair.
- 12pm- 11:59pm"
- Sometimes we like to have a camp fire during the day, especially at noin to cook wieners or sonething.
- "The times are extremely restricting....
 - we have very young children who go to bed early (6pm), but like to have a fire, and we would typically light a fire earlier in the day so they can also join in.
 - in the last year we have had fires during the day in colder months, especially if trying to have backyard distance visits. Covid might be over for alot of people, but we are in this for another year at least as we have immune compromised family members so having a fire in the middle of winter in snowsuits is the only way we can see each other
 - on the flip side, my husband works late shift and sometimes we may be up late to have a fire. For these, we may not put out until 1am or so.
- I think education is stronger than restrictions. If the times are for concerns of people being silly, then educate and enforce the bylaws. Don't punish safe and responsible people with time restrictions. I also don't think you will find a lot of people sticking to these times."
- Perhaps 5PM until 1 or 2AM provided noise bylaws are being abided by.
- Times are too limiting! On a cool fall or spring day, it's nice to sit by a small fire. Waiting until 5 pm is ridiculous! It's nice to light a little fire, have my coffee in the mornings and now that would be banned???? I should be able to enjoy my backyard anytime. In the night, as long as people are not loud I don't see why the fire has to be out at midnight. If there is a complaint, it would likely be because of noise and not smoke, and a bylaw already exists for noise issues. Let people enjoy their properties as long as the noise doesn't bother others! In all of the years I have lived in Wilmot, we have never had issues with time of day for a backyard fire!
- I often like to be up later than midnight having a fire
- if people are not loud, they could continue until 1:30 am
- In the winter it is nice to have daytime fires
- Why put a time limit on a recreational fire , if i want to sit longer at the fire then i should be able to , this is a free country. We pay are taxes and should not be told when to stop doing something on our property
- I think if you want to wnjoy a queit afternoon around the fire you should be able too
- Should be allowed to pick your own time.
- Any time during the day. Why ruin a good thing. Council just trying to make thier mark and being inconsiderate of the tax payers
- In the winter or in the fall on colder days sometimes it's nice to have a daytime fire. By 5pm it is way too cold.
- Anytime is fine..why not during the day? My kids are young and we often start them earlier so we can make dinner on it. If we own thevproperty and work within the safety parameters we should be able to do what and when we want!

- You should be able to have a fire at anytime of the day or after noon. People have different schedules with work and such. As long as it's safe and controlled you should not need to have a curfew. I'm an adult and I don't need to be controlled or told what to do. A curfew is ridiculous.
- I don't agree with the time limit. I think recreational fires are enjoyable any time of day.
- Are you going to start telling people when they can bbq too? What about people that work evenings or nights? So now they're not allowed to have a fire during the day?
- I don't want to be restricted to 5 pm to midnight.
- Burning yard waste don't want to wait till 5pm. Should be able to burn as late as I want as well as long as we aren't loud
- It's not fair that the township should be able to say what times I am able to do a recreational thing on my private property.
- I see no reason a fire couldn't be had on a Saturday afternoon
- It is nice to have a weiner roast with the kids for lunch.
- "We use the fire to cook lunch or supper. Its a fun family activity.
- So much has been taken away from our kids dont take away this"
- "As long as a fire is being done safely I see no reason to not allow one during the day as well. Noon is just as safe as 5pm.
- We already have noise bylaws that can be called upon if people are being loud late at night. A quiet fire late at night isn't hurting anyone."
- I don't think a time frame is needed.
- The time frame needs to be longer, if you are having friends over midnight seems to early
- "We have used a open fire throughout the day to cook and burn fallen debris from trees.
- I don't understand the need to time restrict as this also tells residents that their social time with friends and family must stop at midnight. This feels like a very controlling measure by the township."
- We often have midday camp fires with family
- I love having day fires, if I'm sitting around home on a day off and I have some wood to burn I would like to burn it, kids also would have more time to enjoy a fire before going to bed.
- I feel you should be able to enjoy a fire in your fire pit at anytime
- It's better than no fires, but if in the spring or fall we want of an afternoon campfire, with that time limit we couldn't.
- If no fire ban is in place residents should be able to enjoy a recreational fire at any point during the day.
- As long as the people having the fire are responsible and respectful in relation to size of fire and volume of noise, there is no reason to put a time limit on people enjoying a fire.
- Should be later than midnight.
- Not late enough
- I feel that a fire in the afternoon or later into the night is very reasonable and this rule does not need to be imposed. It's sort of a creepy rule - feels like a step too far. I agree with the noise bylaw that already exists.
- What if it is daytime in the winter and enjoy fires also if sitting quietly after midnight talking or enjoying the quiet crackle . A very peaceful time
- They should be allowed at any time of day. The pandemic certainly was an example of this, when we couldn't entertain indoors. Also, winter daytime campfires are nice.
- Again then I can't enjoy my own backyard in the summer months due to my husband's asthma.
- "Is this a legitimate issue that we need to create a bylaw for? Or is this just more beauracratc waste? Read septic inspections.

- What does a 5 pm rule achieve? Clearly someone has complained about it, but I would need to understand how many people are truly affected before commenting. Sounds like a case of squeaky wheel unnecessarily wasting resources."
- Should not allow fires at any time
- No need to restrict fires by a time period
- I feel that people should be able to have a recreational fire at any time they wish.
- "What's wrong with a nice daytime fire? I can understand the midnight timeline
- If we want to have a fire outside these timeframes it is not permitted. Winter time fires could be done before 3pm
- Should allow later burns as long as they comply with noise bylaws.
- There should not be a time frame for recreational fires.
- We should be allowed to have a fire at any time of the day. I have children who enjoy the fire and are in bed very early. I will start my fire in the afternoon so they can enjoy it for more than an hour. Having a timed start seems completely ridiculous. We have a fire permit from the township and our fire pit meets all requirements stipulated. Don't put a time limit in place and let people enjoy a nice fire in the middle of the afternoon if wanted
- We like to have afternoon bonfires with young children who don't stay up as late. Lunch hotdogs and s'mores.
- I think someone on their own property should be able to have a fire whenever. Small children for example go to bed early.
- There should be no time restrictions, especially for larger properties that burn yard waste in rural and semi rural areas
- Because it's unnecessary nannying
- I have a fire permit so i should be able to burn when and how long i want.
- There should be no time frame.
- I think as long as people are ensuring that their recreational fires are contained and safe. And that they are not breaking noise bylaws, people should be able to have a fire as late as they want.
- Should not apply to rural/farm properties with no neighbours close by.
- I should be permitted to have a fire from 9am till Midnight.
- I don't think there should be a time frame. A winter afternoon fire is part of our family ritual.
- Time of day shouldn't matter as long as you respect your neighbours. ie. Not when windows are open, etc.
- We have had a permit for a fire pit in our backyard for 18 years. We are responsible. We are safe. We are respectful. I don't think there should be a time frame as to when you can enjoy your backyard. I'm assuming there has been complaints. These days I find people are bothered too much, offended too much and expect others to change to their wants and needs. I've lived in this community most of my life. I would like to continue to enjoy my property the same as I've been doing for years. Sometimes you just want to enjoy a nice summer evening outside by a fire. And sometimes it might continue after midnight.
- Why limiting time? We often have a fire and start sometimes as early as 10am.
- I think that if you chose to have a fire it shouldn't matter the time.
- To late in the day from 5 pm and sometimes to early to close at 12 pm
- Im not sure what the reason for restricting the time frame is?..why is having a fire at 1:00 in the afternoon different than 5:00 ?...we have often started a fire so my grandson can sit and cook a hotdog at lunch time on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon...being a responsible homeowner with regards to safety and your neighbors should be the concern..why should the careless actions and disregard for safety by an individual reflect on everyone...

- During the last year and a half we have had many fires with our family and neighbors many different times of the day. It is a nice time to spend relaxing around the fire. This is something simple and basic for the people of the township to enjoy without spending a lot of money.
- If someone wants to sit by a fire til 2 they should be able to... as long as it is attended the time should be irrelevant.
- Recreational fires that fall into the early morning might be mistaken for unintentional fires that may cause fire dept calls.
- I disagree with the limitation because if I work evenings I cannot have a bonfire and also if it is ok between 5:00 and midnight why is it not ok at other times?
- Burning yard waste (fallen tree debris) is more of a daytime activity. Limiting to after 5 would not be helpful. Also, midnight raises concerns about noise from neighbours entertaining outdoors that far beyond the normal 1apm bylaw.
- Should be allowed later than midnight
- Sometimes a quite gathering of friends exceeds midnight. If people are respectful of their neighbours then there shouldn't be a problem.
- Isn't there a noise bylaw until 11pm? I honestly don't know....but if you allow people to have fires that late it usually comes with some type of noise. Parties etc. Will people put the fires out properly before bed that late at night or will they just let it burn out after going to bed and leaving it unsupervised.
- Having a fire in the early afternoon is a great time to have a fire. As well as long there is someone beside the fire it should not matter when you can have a fire.
- I believe people should be allowed to have safe recreational fires any time of day.
- I think the midnight time limit is too soon.
- There should be no time frame
- Unless there is a drought situation that would make fires more likely to get out of hand, there is no need for a time frame that discludes daytime hours. I would like to enjoy cookouts with family around lunch.
- Sometimes we have family gatherings in winter when it is dark earlier than 5 o'clock and like to have a fire and safely gather outdoors especially in pandemic. Feel time limits are completely unnecessary for recreational fires.
- The environmental impacts of wood burning are not affected by time of day. People who sleep with their windows open may not be able to do so due to smoke.
- Midnight is not a fair cutoff time, if you're going to implement a time then that needs to be for all activity not just fires and that's not feasible or good for the community.
- I disagree. I like afternoon fires to cook lunch
- Should be anytime
- I am grateful to live in a small community where we communicate with one another to ensure recreational activities do not interfere with our neighbours. I feel a time frame on recreational burns is not only unnecessary, but will also be a wasteful burden on bylaw officers and volunteer fire departments who deal with these infractions.
- Don't understand significance of specific times.
- I should be able to have a recreational fire on my property when I feel like it at any time. If a fire ban is in place due to dry conditions that is different, but a curfew I don't agree with.
- What if I wanted to make my lunch on a fire... I can't because it's 12pm
- "Why just 5pm?"
- We don't often have fires, however it is nice to be able to do so when we would like
- We are respectful of neighbours & are not loud people"

- I should be able to have fires for cooking at any time of the day or relaxing by the fire as long as it isn't too smoky or people being loud
- We are not children—what the hell are you letting happen to Wilmot!?
- "Daytime fires are also enjoyable especially in the cooler months"
- We cook on an open fire
- I would like to be able to have a fire at any time depending on what I'm doing that day, the weather etc
- People should be able to have campfires when they want. What about Saturday afternoon Weinberg roast?
- What is the purpose of putting a time restriction on it? There are already noise bylaws for after 11. That should be enough
- You should be able to have a fire whenever you want
- I would like to have them in the day. Did example on a Saturday at lunch. I understand the night limit to respect noise and neighbors and midnight is reasonable.
- Why not on weekends during the day in the fall - lovely way to spend time with family
- As a rural township having contained fires is one of the recreational perks. As well, often times essential part of brush clean up living in the country.
- Fires during the day enabled people to safely gather outdoors during the winter months when indoor gatherings were not permitted. Banning them would be unnecessarily restrictive.
- May want to have fires during the day when it is convenient
- Responsible home owners should be allowed to enjoy campfires for recreation or cooking at their discretion. Bylaws already exist for noise and property use. More regulation is not needed. Permits for fire pits are already being issued.
- I sometimes enjoy have a fire in the afternoon
- I feel like as long as respect is happening there should be no reason to not have a long fire outside of the time frames.
- I don't think there should be a time frame at all. People should be able to have recreational backyard fires anytime.
- "I disagree with your time frames. Not everybody wants to put out their fire at 12 am as it's a little early. It should be up to the property owners and their responsibility like it has been forever. Not any of the townships business regarding this honestly."
- I do agree that the property owners should have a hose or pail of water or fire extinguisher on hand just in case and that people follow the guidelines to safe operation (eg. far enough from a fence or structure, sure)"
- There should not be a time limit on recreational fires. This is family/relaxing time and should not have a time limit on it.
- No issue with recreational fires at anytime
- Not sure why a time frame is needed, if the concern is noise from those enjoying the fire that is a separate issue for by-law to deal with.
- That timeline is cookie cutter. What if someone works evenings and wants to enjoy a backyard fire starting at midnight????
- Why does there need to be a start time
- I disagree because we should be able to have fire when we want as long as we are being safe and responsible
- Families with children often like to enjoy recreational fires during the day. Evening fires may not be suitable for young kids with early bedtimes. Furthermore, outdoor gatherings are more common now due to covid and the population being more aware of social distancing. Day time

fires help extend the "outdoor living season" considerably, reducing the need for large indoor gatherings, thus decreasing the risk of transmitting covid, or any other viruses for that matter.

- I feel that they should be able to have a fire past mid night.
- I agree with 5pm start, however think it could go a but later (1 or 2am)
- Recreational fires should not be restricted by time of day as long as noise by- laws are adhered to.
- I disagree with the time the fire has to end. midnight is too early.
- I don't believe people should be confined to a certain time for entertainment.
- Should be allowed during day as well
- We should be able to have fires earlier than 5pm past midnight
- With having younger children we have always had fires starting mid day so that they could enjoy the campfire lunch experience but still shower and go through bedtime routine and still have them in bed at a reasonable time.
- Should be allowed with no time restrictions
- Should be allowed to have campfire during the afternoon also. If there needs to be allotted time for fires, then 3:00pm-12:00midnight. I cook over coals quite often, so fire needs to be started earlier than proposed 5:00 limit.
- As long as the fire is controlled and is always watched as well as the proper safety measures are put in place I disagree with having a set time and having to pay for a manufactured fire place. I've never had an issue with burning waste or having recreational fires and I have them frequently.
- Stop being nazis regulating everything
- Daytime fires nice in fall, winter and spring.
- "Not everyone has a 9 to 5 job and can burn only after supper.
- If a burn permit is approved with surroundings and distance regulations followed it shoould be enough along with regular commonsense."
- There should be no time limit
- Fires as a source of recreation have been integral in human interaction and community. By permitting fires only through a certain timeframe, the township would be limiting a source of necessary human interaction and recreation that so many people crave after such a long pandemic. The township should consider permitting recreational fires at all times, and have less control over how it's community members interact.
- Saturday afternoon fires. Sometimes I cook lunch on an open fire.
- I am not sure I have ever had a fire before 5pm, but I have neighbours on all 3 sides of me that regularly do, and it's never been an issue.
- I regularly have a fire going during the day on Saturdays and Sundays. My neighbours have never mentioned this bothering them.
- People work different shift work. Whats to say someone cant recreationally enjoy a fire over lunch and make hot dogs or pie irons for lunch in that fire?
- I have no interest people dictating times of the day that i can enjoy my backyard safely and responsibly
- We had many fires this winter to keep us warm during the day. This was a great solution to be safely following covid protocol. We also like to have wiener roasts at lunch time.
- As a homeowner who enjoys the outdoors, I enjoy a small supervised fire during the daytime and not just evenings. I enjoy working around my gardens in the spring and warm up my hands by the fire. I enjoy warming by the fire during the day in tbe autumn as well. If you're burning clean wood on a non windy day, why does a fire have to just be enjoyed at night?
- 1am

- There are shift workers who may prefer a different time of day.
- There shouldn't be a time frame. There is nothing wrong with a family or couple having a quiet fire until 1am or later.
- I am against the fires
- What are the incidents that have brought about this propose bylaw amendment.? I own the property. I have had bon fires for 40 years with no problem. Do you really care about our input and feedback or are you just going through the motions? Wilmot Township used to be a great place to live. I see no need for any restrictions.
- Afternoon fires don't hurt anyone, nice for cooking hot dogs with kids for lunch or burning small sticks that fall from older trees throughout the year.
- Our family has enjoyed backyard fires at all times of day and night. Winter fires during the daytime are a favorite family past time. With everything that we have had to give up due to the pandemic, this seems to be the one activity that we can do safely and restricting this on our own properties is unnecessary. I do not support any change to the current bylaws.
- It should be till 2 am.
- Some evenings later nights to sit around after putting kids to sleep etc. The feeling of being in a timeline takes the enjoyment of having a fire away.
- If I want to have a fire at noon to make hot dogs with a family event this would be banned?!
- If I work shifts I can not have a fire. If we have company over we like to start the fire early afternoon.
- I feel I should be able to have recreational fires on my property during times that suit my needs. But if a time restriction is needed perhaps 7am to 11pm would be good. In the winter it is nice to have a small fire in the afternoon with a hot chocolate and marshmallows. It was something that kept us happy during covid.
- Sometimes we have fires in the afternoon or in the wee hours of the AM. Our property is big enough to not disturb anyone. This would be a big disappointment to limit the hours we can have fires that are not disruptive.
- We feel we should be able to have a recreational fire when we would like to. Having a time limit from 5pm to midnight would not allow us to have a fire to cook lunch or start a fire late afternoon to cook diners over hot coals. We would like to have a fire when it is appropriate to do so and not be bound by time.
- Noon til midnight would allow for me to cook lunch, not only dinner on my backyard fire.
- No logical argument to restrict fires to specific times.
- Stop the cancel culture PLEASE!
- I don't think a blanket time works
- I think if its under control and enclosed properly there is no concern on times. Midnight is a little early for a recreational fire to end. In the winter we like to skate on our rink and keep warm by the fire whether it be day or night.
- I'm not in favour of time restrictions
- Anytime should be allowed. Summer night & cold winter days are when we enjoy ours.
- I do not agree with anytime frame for outdoor fires..what is the difference between a noon hour fire and a 6pm fire...?
- It gets dark before 5pm during certain times or the year in our region.
- Enjoying a fire past midnight is the right of every individual.
- I believe that property owners should be able to have fires on their property whenever they please.

- Depending on the night and the people we are with we might be out later than midnight. We wouldn't be loud as we know the noise bylaw is 11pm. But maybe the time cut off should be 1 or 2 am instead
- A lot of times when the weather is cooler in fall and winter, it's nice to have a fire going in the afternoon when doing work etc. Might as well go after dog owners as well, who let their dogs out early in the morning, later in the evening to do nothing but bark!! Backyard parties should be banned as well or have a curfew of 12:00. Wrong people being penalized again. Brutal. Had my permit since 97, never a problem.
- I believe we should be able to have a recreational fire whenever especially those of us who already have a permit
- Last winter we enjoyed many afternoon outdoor fires. A time limit will be an absolute headache. I should be able to have a campfire, in a proper fire bowl, chiminea or firepit on my own property....when i want to.
- Fires should be permitted at any time of day
- I should be able to have a fire in my backyard at anytime of the day that i want. I have a huge backyard and often times have friends/family over camping in the summer months. Meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) are cooked over the fire.
- Should be allowed anytime
- What about any campgrounds located in Wilmot Township and use recreational fires to cook meals on?
- "-For all of the above health and safety reasons.
- -also for noise... not all .. but many fires especially on the weekends include some refreshments and the noise level just gets more the later it gets.."
- Should be able to have a fire whenever I want
- Should be able to have my fire going till 4 AM if I so choose
- "Don't understand the purpose of this restriction.
- If burning yard waste no reason to wait until after 5:00.
- also removes the option of cooking lunch over a fire."
- I am against big government trying to control the lives of free citizens. You have no right to get in the way of anyone's livelihoods. Many people use fires for various reasons. I am extremely concerned you would even attempt to put a time limit on fires.
- The time frame is too limiting for my work days
- There should not be a specified time. If the permit is valid, then a property owner should be allowed to have a recreational fire at any time.
- I disagree as recreational fires should be able to be enjoyed through the daytime hours too, in particular in the winter.
- I don't see the difference in the time of day that I might have a fire in my backyard. Sometimes I like to have an afternoon fire on the weekends. Especially in the fall.
- "I don't see why a time frame is relevant.
- Why can't I start a fire earlier? Or stay up past midnight if I want to?"
- There are times when a fire is used for cooking.
- Sometimes I like to have a morning or early afternoon fire. Leave as is.
- I enjoy cooking over open fires and do so frequently on weekends. on occasion we cook lunch and dinner meals over the fires which could not be done with the proposed timeframe. furthermore, i camp out in the backyard with the kids and we will start the fire to cook breakfast over it in the mornings. the proposed time of 5pm-midnight seems very impractical and not given proper thought.

- I think noon is a reasonable time. There are times in the spring, fall and even winter when it is nice to enjoy a mid day fire.
- Should be able to have one any time of day
- I don't know the purpose for this time frame to be in place but interested in learning more.
- "THE so call initial start time is late, we should be open to having a fire at noon hour starting.
- if i want to have a cooking fire for roasting hot dogs etc !!! i have to wait."
- I dont think we should have time restrictions because it only allows a portion of people to burn regularly. Not everyone can make those times work, especially being an essential worker on night shift. We should be able to have fires freely when it fits our schedules and I'm sure I can speak the same for many people who are essential workers and have odd start times or 12 hour shifts that don't work daylight hours. If I work from 5pm to 5am or 1pm to 1am, I should be able to enjoy a fire in the morning or afternoon before work if I choose or when I come home if I choose to. It's not meant to be a party or nuisance in the hours of the morning or afternoon but for some time to relax before/after a long day.
- No time limit should be applied
- I disagree. People should have the freedom to be able to have fires whenever they please.
- "Why put a timeframe on when I can have a fire? What if I want to cook breakfast or lunch? Or enjoy my coffee by a fire?
- Placing a timeframe on when it's acceptable to have a fire in my backyard is pathetic."
- There shouldn't be a "start" time. Everyone has a different schedule. If you want to keep Wilnot "inclusive" you will drop the "start" time. Putting out of fire by 11pm is still a good idea. Not sure why fires wouldn't be allowed during the day though.
- Anyone should be able to have a fire at any time. Sometimes I use my fire to do an outdoor cook during the day. I don't see a difference in someone smoking their bbq directly beside you.
- I think we should be able to have a fire at any time
- With young kids who go to bed at 7, it doesn't set a reasonable time frame to enjoy a family fire.
- I think recreational fires should be allowed at any time of day.
- Fires should be allowed anytime of day.
- Sometimes cook supper on it
- We cook food on our fire pit and some times that may be lunch. If i am cooking dinner i need to get the fire going by 3pm in order to get the proper heat and serve diner in a timely manor.
- Time limit is ridiculous. If I want to enjoy a fire with my young kids that go to bed at 6:30. 5:00 is not early enough
- Our kids go to bed early and we start fires earlier than 5pm to cook and enjoy it with them.
- Sometimes it is nice to have a fire during the day and we didn't move into the country in order to have city laws imposed on us.
- Not necessary. Stop trying to control everything people do. If there is no fire ban and the fire is safe, mind your own business.
- Sometimes in the fall especially it's nice to have a fire in the afternoon.
- "Does this apply all year long?
- It might be nice to allow recreational fires after 11 am or noon during the fall and winter months. In the winter 5pm is already dark. And a late time is harder for families with young children."
- I would like to decide when il put the fire out. Sometimes it's nice to sit up late.
- "In the winter fires should be allowed in the daytime.
- We also habe young children that go to bed early, so saying we cant have it until 5 means they wouldnt get much of a fire."
- I personally use recreational fires to cook sometimes, meaning some things can take a few hours on the fire to cook properly, so starting at 5PM makes this almost impossible.

- 2pm-11pm is better for those who enjoy afternoon get togethers rather than evening
- This may be beneficial for those who work mon-fri 9-5 but I work rotational continental shift. Thus these time frames don't suit my life style.
- IE. In the winter time it is nice to have a fire in the afternoon
- This restriction seems arbitrary.
- Only my children have a set bed time.....sometimes fires burn past midnight, if it's quiet and not bothering anyone I feel it should be between 5pm and 9am the following day (similar to Armour townships bylaw)
- I don't see why having an afternoon fire could effect anyone in a negative way, and if there is a specific day or reason why it would you can leave it up to the neighbors to peacefully resolve the issue. We live in a community where I truly believe we can still do that.
- The maximum time is fair, but the 5:00 pm makes no sense...an afternoon hotdog roast is not a reason to call in a complaint.
- I disagree because as long as safety comes first The rules should be the same as before
- It still does not stop smoke coming from other back yard into our private space with CSN not enjoy.
- I disagree with having this bylaw in general.
- Because if you burn yard waste it would be done in the afternoon
- There should not be a time frame.
- Different people have different timetables, ie, 5pm start might not work for someone working night shift.
- Controlled fires on private property are only a tiny piece of the freedom we get to so graciously enjoy in our country.
- I think if you have the space to keep a fire away from any combustible or building you should be allowed to have a fire at the time of day you'd like. Morning fires are very enjoyable so are afternoon fires in fall/winter. Why limit people to certain times that may not fit their life style?
- My young children love to roast hot dogs on a small fire in the afternoon in the winter after skating on our outdoor rink.
- I feel that people need to be reasonable. The timing of the recreational fires isn't the issue. A time frame only adds more administration and policing and arguments (and thus more taxes \$\$ to monitor) .. Reasonable fires, reasonable people, reasonable time frames ... Seriously.
- Air pollution is air pollution, no matter what time of day it is.
- I believe you should be allowed to have a fire any time as long as there isn't a burn ban in effect
- Yard work and recreational camp fires should be permitted anytime of day
- Why regulate yard waste fire burn? if anything a yard waste fire burn should be ending at 7pm
- There is no reason people shouldn't be allowed to have a fire past midnight.
- I think it's a good idea to put a time frame on when you can have a fire, just not the one you suggest. I think it should be no fires from 1am to 8am. This would stop the 'party' type fires that go late into the night and perhaps involve too much alcohol which can lead to safety concerns.
- It would be nice to be able to cook a weekend lunch on the fire or start cooking for supper before 5pm. It would be better to have the window start earlier and have them over by 11.
- "We often have neighbour and family sing alongs around the fire well past midnight. We ensure that noise is reduced after 11pm. Have not had any complaints in 35 years.
- We burn yard waste in spring and fall weekend afternoons"
- Recreational fires should be allowed anytime
- Recreational fire is just that, a recreational fire and should be allowed 24 hours seven days a week . I am a registered property owner for 40 years in a detached home . Especially with covid situation.

- I fail to understand the reasons for having it restricted to the proposed time frame...ie. Skating party on our pond on an afternoon in Feb...Fire for warming up and cooking hotdogs for the kids..
- Why should I be restricted?
- Don't think there needs to be a timeline in place.
- Family gatherings during hrs before 5pm specifically on weekends.
- I am a responsible resident and I do not believe I should be restricted to what I can and can not do on my property. This is a fine line and once you start going down this path it is dangerous territory for the removal of other rights. There are rules set in place to have safe residential fires and if that criteria is met I should be able to have a fire when I like. Don't let a few loud mouth complainers ruin outside enjoyment for the masses.
- Do not want specific times for burn
- We do not have loose curbside yard waste collection in New Dundee so burning yard waste is necessary. If the township will work with the region to provide curbside loose leaf yard waste collection in the fall then i would be less concerned.
- I don't see any harm in having recreational fires past midnight. There have been many times we have sat by the fire way past midnight.
- This is horseshit, it's my property and I should be able to enjoy it as I see fit
- We want a fire at our lessor with our fire permit
- Fires should be allowed at the discretion of the property owner. The timeline should not be governed. As long as all other bi- laws are followed.
- There's no reason to have a time frame
- I would prefer that the fires would only be permitted from 5-11pm. The end time coincides with noise by-law.
- Sometimes I like to have a campfire at any given time of the day.
- "I disagree
- , if want to make your morning coffee over a fire or a winter afternoon sausage it should be ok."
- I think i should be be able to have a fire any time of the day "24 hour"provided I am not bothering any one . I have owned my own home in Wilmot for 50 years , I have never had a problem .
- Recreational fires should only be from 7 pm until 10pm. There is no need to have a fire until midnight in a housing subdivision.
- Depending on the time of year we might want to have a fire other times throughout the day. Afternoon on a fall or winter day with family/friends. Curfew at the end of the night might be fine but to limit the time of day does not make sense.
- Noon to midnight
- I usually stay up past midnight
- In some situations like the winter a fire during the day is a way to engage with friends outside. There is no difference whether the fire goes past 12 pm or 2 am- if the person having the fire is being loud/disrespectful the curfew won't have any impact anyways. If I don't want to smell my neighbours fire I can always close my window. One of the perks of living in a small community and not the city
- Kids sometimes like to participate in lunch time campfires - good family time.
- Sometimes it's nice to have an afternoon fire. Especially when you have kids. It's an opportunity to enjoy a campfire lunch and spend time outdoors as a family.
- I don't approve of any recreational fires.
- Fires should not be permitted until later in the evening. 7 pm or later would be better.
- "Sometimes we have younger children over that enjoy the campfire during the day.

- We also occasionally use the campfire to help with branch clean up.
- We cook over the fire as well sometimes."
- Especially during the winter, and if Covid is to continue for a while like we are expecting it to... outdoor day fires are a safe way to socialize and an opportunity for people to get outside of their homes while not necessarily feeling safe to do so outside of their property. I think residents should be allowed to have a recreational fire whenever they see fit.
- I think you should be able to have a fire anytime.
- 5pm is late if you want to BBQ over the fire.
- Don't want time restrictions.
- It would be nice to have it later.
- Could the burn time for recreational fires be cut off earlier in the evening - perhaps at 10 PM? That would allow us to open our windows for sleeping on hot summer nights.
- I think that weekends should not have time restrictions, as fall and spring afternoon fires are quite enjoyable.
- During winter in particular, our children enjoy skating and playing outside. We always have a warm fire going. This fire is used for keeping warm and cooking. This is during the morning and afternoon. 5pm is dark in the winter. A change to the allowed time frame would put a damper on this fun, and crush this outdoor family activity.
- I have lived as a tax paying member of this community for approximately 20 years. And have always had a burn permit. Sometimes i have fires in the middle of the day when it suits tkmes that i have my children whom live with their mother or when it suits having company for lunches in cooler weather. My Grand parents, parents and Aunt and uncle have lived in this community for over 50 years and camp fires are a very long held tradition, that we still quite regularly still have.
- If I own my property which I do I should have the right to have a fire whenever I want and not times dictated by the township. I pay taxes and this would be a violation of my rights as a resident.
- I think we should be able to have fires during the day. This is especially nice in the wintertime, when skating on the lake.
- "I would obviously prefer to fires allowed, but a narrow window is better than all day fires.
- Noise bylaws request no noise after 11pm, i think 5-11 is better than 5-12. If you make it until 12, people will be outside drinking, partying and being loud until then."
- Should be allowed when convenient for owner of property
- I would like daytime fires
- Should be allowed to have a fire durning the day in the winter. Midnight is also early to end a fire, extend till 2am.
- I don't see a problem with having a daytime fire to get rid of some old branches and brush.
- I have two young children who love to have campfires so we often have fires in the afternoon to accommodate bedtimes
- Fire should be able to go later than midnight.
- As long as people are being respectful of neighbours, 12 am is not very long. Many fires go longer than this and there are no issues.
- We like to have a fire thru the day
- Sometimes I like it earlier
- There should not be a time limit
- There should t be a time limit as that limits the ability to burn larger brush piles and have the burn out before dark
- Kids go to bed early. Whats wrong with an afternoon camp fire.

- Nobody pays my mortgage but me!!! Live and let live.....fires are very therapeutic.
- I would like the time to start earlier, like 3 pm. until midnight.
- What about a Saturday afternoon backyard fire? (For example)
- Midnight is too late. It will cause excess noise from parties passed an acceptable time. 10-1030pm is more reasonable.
- I think any time of day should be permitted
- Its your property we live of of the major city for a reason, if I want to have a recreational fire then i should be aloud
- Recreational fires should have no time frame limit, especially for larger properties (1/2 acre or more)
- We should be able to have a fires when we choose, including day time hours. We enjoy cooking lunch on a fire sometimes and feel we should be able to. We do not agree with time restrictions.
- We like to have fires during the day during winter months.
- As long as safety guidelines are adhered I don't believe there should be any time restrictions. We enjoy fires during the day especially in the winter.
- "I have small children and this window simply does not work. I also cook dinner on a fire and only being able to start a fire after 5pm is nonsensical. It takes a solid hour or more to get proper cooking coals. Please use your head when you think of these sort of times in how people are using their fire pits. Not everyone is boozing at an evening fire. Many people cook for their families on a fire.
- Honestly why does a time have an impact on when I should be able to have a fire in my backyard on a property that I pay property taxes on. I'm highly against this ridiculous bi law."
- Recreational fires can also be used for cooking. Breakfast and lunch do not fall within this time frame.
- "As a tax payer, i would like to sit by my campfire, on my property, past midnight if i so choose. In the summer it doesn't get dark until 9pm!
- Fires for the purpose of burning yard waste, fine. But small backyard campfires, when we have already paid for a permit, should be exempt from this."
- I think a contained fire sould be ok any time of the day.
- I should be able to have a fire when i want
- We have small children and like to enjoy afternoon fires sometimes. It would be preferable to extend the allowance to include 12 pm to midnight for young families.
- People should be able to burn yard waste during the day
- You should be able to have fires anytime you choose to, you should be able to burn yard waste in the afternoon and enjoy campfires in the evening, especially in a township which is one of the perks to living in a more rural community.
- If i am enjoying a contained, recreational fire and obeying noise laws, then mudnight iis too early. Perhaps 2 iam s more reasonable. There's already very little that teenagers can do for recreation, and 12 is early for them to wrap it up for the night. I'd rather them home and safe than elsewhere getting in trouble.
- I don't see that time limits accomplish anything. If the problem is noise, well, rowdy crowds can occur with or without a fire and should be controlled by noise by-laws.
- What is different at 4 pm ?
- If ppl want to have fun and can be responsible there should not be restrictions. People who will be disrespectful will be regardless of whether there is a time limit or not and bi-law can't deal with those complaints after midnight anyways
- If a family would like to enjoy a fire on a weekend over lunch or in the afternoon this new time would not allow that.

- "This limits the ability for our young children to be involved in the recreational fire experience. We have an earlier fire to roast marshmallows with them.
- This time frame would also limit the ability to cook over the fire during family gatherings (corn roast or seafood boil)"
- "Having a quiet backyard fire at 2 am should be no ones business.
- Why does the township feel the need to control the time frames at all?
- Why not hotdogs and s'mores for lunch over a safe fire.
- Is telling me when I can use my bbq next?"
- Should be no specific time frame as long as they are under control. Ridiculous to have a curfew of a good camp fire come on really
- In the cooler months of the year, it is nice to have a recreational fire all afternoon. Our grandkids love to come to our place and maybe enjoy an afternoon campfire and being able to be outside while keeping warm. If this is not feasible with the updated bylaw, then I would chose the 5 p.m. to midnight timeline.
- "In summer months I can agree with this to some degree. However with small kids we like to have hotdogs sometime for dinner and would want to have the fire going before 5pm.
- Also in the winter months we enjoy having a fire going in the afternoon to stay warm and enjoy food over the fire when being outside playing in the snow and that can also be before 5pm.
- We do respect our neighbours and don't have fires on windy days as I do understand having smoke come in through open windows is annoying and not nice.
- All in all we should all have some sort of respect for neighbours when having a backyard fire and should limit it to recreational fires and have to apply for special permits for large cleanup burns and be at the discretion of the fire department."
- 4 pm until 11 would be more reasonable. Family use would be encouraged and late night partying discouraged.
- "I like to open my windows at night to save on air conditioning cost and for fresh air. If my neighbour has a fire this it impossible.
- A better time, although I would prefer no fires would be 9pm shutdown."
- No, sometimes I like to cook breakfast over a fire or have an early meal with the kids.
- I do not see any issue with having a fire during the day, and if it did impact my neighbors on a specific day for some reason we can work through that together as civilized adults.
- "We want to be able to have the freedom to cook a hot dog for lunch and to not be bound to certain times when we can have a fire.
- I see no harm in having a fire before 5pm."
- I do not believe that limiting the times that fires are permitted is appropriate. No everyone lives on the same schedule, so someone who works an evening shift regularly would never get the enjoyment of having a fire or cooking over a fire. Why is it, that cooking supper (after 5pm) is ok, but cooking lunch over a fire at noon is not. This suggestion does not make sense to me.
- 1am
- There should not be a restriction, it's all about be respect and common sense. Those that aren't going to be won't abide the restrictions and is not fair to those that are. I don't have my own fire pit but enjoy the smell of my neighbours in the area and have no problems with other peoples fires
- After 5 is fine but should be until 2am at least
- We do but understand the reason for the restriction.
- Many people like to start a fire on a cool day, children like hotdogs at noon also, not just in the evening. It is a great economical way to entertain during cooler days.

- Sometimes we enjoy a fire in the afternoon. With COVID and staying home it was a nice way to spend time outdoors with our kids.
- "The time should be expanded.
- 8 AM - 12 midnight"
- Some recreational fires should be allowed to go past midnight - sometimes 1am-2am i think this should be accommodated if the property/persons are not loud or disruptive.
- Sometimes, with family gatherings at noon, we may wish to have a recreational fire at that time. I propose the time be 12 noon until 11.00 pm
- I believe that recreational fires may benefit from an extended time frame during the daytime hours, such as noon to midnight. Especially during a time when meeting other people outdoors is encouraged, recreational fires provide a low-risk activity for all ages. I know other families in Wilmot who also choose to have recreational fires during the afternoon hours with friends/family. To compromise, the time frame increase could be added to weekends only, since this is when most people would have recreational fires during daytime hours. This could satisfy residents who are concerned about air quality, health and safety, etc., as they wouldn't have to worry about these concerns during weekdays.
- It is great to see some sort of time frame on burning however it would be great if it were later like 7 pm. This would give some people a chance to have supper outside without having to inhale smoke.
- No time limits.
- Often, if it's a recreational fire with friends, it goes well past midnight, til 1 or 2 in the morning.

Burn Bylaw Survey Comments from Question 7

7. Lot sizes that are no less than 10m in width and length and maintain a minimum distance of 4m from combustibles is proposed in the new bylaw provided fires are contained in a manufactured device with a spark arrest lid. Do you agree this is a fair compromise?

☐ Yes, I agree **632**

☐ No, I disagree **376**

☐ No opinion **277**

If you do not agree, please explain.

- A 10m lot and 4m from combustibles? How is that even possible? If it has a spark arrest lid why is there a limit?
- "I agree the fire must be contained - I do not agree the device must be 'manufactured' but rather should have specific diameter/height/foundation parameters.
- Additionally, there should be an option to have a source of water at a minimum distance from the pit be it a nearby hose or bucket of water rather than requiring a lid. (again presumably manufactured)"
- Many lots in the area are small and will not fit into your guide line for size and distance.
- I agree with the combustibles limit. I disagree with the lot size minimum as some residents have varied size lots that back onto open space (farm fields or green space) and therefore the hazard risks are reduced.
- I think 6ft/2m is okay.
- I will be burning brush on my large rural property at a time weather & convenience permitting.
- 4M from combustibles is very far away for a little controlled fire especially for people with smaller lots, the max the setback should be is 3M to make it easier for everyone to comply and enjoy their fire at the same time
- Lots are so small in new builds it is very hard to be 4m from combustibles.
- Unfortunately when people get drinking at their backyard fire all the rules are forgotten.
- The smoke ,smell ,and fly ash affect all down wind. Leave the-campfire to when you are camping.
- Most houses and lot sizes are more narrow, less than 30 feet and would make a lot of residences not eligible for fires.
- No requirement for an spark arrest lid, that is ridiculous.
- How will food be cooked with a lid in place?
- A spark arrest lid is not needed.
- Manufactured pits take away from the ambiance and limits the funtions the pit can be used for (cooking). If people are responsible the fire should not be getting out of control.
- I think the list of combustibles needs to be amended to permanent structures and outbuildings. I know chain link fences are considered a combustible which is ridiculous.
- "Combustible needs to be defined in the survey. Does this refer to a deck?
- Many recreational fires occur on tables that were designed for small backyard fires on a deck or patio. Are these expensive 'decorative' fires included.
- Restrictions should be reduced. Allow responsible adults to make sensible decisions based on their own landscape without feeling restricted by a one-size fits all by-law.

- Those that aren't responsible won't be reading your by-laws prior to lighting their fire."
- small lots should not be having fires. Too close for issues with smoke, noise etc. Not safe and reality is who is going to enforce this. Bylaw would need to change their schedules to accomodate weekend/evening enforcement. You cant expect the police to cover township responsibilities.
- I don't think most people who have smaller backyards should have fires at all. No one really ever pays attention to the space requirements to begin with. I don't think people would necessarily keep the spark lid on either.
- this puts a lot of limitations as to who can have a fire, once you have trees, sheds, property line etc. in consideration.
- 3m is a better number for distance as 4 would mean that no one who has a shed can have fires
- I do not believe that it should be across the board to have a manufactured pit. For smaller lot sizes that want to also be able to enjoy rereational fires they should be allowed to safely have fires in enclosed fire chimneys. Has there been an increase in unsafe fire pits?
- I control my fire and have over 10 feet of flagstone around the pit. Why do I need a lid. Or have to go buy a fire pit. Have spent a lot of money on it already.
- Traditional open fire pits that consist of just rocks or a tire rim must continue to be allowed. Many lot sizes in Baden are not large enough to meet all the requirements when you factor in decks, fences and trees.
- We aren't children. We are proud home owners who do not care to take risks at damaging what we own. I think 4 metres is an excessive amount of space from a fence. 3 metres would be sufficient in my opinion. And I do not see why having a fire contained in a manufactured device needs to be enforced. We are adults who take pride in our properties and just as we won't make unsafe and hazardous choices within our homes, same goes for outside on our properties. We have a dug out and cemented pit in our backyard which is sufficiently far enough away from any fence and is surrounded by flagstone. We keep our fires burning at a reasonable level so that not to get one any danger or risk and are conscious and courtesy with respect to noise levels. We always extinguish our fires with water before going in.
- If a homeowner has a water source at the fire, they should be allowed to burn in a manufactured device, within 3m from combustibles.
- This is less safe than the current bylaw by reducing the minimum lot width for a fire as it allows for fires closer to combustible structures. If someone is having a good time hosting a party, are they going to give a fire the attention it deserves to keep everyone safe? I can't see every host doing this.
- "Some people cannot afford those pits.
- In our neighbourhood, everyone is responsible with their fires as they are small and quiet. We don't have massive backyards but everyone is safe, takes safety precautions like keeping away from trees, houses, lot lines, having stones around the fire and keeping water handy. Nobody goes out of control so it seems overboard to limit this."
- Too many rules
- I do not agree. I prefer the current bylaw as it is. If a person is behaving responsibly, a spark arrester is not required
- "People would still burn brush and other things other than what is allowed.
- The Bylaw officers never check yards for fire pits and most of them in our neighbourhood are illegal."
- That is not necessary.
- I am ok with an open pit. Spark arrest kids provide a chance for the user and kids to be burned.
- It is unnecessary if the fire is in a controlled area.

- This is overkill. Making everyone buy a special fire pit with a lid. This is not necessary at all.
- I don't think the size of lot matters.
- No spark arrest lid required
- First, if people have had permits issued a long time ago, they should be able to keep permits as is at that time. These new rules should only be for new people who want fire pits. I think the new rule of burning wood between 5 and midnight is a fair compromise. Having a grate and lid when done fire and put out with water is also a good idea. That way people can hang out laundry etc and not worry about air quality. If people abide by the COMMON SENSE rules, like not attending fires at all times, burning only wood that is allowed and having the pit designed by bylaw, then there should be no problem I am sure. When people abuse these rules, they and only these people need to be fined. The majority of properties in New Hamburg are not big unless by the river, so pits being 25 ft away from any combustible source is impossible !!! That was not the rules when a lot of people got permits years ago. Also people should not be flagged as a noisy neighbor when clearly there are some people who abuse the rules and don't care about their neighbors.
- This might still exclude a number of people from being able to have safe recreational fires in their backyards. Many of us will have a deck, tree, or other object in our backyard within the range of 4 metres, even if the backyard itself is well above 10 metres in width. If we have an appropriate fire pit or enclosure, that should be the main consideration in my opinion.
- I agree with the clearances but "manufactured device with a spark arrest lid" seems overkill for most responsible fire keepers. As far as I am aware, the Township has not had a wildfire in my memory caused by a camp fire. I believe most are caused by larger, debris fire pits.
- A well maintained fire pit with water available as is the current law is reasonable to continue. We have a bricked fire pit that has been approved, away from vegetation and we only use it occasionally for a dinner to cook food. We keep buckets of water available for safety, but have never had a situation. We are careful.
- If your having a fire you should have it low and under control and be able to roast marshmallows and stuff over the fire
- Campsites don't have this much room and do not need to have a contained manufactured device. To buy a manufactured fire pit with spark arrest lid sounds like it's not inexpensive which will also prevent some residents from enjoying their property as they can't afford to have one. Again, you're trying to regulate people's recreation. Have you had a problem with backyard fires causing problems.
- If the fire pit is the appropriate distance from combustibles, i dont see a need to have a manufactured pit with a spark arrest lid.
- I support rule for spark arrest lid but would like fires to be allowed on smaller lots ie 2meters from houses/fences etc
- No more fires please
- If your fire pit is a safe distance from combustibles there is no need for a special container.
- I need clarification on what is considered to be combustible.
- Most yards can't achieve that specific clearances. I would think people would be smart enough to burn in a safe area and keep distance from combustibles.
- That means only the Privledged can have fires.
- To my knowledge, no damage has been done by backyard fires. To contain them within a metal container or rock inclosure Is fair, but I don't think a manufactured device is necessary and a lid is certainly not when families are trying to cook or enjoy a fire.
- No, I disagree
- Most people already have a nice and safe place to have their fires in. I understand the fire needs to be in a safe location .

- If the 4 meter parameter is met I don't see why the 10 meter requirement is necessary. I am also curious what Kitchener has for their requirements and how this proposed change compares.
- Spark arrest lid?
- The Township does not have the right to tell a resident what kind of burning device they can use or have to buy something that is sanctioned by it.
- Makes having a fire not really having a fire.
- Far too regulated!!
- 10m seems excessive.
- 33 feet is an enormous frontage
- You can put regulations in place for these types of things but not everyone will follow the rules. When someone purchases a house that has a fire pit do the new owners know they need to apply for a new burn permit and does someone inspect the pit again.?
- Think of the amount of fires people have currently in normal sized backyards vs the amount of residential fires. We don't need more restrictions we need less. The amount of current permits don't account for the amount of people enjoying backyard fires.
- Current rules are sufficient
- Most of our neighbors enjoy recreational fires and some yard waste burns. We have no issues with them or they with us. Everyone is responsible and safe and we do not need any policing or additional restrictions imposed on us.
- The 4m from combustibles is difficult in most backyards ...one should be able to put the fire pit with a chimney on a concrete slab, with a hose ready if there is a problem...in our situation we would have at least a 2m distance from combustibles... I would not support an open air burn of yardwaste in town
- "Neighbours trees overhang property line making lot unusable under guidelines.
- Same neighbour already has recreational fires at all times of day and their lot would not pass the 4m from combustibles because it is so grown in."
- I believe existing fire pits where there have been no incidents or complaints should be allowed to remain as is. My fire pit is more than 20 years old and is completely covered and airtight when not in use.
- What does the data say with respect to recreational fires and accidents or damage. Base the decision on data not emotional opinions of a few voices.
- my property is 37ft wide if i have a fire pit for small fires in middle of yard i will be 18 ft from either fence which is plenty far .i feel it should be permitted as long as a garden hose is close by and fires are kept low.
- residents do not follow the rules now. they certainly won't start with this
- I don't really understand this rule. So if my property is more than 10m wide and my fire is more than 4m from combustibles, I have to have a vessel with a lid? Shouldn't it be the opposite, that smaller / narrower properties with fires closer to combustibles should have to use a container and lid?
- I want fires to be allowed in an open fire pit
- Rather have a fire in an open pit. Especially if burning yard waste! A "manufactured device" for open fires is a forced purchase and a money grab by the municipality.
- we have water available at all times that we have a fire and do not want it contained in a manufactured device
- If a reasonable fire can be contained in a fire pit, why the need to purchase a manufactured device? More consumption and those things can be low quality and therefore disposed of unnecessarily in a couple years.
- Seems excessive I don't think we have had an increase in fires

- Acre lot or bigger (or talk to neighbours if you have small lots)
- As an adult we should be allowed to govern ourselves. Rather than restricting everyone, if someone is being irresponsible then they should be fined.
- I don't think a spark arrest lid is necessary. Also how would you go about policing that.
- 4m distance is too much distance and a "manufactured device" and "spark arrest lid" all bit eliminates fire pits, which can be and are entitled safe when well maintained and cared for. I have a water hose charged and ready to spray less than 6 feet from my fire pit and I fill my pit with water when I am done with the pit. I know you can't legislate caution and attention but limiting everyone to such tight restrictions is unnecessary and unfair.
- A "safe" fire does not need to have these restrictions ... especially on larger properties including farms
- There are many people who have large lots and they should be allowed to have bonfires that are not contained in a manufactured device
- This may be justified in an urban, suburban setting, but a manufactured device with a spark arrest lid is excessively restrictive for rural/agricultural properties.
- I understand that a spark arrest lid is very important for smaller lots, however, I would like those who can place their fire pit further from buildings to be able to not have to use one. I agree with the stated compromise otherwise.
- How about we allow adults to govern themselves and not need local government to regulate things that aren't really any of their concern. The restrictions are without merit and need to be revised.
- We should be permitted to have fires wherever and whenever we please. There is not a major problem with out of control fires in Wilmot township so why should we change anything?
- When you have fresh wood burning most times the lid doesn't fit
- What bylaws will be in effect for non-wood burning fires such as outdoor fireplaces and fire tables?
- Don't understand the requirements of lids and I think owners of semis should be allowed to have fires
- Unnecessary restrictions. This means a stone/brick ring with trimmed grass and a bucket of water is no longer good enough?
- "This above statement is poorly defined and very limiting to many people. Why? Just to make things complicated and expensive??"
- 1. Define combustibles in the context of your proposal. Must be 4m+ from my hedge which could be combustible in dry weather, or 4m+ from the house, or perhaps 4m+ from the propane tank? Its a very unclear statement and easily misinterpreted, or is that the plan?
- 2. ""Manufactured"" device with a spark arrest lid? So this means I have to go and purchase some expensive gadget where a simple stone/brick fire circle built at home is unacceptable? Really?
- Interesting note: we camp in Ontario Parks, and I can accurately state that many Ontario Park campsites do not have a firepit more than 4m from any combustible, and with a spark arrest lid. None have spark control/screens."
- We have a standard landscaped brick fire pit and we have small fires in here. I don't think it's dangerous a lid seems unnecessary. The houses built in New Hamburg (the newer areas) are built extremely narrow so this doesn't seem fair, we can still safely have a fire. It's never been an issue in the last 5 years I've lived here.
- Do not agree with a manufactured device and cover.

- The options above I do not see a need for maintaining your fire . with responsibility have a hose nearby . I do not see the reason why we should have a lid , or any other sort of device . just be smart.
- The lot width makes sense, but I don't agree that open fires are prohibited (if that's the intent). If people have fire pits that have a current permit, they should be allowed to remain. The covered ones might be a good option where greater than 3m can't be maintained.
- Again , this is a big mis use of taxpayers dollars , who is going to police this ?
- Shouldn't need spark arrest lid if you are smart about burning not when windy and combustible s more than 4m away
- These new guidelines will eliminate thousands of Wilmot residents from being able to have a recreational fire in their backyards.
- This by law does not cover the air quality issue concern I have
- Fire permits should be issued once the fire inspector examines the area.
- A fire with a lid isn't a fire
- Fire permits should be given based on property and surrounding rather than a specific distance from structures and combustibles such as chain link fences
- Seems unnecessary and restrictive
- 10 meters and 4 meters is impossible in anybody's back yard.
- Using common sense is what we all need. A small little fire to enjoy an evening is all we want.
- Not everyone is lucky enough to have that large of a lot. Or may be just under the 10m.
- This disproportionately benefits those who can afford larger properties, and is quite classist as those with smaller yards and potentially less income would be required to invest in a specialized piece of equipment for a usually accessible activity that only requires digging a hole and placing scavenged rocks around the outer rim...
- Why should i have to buy something new when my current pit works just fine?
- Many lots, especially semis are slightly less than 10m wide. A minimum of 4m from combustibles makes sense. A generic lot width requirement does not. The issue is not having enough free space around the fire which could lead to spreading, not generic lot widths. If you are able to maintain the 4m from combustibles, regardless of lot width, that should be perfectly acceptable.
- Again, it is unacceptable for persons to be allowed to pollute the air that I need to breathe.
- "4m from combustibles seems difficult to achieve with fences, decks, trees and even dry grass.
- Means to put out fire (full water bucket or hose) might be better alternative"
- This should be grandfathered for new fire permits. I'm sure many people have created firepits as part of their landscaping that are not able to be 4m from any structure. To have them change their lanscape is unreasonable. Also, having a screen over the fire is impractical.
- If able to provide a safe distance between combustibles and fire than an open firepit is safe. The use of a device with a spark arrest lid should only be required on smaller lots or where combustibles are not a safe distance away from the fire.
- I think we can safely have fires in fire pits as long as space allows. No need for "manufactured devices with spark arrest lids".
- People need to use common sense when it comes to having a fire in their backyard. They should be small fires not necessarily in a manufactured device and out by 12 is a great idea !
- "A proper fire pit with s barrier such as brick, responsible supervision and having and extinguishing option will be just fine.
- In today's post Covid world- an outdoor option is a good thing"
- Not in the city
- Small lots still need the right to have a fire, either in a pit or fire bowl.

- Minimum for lot sizes needs to be reduced to approximately 8m width. There are numerous lots at this width with sufficient property to safely have a fire, especially in these manufactured device. Please revise!
- Our firepit has a cement brick perimeter and I believe its safe. It could have a lid added to it, "grandfather clause".
- This is crazy , 10m width is 32 ft the middle of 32ft is 16ft , then the next one is 4m away from combustibles, like ? 4M IS 13FT small recreational fires are not the problem the problem is burning yard waste
- Not may yards ar 10m wide. I own an older home and my yatd would not be wide enough. So any new builds would definitely not be permitted to have fires than.
- Keep it the way it is
- "The distance is fine. Not sure what the spark arrest lid is and having to remove that to man the fire can be more risky. People need to be educated on how to have a safe fire in their backyard and there should be no problems.
- Weather is a big factor. Wind and dryness. If the conditions are no good then there should be no fires regardless of where you live."
- You shouldn't need a lid for your fire. As long as you have a standard fire rim you'll be fine. It's quite hard to get a fire of this size out of control
- Too much restriction and not necessary
- If you're changing it so that more people can have a fire then I agree
- Tire rims have worked well or brick pits for a long time
- If the diameter of the fire is limited there is no need for a lid
- Should not be needed. People need to be responsible
- "Most back yard fire pits have to be close to property lines (which means fences) to keep them away form decks and houses. I think this is unfair bacause most people don't have yards that are that big. (unless you put a pit directly in the center).
- Maybe make the requierment that you have to have means to put out the fire in case it spreads? eg, garden hose has to be near by and turned on?"
- I feel that people who are responsible when enjoying a backyard fire far outweigh those who could be irresponsible in the same situation.
- A manufactured device with a spark arrest lid? Seriously? Just let us have our traditional bonfires in our backyard without all the regulations. And please let us know how many fires in the township that the fire department has responded to we're started by backyard bonfires.
- Our fire pit is not a manufactured item and does not have a spark arrest lid and is as safe or safer to use!
- There are plenty of properties within the region that are large enough to accommodate an outdoor fire safely however would not be able to adhere to the 4m from combustible materials.
- "This law sounds like it translates to: ""Wealthier people with larger lots can have a fire, and poorer people with smaller ones need to spend money on a ~thing~ in order to have one""
- Fires are a free, and to some, sacred activity."
- I feel we are adults and can be responsible as to when it's safe to make a fire as well as putting it out safely. I feel it is unfair to make us get another type of fire pit unless the township will pay for it.
- You're dealing with novices; often inebriated (to some degree). Im not sure how far an ember can 'fly' but thise dimensions don't sound that generous to me (but i genuinely don't know so if a cautious fire-fighter is saying that's safe ... so be it).
- It should only be allowed on lots that are not in town so it isn't bothersome to neighbors.
- Again, have we had a rash of uncontrolled fires. What is the rationale for this?

- No fires means NO FIRES
- Lid idea is stupid. Just require a hose next to the fire pit
- "Manufactured device is not necessary or inherently safer. Lids are an unnecessary addition as well. If you want this for smaller properties perhaps it is reasonable but not 1 acre or more with lots of space.
- Firepits are a long held tradition, leave them alone."
- I don't feel it is necessary to have a manufactured device with a lid.
- This puts an unfair burden on people to buy something they don't need. Most people already have fire pits so adding unnecessary costs is ridiculous.
- Open air fire pits should be allowed
- "The size of the fire should be regulated, some safety precautions in place ie a bucket of water
- But regulating the container is excessive"
- I can't have an open fire 50' from anything? Get real
- Only for small spaces. Large open areas should not be required to use this.
- I don't believe a manufactured device with a spark arrest lid is necessary.
- Not needed as mandatory as long as it is watched and is safe.
- I have been having fires for 34 years and no problems. Common sense.
- To cover the fire does not allow for proper cooking.
- I believe that as long as people are responsible and monitor their fires, you should not need to have a spark arrest lid (or a gas hookup device).
- My step sons last residence had a narrow lot he was denied a fire permit because he could not meet the dimension requirements...we installed a manufactured safety approved fire pit feature (I am the owner of hardscape construction company and have installed many of these)..we installed the pit the required distance from the wooden fence but could not meet the requirements on the other side the permit was denied because of a chain link fence that was vinyl coated and was therefore considered combustible
- I am wondering how many more of our basic rights our township council wants to take away from us. I am tired of our council being guided by the influence and opinions of people outside our township and calling the people here racist and questioning the integrity of the people living in this township.
- A fire pit with proper stone or brick surrounding it should be safe enough
- Because if there are no combustibles within 4 meters you don't need a spark arrest lid.
- Hard to burn branches under a lid
- Get rid of the requirement for a manufactured device with a lid. It's hard to enjoy a covered fire!
- The spark arrest lid seems needless. Perhaps add the prerequisite that a fire extinguisher or hose is readily accessible?
- Would be better to have a bylaw that says the firepit needs to be on a surface that doesn't catch fire than a spark cover.
- I disagree with this. This penalizes responsible people.
- Do convoluted
- Many challenged with distance. Focus should be on fire safety .. e.g. access to water, etc.
- No, I am a firefighter. If you have a well maintained fire pit and a garden house near by then you should be able to have a fire
- Why is the fire pit in the ground not enough? I do agree the fire should be a distance from structures for safety but people shouldn't have to go out and spend additional money
- If you monitor your fire and keep it at a reasonable height you shouldn't have a problem.

- We have a masonry pit and it does not have that. What about people that have a fire place. They with not have a lid? Can there just be a rule that you have to have a water bucket beside it if you don't have a lid?
- This seems unreasonably restrictive and I would like to be presented with more information to understand why it is being proposed.
- Adds more costs to home owners to have a specific fire pit style and it also does not take into account home owners with smaller lots or homes or lower income residents of the township who should not be penalized for not being able to afford a larger lot as specified in the proposal.
- 4m from anything combustibile shouldn't need a spark arrest lid
- It's a fire we've always had them on the ground.
- The only part I disagree with is the 10m width criteria. I think this would disenfranchise people with smaller yards from being able to fully enjoy their space, specifically people who are less wealthy
- "People again should not be dictated to by you people at Wilmot.
- But whomever has a fire they should be 3m from a combustibile source and have a fire retardant on hand to be safe."
- Lid not necessary
- I don't think wilmot has had any issues with recreational fires so I don't understand why these new guidelines are being put in place. Please don't minimize the amount of fun and freedom wilmot has when it comes to enjoying our backyards and family with a recreational fire.
- As I understand it this would eliminate many fire pits. Fire pits are low-cost and more accessible for many residents than contained manufactured devices. Adding this restriction would mean that some residents are now unable to enjoy a fire.
- Absolutely no one would be able to have a fire especially anyone in a subdivision built in the last twenty years
- "There should be other opinions. 4m. That would mean almost everyone behind the caslte are out.
- 3 m i would be ok with."
- Manufactured devices are expensive and often do not last. Safe fires can be had in traditional fire pits.
- Preference for an open firs pit for cooking
- If the person having the fire has a hose within 4 metres I don't see an issue with any size yard having a fire.
- My existing fire pit is contained in a custom concrete pit, with concrete surrounding the pit. There are no combustibile materials within 4 meters, so I don't feel I need a spark arrest lid. My fires are kept small, contained, and monitored, with water hose at the ready.
- A manufactured device limits peoples creative backyard ideas, theres already a size limit to firepits, a " device" isnt necessary and a lid makes it a bbq, thats not a firepit anymore
- You shouldnt have to buy a manufactured device with a lid if you use commomsense. Spend 300 to 500 to have a fire. Sounds like a money grab for people who should go to the boy scouts or girl scouts. This sounds a little over done.
- No lids
- "That pretty much makes it so that no residential property in the township would be able to have a recreational fire.
- It's very limiting.
- There are residents of Wimot that are already having fires without a permit and not in line with the by law and have you had any fire calls? Is there properties getting damaged ?
- I think the measurement is too big."

- Agree with distance just not the lid. If don't see fire then can take the heat factor on the lid for granted and burn self on the lid
- The township has allow lot sizes to be built that are smaller than than that. They should still be allowed to have fires.
- "Take out the word manufactured.
- A water hose with a spray nozzle must have the water turned on and be within 3 feet of the active fire and a lid must be available to put over the fire to put it out quickly. An unattended left smoking fire will result in a \$1,000. Fine.
- An acceptable size fire would be no bigger than what a garbage can lid would fit over."
- I think a water source and a contained area with walls on three sides and an open top should be acceptable.
- Many lots are 30 feet, especially in semi detached homes. I think it should be 30 feet for width of lots. I agree with the 4 metres away from combustibles.
- "I have watched neighbours move their fire pits to where ever they want. Including close to the fence. They leave the fires unattended.
- I do not wish to lose my home due to their negligence"
- I think people must be responsible to have a safe fire but there is nothing wrong with a old fashion tire rim pit ,the un responsible people should be held accountable but why take the fun away from others
- Will this apply to existing fire pits that already have a permit and if so what direction will you be giving residents on how to make or procure a spark guard?
- If the bon fire is 4m away from combustibles there is no need for a spark arrest lid.
- A lid is unreasonable for camp fires
- We have safely had fires for decades in a non-manufactured firepit and have spent money on landscaping our firepit area. This change could cost us needlessly. If this is implemented, existing firepits should be grandfathered.
- The size of the fire should be limited it . You should be contained and you should have to have water. I do not think you should have to buy a certain fire pit .
- As long as people follow guidelines hose with or bucket of water or fire extinguisher
- If we are a safe distance from combustibles spark arresters are not needed.
- I would like to see open air fires be allowed without a permit, provided the owner follows appropriate guidelines.
- Poorly worded question to confuse respondents. Distances are already specified in the Ontario Fire Code. Lot dimensions that are too small are the fault of the township and money hungry developers. This is an unneeded restriction placed on people by staff who are out to make a name for themselves.
- Will discourage many from fires and create more issues with illegal unsafe practices.
- Don't think spark lid is necessary. We enjoy cooking on/over it fire.
- I DONT BELIEVE IT SHOULD HAVE TO BE A MANUFACTURED DEVICE. A STONE OR BRICK RING OR CIRCLE WILL BE JUST AS SAFE .
- "I don't know if I actually disagree with this because I would need clarification on what is meant by combustibles ""Lot sizes that are no less than 10m in width and maintain a minimum of 4m from combustibles""
- I have a manufactured fire pit with spark arrest lid, but would the 4m mean it needs to be 13 feet from a fence or deck? Given the small size of most backyard fire pits if they are manufactured (2-3ft with small bowl meaning small amount of wood and fire), I would think 10ft from combustibles is sufficient."
- maybe common sense should be the deciding factor not lot size

- 10m width 4m is absolutely ridiculous! You are excluding MANY properties that do not have the room for such a thing! 2m and notable spark prevention, such as a water can or hose is better!
- A responsible operator can manipulate a fire without having a spark arrest lid. People should be able to enjoy a built-in fire pit or be able to customize a design to fit their landscaping. However I do agree with a pit size limit
- I believe that property owners should be trusted to have safe fires.
- If it's not broke don't fix it!!! People live out here to escape the city, and this new bylaw is bringing the city to us
- Keep bylaws how they are
- I feel a fire safety course/booklet/brochure should be given to those that are within these parameters. I feel fire safety is more about education then just if you have the required parameters you will get a fire permit.
- This means a fire potentially 5m from your neighbours home? Who is regulating what is being burnt and whether or not it is safe for anyone to be breathing?
- "why is a compromise required?"
- Lots containing multiple trees, shrubs, garden sheds could have difficulty adhering to these guidelines.
- 4 meters seems like excessive distancing"
- No limits should be required. Personal responsibility should be promoted here instead.
- You are taking away the freedom that we have had for years. In this difficult times of self distancing this may be the only entertainment we have.
- The size of the lot is fine but strongly disagree with needing a spark arrest lid.
- i think there should be rules on what is allowed to be burnt, and if someone is caught burning something that throws sparks they should be fined accordingly. sparks carry much further than 4m or 10m with very little breeze so anytime a fire is going there should be a garden hose handy. Also, if it is that dry that a spark would ignite dry grass or other flammable materials, there should likely be a no burn notice published.
- Fires that are a reasonable distance from buildings and trees should not have to be in a manufactured device with a lid. We have a permit for our fire pit and have built it out of a metal ring and bricks/flagstone. It is just as safe as anything manufactured, if not more.
- "the lot size is a problem.
- home owners are at the mercy of owning a small lot in Wilmot due to the contractor lot sizing.
- so, owner of 1/2 of a semi cannot host a backyard fire is what this is telling me !"
- I am a home owner that pays my taxes. I should be able to have a fire at any time in any fire pit I want. This government has already taken away many rights of people unless of course you are a minority.
- Agree with fires being contained in manufactured device with a spark arrest lid, however distance from property lines should be a specified distance such that neighbours are not negatively impacted by smoke.
- The majority of people are responsible when it comes to outdoor fires. Let them be the judge of what's safe and what isn't. If there is a safety concern then mail pamphlets or put up posters or something for recreational fire safety tips.
- If you can't have a proper open air fire and use common sense you shouldn't be having a fire. How do I make s'mores with the kids if there's a lid over? That's a dumb requirement. Almost as dumb as the 5pm to midnight timeframe.
- Myself and others I know moved here to enjoy fires, there isn't a problem so don't fix it.
- Recreational fires should be allowed even without a spark arrest provided they are under control and comply with the previous by-laws.

- My fire pit is over 150 feet away from any house. I have a garden hose that reaches to the pit and if there are any emergencies then i am ready. I don't need silly restrictions as i cook food for my family.
- What is wrong with an open fire as long as it is not super dry out???
- "Our fire pit has been inspected and approved. It doesn't say above what is a ""manufactured device"". So to potentially have our burn permit revoked especially when we are not in a subdivision doesn't make any sense.
- Also a spark arrest lid would be really big for us."
- We live in Haysville, we don't have the same cluster problems as those living in Baden. We are still safe and responsible with our fires. As stated before we moved here to enjoy some of the country freedoms that those in the city do not have. We are not bothered by the smoke from our neighbours because it is a part of life where we live. If people are bothered by it then move back to the city.
- "Way the risk.....how many houses have been lost in wilmot township, by fire, as a result of a backyard fire??
- It's a control tactic. Completely unnecessary."
- Seems over the top.
- Distances are excessive, you should be in control of any self created fire at all times. If you are unable to
- "Compromise with what? Not having fires? The current regulations requiring fires be kept under control is sufficient.
- I expect there is no actual evidence that what is being proposed in this question solves whatever problem is being fixed here. I note that there is no stated problem."
- I feel any fire kept under 4 feet in height is reasonable, in either a fire ring or said manufactured fire pit with arrestor.
- If fires are respectful with proper offsets, I don't believe they need to have a lid.
- "I think requiring a purchased product for the simple purpose of having a small backyard fire for roasting hotdogs and/or marshmallows is an example of over-regulation. With this requirement in place there would be one more tool to charge/fine people and chip away at the small town feeling we have had here. The wonderful thing about living in a small community like Baden is just this...small community. We should be creating an environment that encourages people to talk with their neighbors instead of just calling in a complaint.
- A community liaison would be a far better idea...someone whose role includes facilitating discussion between neighbors when there is conflict."
- "Smaller lots should not have backyard fires - 10m or 30ft is really too small, I can see it working on lots where people have a fair distance between houses (over 75ft minimum I'd say between wherever they'll have the fire and the neighbor's house), but on a 30ft lot you again have the concern of smoke getting into your neighbor's yards (so now we can't enjoy sitting out on our deck at night for instance), or into their house if they have their windows open on a nice night.
- The bylaw should require a much larger distance between houses, I realize this makes it difficult for people who buy in new developments, but they'll have to go camping or other places to have a fire I guess."
- That eliminates the classic campfire
- I prefer an open fire pit
- Still a smoked out issue in our yard and health issue for allergy
- I disagree with having this bylaw in general.
- Everyone should be able to have a fire
- Is this for all fires?

- Manufactured devices can be as dangerous as fire pits.
- "Needing a manufactured device with a spark arrest lid is too much. People can have safe backyard/recreational fires without that. People need to learn/be aware of fire safety and be responsible!!
- There is no problem having a small back yard fire that is in a fire pit."
- These distances are often not respected.
- Not all lot sizes work in this by law. As long as the fire is in a contained unit it seems reasonable.
- This sounds like we cannot have a fire pit, it must be in a manufactured item with a lid at all times. I understand for those in a neighborhood with tiny backyards, but for those of us with large properties what is the problem with having a dug fire pit surrounded by rocks?
- Many of our neighbours have built beautiful stone fire pits that are a key feature of their backyard. I agree with the size, but not a manufactured pit.
- There should be no changes to the current bylaw. A campaign to remind people what is combustible and should never be around a fire should occur. Maybe a campaign about fire courtesy should happen. It's kinda like Resolution 101 ... Observe, Listen, Teach/Inform, THEN if nothing changes that's when you install new bylaws or penalties. You need to inform/educate first.
- Last weekend, someone a block away had a backyard fire with wood that was fresh and the smell was so dense and HORRIBLE that even though all windows and doors were shut tight, it was still getting in the house through our bathroom vents which we had to turn on for hours to prevent some of the stench from coming in. Pollution spreads everywhere so if someone really wants to have fires, they should buy a large property so they don't selfishly bother anyone else. As the population grows, people need to be more respectful of their neighbours.
- This question is confusing. If you are saying you can have a fire in a small space so 4m from combustible you need to have it in a contained device with spark arrest but if you comply with the 20 or 25ft rule you can have open fires than yes I agree. But if you are saying all fires contained in a device with a spark arrest lid than I disagree.
- I disagree with having to have a manufactured device with spark lid.
- "I disagree with it being a manufactured device. Would a home made stone fire pit be considered manufactured?
- Most new residential properties in Wilmot township cannot adhere to the 4m from combustibles. If there is a spark arrest lid, why can't the 4m be less?
- I agree with a spark arrest lid."
- Lids aren't necessary.
- We have had fires for many years and never had any issues with items nearby as long as you have a hose close by and are aware of your surroundings.
- Open fires should be allowed
- 4M from combustibles is too limiting; using a device with a spark arresting lid should reduce the restriction, especially if you have access to a garden hose.
- Prefer to have an open campfire.
- As long as you can maintain the 4m distance in any direction.
- What has led to these new changes? What are you trying to achieve? There hasn't been an increase in fires due to residential burning. The current requirements are sufficient.
- Don't think it requires a manufactured device to burn in. A pit, in the ground is fine
- How many open fires have caused damage to properties in this community? People of this community are responsible and should have their rights to open fire without having a fire arrest lid.

- I already have a beautiful fire pit that I had made thought I would like to continue to use. I think we need to have people responsible for the fires that they are hosting on the property.
- Many lots are smaller than 10m
- Existing fire pits have been approved - property owners have designed them to be safely away from any combustible structures. A spark arrest lid would have to be sized to fit over the existing pits which is an added cost, and cause a dysfunction to the fire pit
- Because some people do not exhibit responsible fire safety, the minimum distance from combustibles should be greater than 4m (14 feet or more). A suggestion would be 6m (20 feet)
- Property width is usually relational to house size. Bigger house usually means higher income. The ability to have a small recreational fire shouldn't depend on such criteria.
- Who will monitor these fires to see that regulations are followed
- Fire safety needs to be practiced when having a fire, but this can be done with an open fire pit safely.
- If you use harder proper wood there shouldn't be any issues.
- This still doesn't sound safe. What happens if it is windy and people are intoxicated? How is safety ensured?
- Spark arrest lid should not be required....although, perhaps a provision could be added to require if there has been no rain recently?
- "Many lots in New Dundee where I live have a width of 100ft. These lots have plenty of distance from combustibles. I feel like the spark arrestor is a great idea for small lots where the minimum distances cannot be achieved. With new construction builds having smaller and smaller lot sizes, I believe that restrictions should be in place for these cases.
- Forcing someone who currently has a legal permit, with proper distances to use an arrestor is silly."
- If fire safety is followed than a pit that is currently acceptable, whether it stone, brick, rim etc. Then there is no need for more bureaucracy and more costs to be incurred.
- There should not be limitations on what someone can do on their personal property
- I believe we should be able to use a fire pit, like a lot of us already have built in.
- Houses in certain areas are close, and the smoke from fires is still all over a neighbouring property. In the rural areas houses are far apart and the smoke does not spread. But most houses in New Dundee are close and I can even smell the smoke from 3 doors down.
- "It doesn't seem reasonable to force people to purchase manufactured fire pits when they may have one existing already. A spark arrest lid ?
- Serious Over kill !"
- I think smaller lot sizes will have a difficult time with a 10 m restriction. 8 m is more attainable with the new builds
- Many bon fires are open and do not require a lid (even to do things as simple as roasting marshmallows or spider dogs) without issue.
- I think 3 meters is sufficient.
- Its over-cautious and unreasonable. Most lots are 30-40 feet. This provides a very small area that fits this definition. Are there realistic safety concerns here? Are there instances of backyard fires getting out of hand? What problem are we looking to solve. Maybe if we were surrounded by forest but this is ridiculous.
- That spacing is still far too limiting considering the safety elements of the device that would be used
- 10m is fine but a manufactured device with a spark proof lid is going over board. Why not consider restricting the diameter of the pit. A properly maintained 24" pit would limit the size that a fire could be and therefore reduce the amount of sparks.

- I don't like the manufactured device or the spark arrest lid. This is not an open fire and I like the open fire in a truck rim in my backyard. You cannot cook over a manufactured device or the spark arrest lid. We also use our fire pit to cook food that requires an open fire! This includes pie irons, hotdogs or sausages and buns on a long stick, and marshmallows on a long stick. If any food falls off the stick, it falls into the fire and not on top of a manufactured device.
- This eliminates the ability to burn in most residential areas, I don't agree with that.
- Again that's limiting people with narrow lots, there should be a bylaw for trees and plants around to be trimmed back from fire pit
- No, open air fires should be allowed, especially for larger properties
- A lid should not be required
- If you are having a fire within the safety limits you shouldn't need extra safety measures to enjoy campfires on your own property.
- We chose to live in a rural setting to get away from the city. Please stop bringing in city rules. If our fire pit is safe and contained, it is not necessary to buy a manufactured device.
- "I'm not sure about the question. Is this proposed to be the ONLY conditions under which a fire would be allowed? Or is this an additional rule to allow particularly small fires in lots in which (under the current by-law) fires could not be permitted?"
- I don't mind having restrictions on the size of fire, or the equipment (if any) that must be used, but they should be based on lot size or distance to lot lines or (better yet) neighbouring buildings; a larger or more open fire should be allowed on larger lots or with more distance to buildings.
- Distance to combustibles (a fire hazard consideration) and to others' dwelling areas (a possible nuisance consideration) are separate issues."
- I feel that if you are using a spark arrest lid the distance from combustibles does not need to be so great. If a spark is going to get out of the fire pit at the chances of it actually catching something on fire are very slim and if the grass and combustibles around the pit are dry enough to ignite from a spark then it's probably dry enough to have a burn ban in place that would limit the use of fire pits anyhow.
- "Partly. If it is a manufactured fire pit or not it should be fine. "Controlled fire" language may be ok.
- But why the need to dictate at all?"
- "I would want clarification on what you consider a combustible?"
- Fence/deck?"
- I would agree if bylaw officers would travel the street and lay charges instead of relying on doing so on a complaint only basis.
- Size of the property is fine but do not agree with the need for a spark arrest lid.
- Semis are somewhere in the range of 25-30ft, which is under 10m. Have no problems with min 25ft width instead.
- It seems to me that the issue of recreational camp fires is already over regulated. As a individual that has over the years had hundreds of camp fires in Ontario parks including in the back county I would estimate the 90% of campfire pits in Ontario parks would not pass our township regulations.
- "I'm confused on the wording of this question. Lot sizes that are over 10m in width have to have a spark arrest lid?"
- I live on a larger property and I am not putting a spark arrest lid on my fire pit.
- Those living on smaller properties with close neighbours a spark arrest lid may be necessary if there have been uncontrolled fires such as a house fire caused by a spark leaving someone's fire pit.

- More information ought to be given to residents regarding the number of times the fire department had to put out an uncontrolled fire in years past. This should not include people who complain about a fire that is too big or smoke complaints but where there was extensive property damage. This is the information that is needed to determine the need for spark arrest lids."
- A spark arrest lid basically limits anything you can do with a fire. Ever tried to cook a smore over a fire with a spark arrest lid. Impossible, unless you like half-charred, half-raw smores. And the ironic thing here is that I have a fire pit in our back yard and it has a spark arrest on it.
- Spark arrestor lid shouldn't be required in all cases. 4m distance is to great an amount
- Do not need manufactured device
- A spark arrest lid should not be required
- Agree with setbacks however don't understand the need for a spark arrest lid, as long as people are able to meet the setbacks and have an extinguishing device that should be sufficient.
- I have a dug pit surrounded by landscape blocks. Not a manufactured unit. I have had no issues with fire spread, yet still maintain extra precautions for any eventuality.

Burn Bylaw Survey Comments from Question 8

8. Do you have any additional comments to add?

- I'm in favour of continuing to permit recreational/back-yard fires.
- We should not have to pay to get a burn permit.
- This is great family/community time. Make it a requirement that each fire must have access to a water hose within a few metres should there be any issues.
- I'm interested in what will happen to people who have a current burn permit. Will this change things for them?
- Its great that there is outreach for this but i hope that a bylaw come into place with REASONABLE laws not ones that are impossible to comply with and prevents people from enjoying their own properties.
- The time frame for permitted burning is very fair. my neighbour likes to burn in the mornings when I have hung laundry out. That i find disturbing. This a really good compromise
- Backyard fires are something my kids and i love to do together. I would hate to lose an opportunity to have quality time with them. We are respectful of our neighbors and make sure the fires are always under control.
- These bylaw adjustments are due to lack of enforcement. Your by law enforcement program has been a historical failure. Residence require a phone number to call 24 hours a day with a person answering and sending out an officer at any time of day. This program currently does not exist in Wilmot Township. Do your job. Or somebody else will.
- "I already follow rules similar to this (small fire in a fire bowl with a lid and not late into the night, just my husband and young kids around it), so I would like to be able to continue these small family moments. If I needed to, I would be willing to have a permit and call in the evenings we have a fire.
- A call in line would be great for the community, so people can know if it's safe to have a fire even, esp during dry times or other conditions are not favourable (because not everyone is fire smart)."
- Continue to allow fires and continue with permits Needed
- We have had a fire pit for 31 years. We only use rarely and usually at night. We dont burn garbage. I see no problem with being able to do this. We are always conscious of wind and smoke and would be considerate of our neighbors.
- I suggest that fires should be controlled and no huge burns. Residents must take responsibility for keeping their fire under control.
- The problem i have is the volunteer fire dept abusing their role. I have seen them in the past go on a power trip when it comes to backyard fires. Even going as far as bringing in s fire truck to put out a well contained extinguished fire that was slightly smoldering. They need to have better training. They are not professionals. They are on a power trip
- "The current provisions with a one time inspection appears to work well.
- I would have serious concerns about amendments to the bylaw without making substabtive changes to the bylaw officers schedule.
- We recognize that the fires are happening later in the evening and i would suspect on weekends. Without coverage it is inappropriate to expect another service to conduct enforcement or compliance"

- I agree that smaller lots require more caution with respect to outdoor fires, however; there is no mention about approved existing open firepits on larger lots. How will they be affected by this change or will there be an impact as a result of this change?
- Have people get a burn permit. We need one at our cottage. Wilmot should do this as well. It's inexpensive, \$20/year, but helps to know who is licensed and who is not.
- Please ban all backyard fires. They are not fair to people that want to sleep at night.
- With a volunteer fire department, with a slower response time, than a full time force, urban areas are not the place for outdoor/ campfires.
- I think the small fires should be allowed, most people are responsible and mature enough to understand the consequences of unattended fire. I think most of us just want to have the ability to occasionally do it for entertaining purposes particularly now that we locked out at home with the Pandemic.
- Thank you for considering to allow safe recreational fires in our moderate sized backyard
- Lot size should have no bearing on a small contained recreational fire. Fires should be completely put out and not left to smolder all night would be a fair compromise.
- Change it to 8 meters.
- Leave it as is. Changes are not needed.
- But people don't follow the rules, and I am afraid if I call bylaw on them, bylaw will tell them who called and then there will be awkwardness between neighbors.
- "I think we should be allowed to have recreational fires. Some of us greatly enjoy it but do not go camping, where it is allowed (if allowed with no fire restrictions of course). If there are fire restrictions in place for the area then we, who have recreational fires, also need to follow that.
- Please allow us to have recreational fires in our backyards.
- So many other things are restricted, not just due to COVID— let us have this!"
- Leave as is. If there are complaints about specific fires or properties deal with them. Do not change the bylaw because bylaw does not handle the issues.
- Enough with the fun police in Wilmot
- I feel these changes are being made to cater to people who have moved to a small town for the feel of a small town. However now want to change the town to be like the city that they moved away from because everything small town offends them.
- Our township bylaw has much more important issues to worry about rather than amending a fire pit bylaw that in my opinion isn't often abused.
- "Your residents have been locked up and restricted to backyard activities. Who knows when it will happen again.
- Let us enjoy this minor activity in peace on our own properties with minimal restrictions or worry about policy."
- "While Waterloo residents fight to have backyard fires it seems odd that Wilmot would do the opposite.
- What is the point of the potential change? Has there really been that many fires and complaints directly linked to backyard fires?
- This information would really have helped give a purpose to the questions."
- I'm not personally a fan of backyard fires. If people live out in the country more where it won't bother their neighbors, great. Most of the people that live in town have neighbours fairly close by. Some people may be quiet enough when having a fire, but other people will see it as an opportunity to be disruptive outside until at least midnight.
- Require a working (with water turned on) hose within 3m of the responsible party while fire is burning. Could easily spray down a fence board or flying ember that lands near dry items

- We purposely moved to a smaller town for the perks of small town living including having the opportunity to have open fires. It appears that the township is trying to assimilate to big city living and removing all the perks of being a small town. Why not just amalgamate with Kitchener-Waterloo and Cambridge, as it appears you are trying to be just like them! How is it that Waterloo is fighting to permit recreation fires and Wilmot is trying to move in the complete opposite direction. Why is this bylaw currently being reviewed, what has prompted this???
- I oppose any changes that will affect existing permitted fire pits.
- How do I find out if my existing permit is still valid under the new rules? I don't have a copy of my permit from 15 years ago. Does Wilmot fire have it on file?
- What is happening to this world?
- I don't think this is necessary to pull in, it would begin to resemble Waterloo's bylaws and we have lived in Waterloo, Kitchener and Wilmot- they are kind of extreme when most people are responsible. Instead it would be better to keep your eyes on those taking it too far
- We live in a rural community. Outdoor fires are part of that. Let's keep it that way
- so the lot needs to be 32 feet wide. that will rule out fires in most yards. I would like the noise bylaw reviewed please.. and a time that they have to shut off outdoor music by.. as there is not one now
- Please consider people who have breathing difficulties.
- No
- There isn't much to do in the evenings in Wilmot Township. I hope this bylaw doesn't result in this activity being ruined or banned. There are many families that live here that get much enjoyment from spending time together talking around a nice outdoor recreational fire. Please take all the positive aspects into consideration and not just the negative complaints.
- What are the rules for propane fire tables? Provide guidance on them.
- There should not be any fires permitted unless you are on more than an acre of property.
- Individuals should be exercising caution and common sense while outdoor fires are occurring. A new bylaw is not necessary.
- I am getting tired of Wilmot Township's focus on canceling things and writing more bylaws. Put a focus on adding something positive to the township instead of making more rules to ensure everyone has less recreational enjoyment. This is not the time for this. There should be more things to do for all ages in this area not less!
- I think fires are great and kids enjoy them. I just think they need to be done safely.
- I think the current bylaws are oppressive when compared to other regions. I found last winter that I could not have a fire in my back yard because I did not meet the requirements for a permit. The neighbours all around me do not meet these the current bylaws in order to have a permit, nor would most people in New Hamburg. It is a sad state when people, unknowingly as I was, can possibly be fined for fires in their backyards when done safely. On any holiday weekend in the summer if you were to fly a drone above houses I think you would find a large number of fires going on in backyards that are nowhere near large enough to again meet the current requirements. People should be free to safely enjoy their properties with reasonable laws. 50 square feet around a fire pit is unreasonable and over the top in my opinion.
- No
- Of all the house fires that have burnt over the past few years, have not been from fire pits. What is the difference of sparks from a fire or sparks from someone letting off fireworks and having debris all over wood deck and roof ???? I would rather have an occasional fire than listen to neighbors shoot off fireworks for 3 days straight.
- Some of us really want to have recreational fire pits in our backyards but can't because of current regulations. I am a responsible homeowner and am not going to act recklessly with fire on my property. I have a smaller backyard, but not postage-stamp sized. If the approved

dimensions are 10m minimum width, but 4m from anything combustible, then I will likely still be excluded because of trees and a deck. I want to abide by the regulations, so I've never installed a fire pit. Please make it possible so that people like me can have one. Thank you!

- Safety issues from starting wildfires or producing non-organic pollution should be the only criteria when setting bylaws. Dictating time limits is overkill and one presumes driven from complaints of citizens who don't like the smell. I don't always like it either seeping into my house either, but then I close my window. Pretty simple price to pay to allow my neighbours some social time to maintain mental health -a lesson we hopefully all learned through our recent isolation.
- "It seems that most of the fires in Wilmot are from barns and not camp fires carefully watched by the owners. Can you supply that information please to the public?"
- Thank you"
- "I would like to see open air burns for yard waste allowed on properties that are large enough, without a timeframe restriction. Those burns can be done during the day.
- There are definitely residents in Wilmot who seem to burn excessively. One dwelling having a backyard fire almost every night of the week at isn't necessary but it absolutely does happen."
- You're trying way too hard to do something that is infringing on people's recreation and enjoyment, for the sake of achieving what. If there was a plethora of fires and safety issues in Wilmot due to backyard campfires, then you may want to consider some rules. However, I don't believe that is the issue, but maybe I'm wrong. And if there have been complaints, how many have there been as a percentage of households and over what period of time? During this pandemic, people are finding their homes as their sanctuary and now you are trying to limit further what they can do, both how and when, on their private property. Stop regulating fun. Let people live their lives.
- This township needs to get out of the 1960s.
- I would be very upsetting if you took our right away to have a backyard fire. As we have enjoyed this for many generations with our family and friends and has given myself and many people I know, very special memories of time spent with loved ones.
- I disagree with it coz what the point of having a bylaw that will never be unforced like most bylaws with in the township and police are not going to be both with fire pit calls (like noise complaints) Most fires take place at night and weekends and they is no bylaws that work after 4:30pm or on weekends. So what's the point of going to all this work and wasting taxes paying dollars on this issue.
- What are the issues? I think we have bigger issues to cover in our township besides micromanaging some backyard fires. (Racism, arena not opening, a mayor who doesn't care, etc) fire ban is not on the priority list for things to change
- "Please don't take away the enjoyment our community has with open burn fires.
- What we need to be watching for though are people that use their open fire pits to burn garbage!"
- I am sick of cancel culture. If someone is having an uncontrolled fire, fine them. Don't ban them from others who are enjoying them safely.
- There is nothing wrong with the current rec fire bylaws that permit and preserve our timeless pastimes. Keep safe fires alive.
- Stop letting new residents govern our existing bylaws. If they don't like it the city is only 30 minutes away.
- 100% in favour of recreational fires, period! No time limits, no restrictions, no Township interference.
- "Our family enjoys our backyard fires all year. Summer and winter. We have a permit from the municipality saying it meets the requirements and is safe. Our neighbors all have fires in their

yards as well. I love to see people out having fires. It is very high on my list of reasons I love living here. I will be very disappointed and upset if this changes. Please don't wreck a good thing.

- It seems ridiculous to me to treat those in an urban setting the same as an agricultural setting. If on a farm with many acres I don't see the need for the township to place limits
- Please enforce your bylaws. They are useless otherwise. This includes fire permits, fence and front yard hedge bylaws and especially parking bylaws. All are a joke in this township.
- "We use our fire pit with respect to our neighbours and the environment. I will not approve of one to tell me how and when I can use my property for my recreation.
- Disallow them for health and safety reasons.
- Backyard fires should be banned in wilmot township.
- "Please provide more direction as to what will happen if this is not being followed. Who do you call when and if stated bylaws are not being followed.
- Daytime recreational burns should be banned NOW!"
- Please embrace technology and allow those with a burn permit to advise the fire department we will be burning in an online manner instead of having to phone the department during the week.
- Keep your nose out of our personal lives!
- If people again, just follow the rules
- "Not sure what the lid above is?"
- Years ago when we got our permit, one stipulation was that our garden hose could reach the fire pit if necessary. I think there should be some mention of accessibility to water in case of emergency."
- As far as I am concerned, there is no reason to stop back yard fires. It all comes down to common sense. Respect your neighbours(even better invite them to join) , if it's windy don't have a fire.
- Current bylaws are too restrictive, not many can meet those lot requirements but can still safely have a fire. I'm in favour of changing so that smaller lots can still get permits
- No burning garbage.
- We did not choose to live outside of the city only to have the same restrictions as those that did.
- "Who would be getting called for complaints about backyard fires at 2am
 - Fire dept
 - Police
 - Bylaw officers
 - Les Armstrong"
- If these rules come into practice then they NEED to be enforced. Enforcement is the biggest concern I have
- Please please use common sense on this issue! Don't let a few squeaky wheels ruin it for everyone! Stand up to those people that are unreasonable.
- Current fire permits should be grand fathered into your new system. And not renewed.
- I am all for backyard fire pits as long as the fire doesn't get out of control and that there are safety precautions in place eg fire buckets or hose.
- I think fires are ok in backyards IF common sense is used. to many rules are unnecessary. Also...Chickens should be allowed!!
- "i like to hang out laundry, smoke can drift through my yard from 10 houses away ruin my fresh line dried laundry as well as fill my house with smoke.
- Perham only allowing propane or natural gas fueled fires, clean burn, its safer and no smoke"
- These kinds of by-laws need to distinguish between types of properties: subdivisions are not in the same category as in-town but rural -type properties , beside a lake or river, for example.

- Thank you!!!
- be respectful of your neighbors when having a fire and all should remain as is
- Please stop backyard fires and move us to a better and more responsible future.
- As a shift worker I would like to see the allowable time for a backyard fire extended past midnight to allow me to have a fire after work.
- Stop wasting tax payers money on making all these rules. People own homes for a reason. Let them enjoy their home ownership.
- There are many ways to enjoy a fire, gets a propane one or gas one, but leave the smoke and stink to larger properties not compact sardines houses
- No
- But im sure like anything else you do ..you will do what you want regardless of the result of this survey..
- It is unclear what is happening with larger lot sizes that follow the current bylaw. I don't think the same rules apply. I think adding an allowance is good for smaller lot sizes, but not changing the existing rules.
- My family has always enjoyed having fires in the back yard and so have many of my neighbours. I would hate to loose that enjoyment of our property.
- "Suggestion: properties of less than 5000 sq feet are limited to a manuf device and spark guard and 4 m from combustibles.
- Properties between 5000 and 7500 sq feet must abide by proximity rules of 4m from combustibles plus accessible pressurized water supply (garden hose or other) within 8m.
- Properties over 7501 sq ft must only have an accessible pressurized water supply within 8m"
- Are the same rules going to apply to rural properties and houses in town?
- This is a time for family and neighbours to come together.
- When I purchased my permit they came and measured the lot I can only hope people are smart enough not to ruin the enjoyment for others it is far enough away should not cause issues for others.burning good dry wood doesn't cause too much smoke we all need to enjoy safely for all
- I have lived in Baden for almost 22 years and have thoroughly enjoyed the privilege of having a backyard fire anytime I wish. We have summer backyard gatherings (pre covid) and are really looking forward to more with no time limit on the fire. Thanks for allowing us the chance to give our opinions on this matter. Have a great day.
- Please do not over regulate this item.
- If I lived in a subdivision with small lots I would not like my neighbours smoke coming into my Windows. I don't believe they should be allowed in this case as unfortunately some people are inconsiderate neighbours. I'm lucky to live on a large lot with very considerate neighbours
- Anyone should be able to have a fire that is in reason.
- "Use of green wood should be prohibited.
- Unattended fires should be extinguished.
- Safety of children needs consideration."
- Please make this happen!!
- I like the effort made to find compromise on this
- Ban fireworks!
- Rather than creating a whole new confusing rulebook, why not create a fire safety education program targetting people who light giant fires where and when they shouldn't. (Aka Lacks Common sense?) This should increase knowlge and awareness via social media, print and video and be circulated through all levels and ages from schools to seniors in the community.
- Should be a minimum setback to property line to address adding a fence after fire pit established ie 4m to combustibles or property line

- People shouldn't be able burn whatever they want in recreational fires.
- Yes if you live in a semi are you filled your backyard up with pools and stuff and you have no room like the current permit says that you should not be able to have one but if you can meet the requirements and then it should be fine
- If backyard fires are to be limited then i would also insist that outdoor smoking of tobacco and Marijuana products be limited as they are every bit as intrusive.
- I'm happy with the existing bylaw as it exists and do not welcome any further restriction.
- With what we are navigating these days with Covid it would be nice to have the option of enjoying a controlled fire with our family
- Banning fires in a rural community is Absurd.
- Target people who have fires with no permit
- Don't be a buzz kill. Let homeowners have a fire in their backyards if they so choose. Jesus
- Nothing wrong with existing guidelines.
- Don't take away our fires.
- Everyone should be entitled to a back yard fire
- Is there not already a bylaw requiring burn permits even for recreational fires.
- I understand that revisiting bylaws are often needed. I would hope that this would not be the primary source of information for this review though. I feel that you would get two main drastically different opinions who would answer. Those opposed and those in favor. This leaves out a huge amount of voices who have no opinion. Our current permit is for the duration of our home ownership. Has there been an increase in problems with backyard fires? Our household keeps up with current news through social media and local newspapers. There have not been any stories, reports or more about these. The only two sources that I've seen has been this survey and the sign by the post office in New Hamburg.
- This would be a positive change. I think the midnight rule could be longer for those of us who are responsible.
- It's summer and I think everyone's been through enough with the pandemic. I think allowing this would put some people at ease, especially those who don't feel comfortable going out into stage 3. They can have camp out nights with their loved ones in their backyards
- It should be the home owners decision if they have a fire
- I would suggest the time for backyard fires be adjusted to 5pm to 11 pm in the updated bylaw
- Our township has many issue we should address before worrying about the small percentage of the population that has rec fires. If people were burning garbage we'd have an issue but that's not the case around my neighborhood
- "I would like to see more random checks and inspections to make sure folks are complying and educating them if necessary. Perhaps more education on fire safety (like don't have a fire if it's really windy, don't leave the fire unattended, put the fire out before you go to bed (all things we observe our neighbours not following) and advising to practice common courtesy to neighbours before granting a permit, and revoking a permit for not following the rules.
- Thanks for engaging the public for their input."
- What is the problem that is trying to be solved?
- We enjoy living outside of Kitchener Waterloo where a community can be responsible and not interfere with others enjoyment of their property.
- "Small fires that aren't too smoky should be allowed in town for recreation and cooking.
- On larger properties, yard waste, paper and wood products, etc should be allowed to be burned in a bonfire provided the fire is low smoke."
- Please do not let the new citizens from the city rule out the fundamentals instilled by the Wilmot Township in the previous years

- "Wilmot is know as being Wilnot (will not)
- Come on this is crazy let us enjoy a fire in our backyards."
- This bylaw would negatively affect the quality of life of many members of the township, specifically those with less privilege, and doesn't seem to provide a significant increase in safety (this is what fire bans during dry months are for etc). If someone has an issue with a smoke allergy or other concern, that should be a compromise between individual neighbours based on personal needs and respect for each other.
- Unless there has been an issue on multiple occasions with open air fires, there's no need to change the bylaw. What's the real reason you'd like it changed? I'm not buying a new pit, I'm not waiting until 5 pm to start a fire if I'd like to have one earlier, and I'm damn sure not shutting it down at midnight. We're not children, don't treat us that way. If no one is bothering anyone else, what's the harm?
- Punish those being irresponsible orherwise let it be.
- Please rethink the logic going into the decision making on this revision, it is currently quite flawed.
- Open air burning in residential areas needs to stop. This is 2021, not 1930.
- I have no concerns with fire tables operated by gas
- Please do not prevent us from having fires. Camp fires create lasting memories with family and friends.
- Yes people should not burn green or wet to keep the smoke at a minimum. Also keep fires small , 24 to 30 inch fire pit ring
- All fire permits issued previously need to be honoured, regardless of any changes.
- Back yard fires are where some of the best memories are made with family and friends
- We disagree with large bon-fire in a back yard. 1ft high flame is sufficient for a back yard.
- I think most people in the township enjoy having fires. Covid has shown us how important it is to be able to spend time with family. I feel like most people who don't agree with backyard fires, usually have moved from the city.
- I think the time line should be 11pm not 12pm.....the noise is way to offen in some neighborhoods.....I also feel fines should be given out to people that put off fireworks and crackers other then the day celebrations.....this is very hard on our animals.
- Let us keep our fires its feedom, happiness and sanity for alot of us these days
- How many "out of control" back yard fire pit fires have Wilmot Township had to tend to in the last 5years?
- I am confused about the need for a manufactured fire pit with a lid.
- This is why we live out in the country in a small town. Me and my kids enjoy having fires all times of the day. Helps with the mosquitos and helps me teach my kids about fire safety. And we love to roast marshmallows and make lunch or dinner on it to. We don't live in a big city so let's not treat it like one.
- "I assume those homeowners who have a fire pit permit are grandfathered and will be able to continue to enjoy fires.
- When was this topic discussed or when will it be discussed at a council meeting."
- I have seen council totally ignore the preferences of their constituents before and sincerely hope that this is not going to happen again.
- I am NOT in favour of yard waste fires in residential areas. Too many people seem to burn any type of garbage and it really smells bad.
- Teach people how to have safe fires. Don't add more rules and restrictions!
- Revise to include more narrow lots!

- I understand the need to have an appropriate sized lot and backyard fire permits. But leave the time of day out of any new rules! If people have their fire pits located appropriately (ie 25' away from fences, structures, etc) and they are smart enough not to burn on windy days to ensure safety, the smoke should not be close enough to anyone to be bothersome.
- Those that already have a pit made at this time could "register it" any afterwards would need a manufactured firepit/bonfire container.
- "Keep it the way it is!
- Why ruin a loved benefit of living in a township.
- Might was we'll take my tax money to Waterloo then."
- "Recreational fires are an important social opportunity for our family and friends.
- Especially during COVID, this is a way for us to gather outside, within group size guidelines."
- "I think it's ok to have fires in your back yard as long as your being safe.
- Fire table, fire pit
- And a water supply near by!
- This is what my family does"
- Instead of controlling the size of fire and who and trying to push a Curfew, you should think of things or ways of helping people enjoy a fire. Maybe every fire pit should have rocks around the base of gravel so the fire won't get into the grass and any branches that burn off fall into the rocks or gravel.
- We live in Wilmot because we like the rural benefits. This is not an issue and should be left the way it was
- We have no issues with the current bylaws. What has instigated this change? Have there been fires causing injuries or damage?
- "The rules should be flexible, instead of saying some people are allowed and some are not, people should be allowed to have fires so long as they are safe. A lot of our laws work this way. A small fire 3m from a solid wood fence with a near by hose is much safer than someone with a big yard having a huge fire that's sending flaming debris into the air. (For example burning big piles of leaves or cardboard is almost impossible to keep under control, but keeping a wood fire away from a fence is easy).
- Residents of the township should be able to enjoy safe, recreational fires. Thank you for your consideration.
- Just let us have our backyard bonfires. They're a staple of summer. In a year and a half that has sucked every ounce of joy from our lives, let us keep something good.
- Why all of a sudden does this come to a factor, over the years of living here I always had my day fires and night fires and had no issues with any neighbours about it, In fact they love just smelling wood and hearing the crackling of the wood without having to start their own fire.
- Proximity to neighbors windows would be a concern
- "We have no concerns with fires of our neighbours in Baden.
- We have small campfires occasionally in our backyard and really enjoy that."
- "Especially during Covid times an outdoor fire is a responsibility way for people to relax.
- Each permit should be assessed on an individual basis and not a blanket measurement from property lines. The ""combustible material"" needs to be redefined (ie. a chain link fence is not combustible).
- I believe the township should have no decision making power when it comes to approving or denying a permit. This should be left up to the fire department based on their expertise. The cookie cutter approach leaves people in a position where they are going to have a fire anyways because common sense would say they have plenty of space to enjoy a fire safely, with the fear of repercussions from by-law afterwards.

- I don't think the mass should be deprived of enjoying a safe, family friendly good time because of a few people who complain. Each situation needs to be addressed on an individual basis.
- Please listen to the residents of Wilmot. A lot of us are longtime residents of the township (I have lived in the township for almost 40 years) and the people who are moving to the township are doing so for a bit of a county lifestyle which includes outdoor fires from time to time."
- Don't change it, leave it alone.
- Please no bylaw of this nature.
- I love the smell of a fire and it's a great way to spend an evening. I just think it's a bigger risk than most people recognize so I don't think people take them as seriously as they likely should.
- "Please consider those who have breathing problems and have to go inside because others have a fire. It's completely unfair and probably not safe. We have rights too.
- Plus people are up all night making noise yelling and talk loud."
- More bylaws is not progress, focus on what is important, roads, facilities and most importantly education! Quit wasting time and resources intervening in people's lives where you do not belong.
- I don't think that these rules should apply to propane fires.
- If you feel you need to ban or limit recreational fires how about requiring by law a fire permit for personal use.
- This is not the city. Most people who want a fire pit already have one. We don't need a bylaw. You may want to simply put out a campfire safety sheet to each resident.
- "You need to differentiate between urban properties in towns like New Hamburg, Baden and St. Agatha and rural settlement areas like Sunfish Lake when it comes to campfires. Burning in towns - even small fires can be an issue however, in rural areas like Sunfish Lake people expect to be able to have a campfire at the cottage. There is also a massive difference looking after an urban property of 1/4 of an acre with 4 trees and a rural residential property of 5 or 10 acres+ and hundreds of trees but that still isn't classified as agricultural.
- The amount of deadfall and firewood created in one storm alone can be significant. With over 52 forested acres to care for that is not zoned agricultural and despite owning a wood chipper and also a dump trailer that makes frequent trips to the Regional Landfill for chipping and composting there still is a need to be able to burn debris - even from a safety perspective of ensuring there isn't too much dead fuel that could be an issue in future forest fires, etc.
- You need to better publicize the fact that fire pits need to be licensed and ensure that rules vary as much as the situations do around the township.
- Thank you."
- What is the actual agenda here? This was clearly designed to skew to a fire ban type response
- "Is burning brush safely a ""recreational"" fire? Having an open air fire after 5 to burn brush is not practical on the farm.
- But I'm fine with a 5-midnight for a bonfire."
- We have lived in our house for over 20 years and required to purchase a burn permit for our fire pit. It was inspected by the fire department at time of issue.
- I think this survey should have included comparisons to what the bylaws currently are so that people more accurately know what exactly is being changed and how.
- I'm tired of rules and the minority ruling the majority.
- No
- With all that has been going on in this world ie: pandemic and our council fixated on a prime ministers path that is tearing our once pleasant town apart I would think allowing people to get together and socialize around a camp fire would be a good thing instead of trying to take or regulate this away from us

- I am wondering what you will want to take away next.
- Let us have some fun.
- This is just one more way of legislating us to death. I want to know if there have been any problems with the current bylaw.
- Yet another bylaw that makes sense for a tiny subdivision property in Baden but isn't very practical for the rest of the township.
- We have a very large lot. We have a closed in fire, and it sits on a big cement pad., and far away from anybody. We have a fire about once a week or less .We do not have any when it is dry.
- I purchased a lifetime burn permit many years ago and i am not concerned with any new rules. Residents who have not had an inspection of their property done and don't have a permit should not be open air burning.
- This may sound harsh, but if some residents don't own property that is big enough for the existing rules then they shouldn't have open burn fires. Life isn't fair. Every single one of us have experienced things in life that aren't fair. We are all adults and should understand that.
- "Maybe...i would have to see it..
- What about all the open fires that are happening now? Will they still be allowed or will this be for new permits only?"
- Small properties pose a safety risk. I think the current rules are good and shouldn't be changed.
- If a fire is safe, it should not matter that time of day it is lit. Information on how to have a safe fire should be priority and focus of the township to insure that the community knows the do's and don'ts of fire safety.
- I think 15 feet is plenty distance for small fires. Could make it mandatory to have a garden hose near by. Old rule of 25 feet is unrealistic with modern yards.
- Thank you for this survey. I have often felt like Wilmot does not ask its residents, or provides very slim timeframes in which to do so (which invariably ends in my not finding out in time to take the survey)
- The Township should be a leader in climate change policy and reducing carbon emissions. Burning wood/yard waste for recreational purposes does not support this. We should be encouraging electric vehicles, composting and tree planting. This is a step backwards
- Rules should explicitly identify considerations for propane fire tables and if these need to follow the same rules as they are gaining popularity
- "It is not broken.
- Please do not change current bylaw."
- People need better education on around burning treated wood or other toxic materials
- If people already have fire permits in place, who have done their due diligence should be allowed to have fires
- As a volunteer in the past and as a full time Firefighter i know you can have a safe fire in your backyard as long as it is a small controlled fire with a hose near by just incase .
- Please keep us able to have bone fires whenever we want too.
- Love backyard fires
- Stop trying to change things that do not need to be changed.
- What about backyard stoves and fireplace. Do they also fall within this new law?
- Our township is a great place to live, and I'm sure the mass of us would like to keep in that way. This is not realistic for the more agricultural side of things. Having a contained fire has not been an issue for our township and I believe this bilaw will create more issues than prevent. I believe this would create more false emergency phone calls. Taking up firefighter and first responders time for unnecessary rule-breaking.

- Fires are an integral part of social gatherings in most cultures and are important to Indigenous ceremonies. Creating rules that restrict their use is not a good thing for our community.
- Stop over regulating when it's unwarranted.
- "People have been having fires for infinite time passed. It would be great if the council mined its own business and stop taking away freedoms especially when 99.9% people are responsible and follow all the guidelines. Personally you people need to lay off dictating and also make this info more available. We only found out about this via our neighbours and wouldn't have been able to voice our opinion otherwise. Shame on you guys. Stop trying to silently pass laws without the majority of the public knowing. It's undemocratic in my opinion.
- I will now need to share this with as many ppl as possible."
- Responsible people should be allowed to enjoy this activity with their families.
- Especially in a time where we are being encouraged to gather outside it seems a bit ridiculous to put more restrictions on fire pits
- No burning of garbage or foul smelling "fuel" within town limits or close proximity of neighbours
- There is a reason people move to the townships. They enjoy their privacy and the feel of country living while being close to main cities. Adding more stipulations to the lifestyle out here just adds resentment amongst neighbours. It creates a relationship of tit for tat when these silly bylaws are implemented.
- I feel as long as people are responsible and maintain their fires following fire safety rules there is no reason why residents should not be able to enjoy their backyards especially after having to adapt to the stay at home mentality. We live in a great township and one of the reasons we bought our house here is because we are able to enjoy backyard fires and share that experience with our friends and families.
- I feel that our right to responsibly enjoy a campfire is one of the most appealing features of my property, and a major reason for living in a rural setting. I agree limits need to be in place with bylaws outlining responsibility of home owners when exercising their right to enjoy recreational fires. I'd like the township to include periodic reminders of proper fire safety tips addressing recreational campfires. Too many people seem to not know what is allowed or how to access information about what the requirements are.
- "Bylaw needs to do their job to enforce these rules. And be around when burning occurs (not just 9-5).
- If people are found to break rules there should be stiff penalties and/or a ban from firepit use if they can't follow the rules."
- I realize bylaw enforcement is generally a complaint driven process. Most of the issues of improper fires seem to occur outside of business hours. So not really sure how any new bylaw changes will be enforced any better than previous bylaw.
- When we first installed our open air fire, a member of fire dept came to our home to approve placement, location, risks, etc. He then proceeded to approve the fire pit. I think it's important to continue to have a representative come to the home to assess risks and approve permits. Please continue this for accountability and to ensure responsible burn use.
- Please let us continue recreational fires in our backyards. This is something a large number of my neighbours enjoy, we maintain it in a safe way, and it is a social get together activity. It is a very important piece of our summer outdoor time here :)
- Please include a video of how to create a backyard fire that does not let off a great deal of smoke.
- As long as people are responsible they should be allowed. We like to have the occasional campfire with our kids while camping in our backyard. We always respect neighbours and will not have a fire if they have laundry hanging to dry. We also have a hose nearby and make sure

the fire is fully out when done. It would be a shame if this got taken away from responsible homeowners.

- A fire is very relaxing and its a shame this survey is even happening....
- . Thanks
- I would like this put to a vote in Wilmot Township.
- Moved from Kitchener to New Dundee to enjoy the outdoors on a larger private lot, and enjoy campfires with young children, also there is a lot of small sticks etc to be cleaned up every season due to the grown nature of the property that would be easier to burn safely than pack into many yard waste bags over several weeks/months.
- No
- This is ridiculous. Why are you thinking of putting restriction on the one safe activity we have left?
- Depth of lot should also matter. A narrow but deep lot would have plenty of space.
- I believe this survey will end just like the Canada Day fire works. A great majority (over 70%) of the people surveyed wanted the fire works. But council did what they want. Again the major of people wanted the statues left. Council did what they wanted. It is sad when 3 bullies on council dictate what is going to happen.
- My family enjoys having small fires in a contained fire pit and it has brought us much joy over covid, I am very concerned that there now is increased restrictions being proposed. I am not sure the reason around restricting fires during the day, I do understand wanting to limit them later in the evening and would not have a worry about a 11pm cut off.
- A home owner who has a permit for a fire should be able to have a fire when they feel like it as long as they are being courteous to their neighbors.
- "Very frustrating when laundry is drying on line and someone starts a fire... smokey laundry is not a pleasant scent.
- Totally agree with no day burning."
- "The proposed changes are not needed. It is unfortunate that the people of this township are being utilized so that staff can pad their resumes with a ""look what I did"" bylaw. Also that councillors are using this to gain popularity to achieve their political ambitions. I am disheartened to be a property owner in this township that allows ego and ambition to run rampant over citizens.
- Thank you"
- We already hold a valid permit for our fire pit and have been verified by the city. We are definitely within these limits outlined above. I believe everyone who has a fire pit that we know of does so safely and i do t believe a spark arrest lid is necessarily necessary.
- I've lived in Baden for 8 plus years now. I've never seen anyone out of control with their fires.
- Wondering what the issue is as we've enjoyed our fire in our back yard for over 15 years with no issues, complaints or problems.
- I WOULD ACTUALLY LIKE TO KNOW HOW MANY ACCIDENTS WITH BACK YARD FIRES THERE HAVE BEEN IN THE LAST 20 YEARS IN WILMOT. I DO NOT MEAN COMPLAINTS BECAUSE WE ALL KNOW THERES ALWAYS COMPLAINTS ABOUT EVERTHING.
- I appreciate the ability to have a back yard fire 1-2 times a summer and roast marshmallows with my kids. I hope to continue to be able to do this.
- One of my concerns is that it seems like the govt is regulating everything we do...in a world that is trying to survive a pandemic and a town that is trying to deal with a cancel culture town council...maybe its time to let people enjoy some simple things ..im sure that this will be the same as when our council invited us to share our opinion on the Prime ministers walk...the vast majority spoke to have it NOT cancelled but council had already made the decision previously

and the meeting (and probably much like this survey) was just a token "olive branch" and never intended to be taken seriously

- I don't really understand the last question. Would this mean I could not have a fire in my backyard fire pit?
- Only takes a few people to ruin it for everyone else.
- Leave things alone. Stop changing everything we already have
- We have had enough taken away from us in the last couple of years! Let us enjoy a simple fire!
- I have seen many social media comments stating "its my back yard, mind your own business" that kind of thing and while I do agree..except when what you are doing in your yard directly effects your neighbours (whether it be a fire, fire works, noisy late parties...) then we are no longer talking about just "your" back yard and rights. We all have to live together and be mindful and respectful of our neighbours. That is the kind of neighbour we try to be and only ask for the same consideration.
- Hopefully common sense is used in this situation.
- No
- I am only looking to maintain that I can have a simple backyard fire to either relax and burn some fire wood or to clean up some brush from the yard. I dont agree with burning household garbage and can see that may be the issue you are trying to address.
- I believe the bylaw should remain as is.
- the proposed 5pm to midnight timeframe for allowing fires is ridiculous and would be very disappointing if this was passed as part of the bylaw.
- Will residents have to continue to apply for a fire permit? We would also encourage better communication with residents about the need for a permit. (perhaps reminders included in tax bills) We understand that the fire permit is not transferred to the new owners and they must apply for theirs as we had to.
- Nothing better than a contained fire shared with family, friends and neighbours
- Yard waste fires should not be time specific, especially since most yard work is done during the day.
- "i am tired of the few squeaky wheels / bleeding hearts speaking out and eventually getting their way with the govt offices. the old standard-- if you complain long enough you will get your way. people get sick of hearing from you .
- acceptance and responsibility for ones actions and common sense need to come back . if somebody is burning tires and plastic bags-- that deserves a charge.
- are these bylaws and rewrites going to continue to the point to dictate the type of toilet tissue i have to use !"
- No large bonfires allowed. Fires should be kept to a certain size. Yards should be fenced, the same as swimming pools. I'd also prefer to see the cut off time of 11 pm, not midnight. It can take time to put out a fire and ensure no cinders remain. I think campfires are fine as long as people are respectful of noise and are considerate to their neighbours. When common sense is used, a small campfire can be good for one's mental health. But a raging bon fire at midnight that is sending smoke billowing towards a neighbour's window as they are trying to sleep... and factor in rowdiness or music? NOT GOOD.
- Yea stop with the surveys and let community members do as they will on their own properties. I am so tired of Wilmot crap I would move if I could
- Residents should require approval of the device & a permit to use.
- I have been having fires in my back yard for almost 7 years now with no complaints from anyone. I very much enjoy them with my friends and family and having the ability to have them whenever I feel like it. Please do not change this bylaw.

- Why fix what already works? Don't tell me what time I can or can't have a fire on my own property. Might have to put up a for sale sign and move out of the township if some of these ridiculous parameters are set.
- 4m is pretty far for some peoples backyards. 3m is likely a better number. Not sure i understand why lot size is a concern as long as the 3 or 4 m can be maintained. My property is plenty big for this...just hard to justify putting in middle of everyones yard
- Let's NOT take away this peaceful recreational activity that everyone can enjoy in their own backyard with family and friends.
- bylaw or no bylaw its my right and my mental health requires small controlled fires. I always respect my neighbors and mother nature.
- Keep current rules for current fire permit holders, shouldn't cater to people who complain, they'll just complain about more and more stuff.
- Let's keep some parts of small town life please.
- I understand that in Baden and New Hamburg there can be issues because of the higher population but for those of us living outside of those urban settings the rules must be different because we do not have the same space restrictions as other people.
- These rules are ridiculous!
- I understand that it must be difficult with a township that is so varied from farm, country lots, and urban settings. I hope that those of us who live in the country lots don't get lumped in with those who live in the urban areas such as Baden. Please don't treat us Haysvillians like those Badenites (I hope my people groups are not offensive to anyone :)
- "Have concern about people burning Garbage in back yard fire pit in a residential neighbourhood
- Same people burning yard waste during day. Too much smoke.
- These people need to be educated on what a recreational fire is. Garbage to the curb and yard waste in bag to the curb."
- "This Township and Covid has done so much damage in the past year to the local community and now you want to take away more Family time and comradery with friends.
- Certain Council members just can not stop looking for things to upset .I just am just so upset at the total division in our communities and it doesn't seem to stop.
- My Family occasionally has a fire and play outdoor games on a Saturday night and have so many laughs and good times all with respect to there neighbor's and the properties around them."
- Baden doesn't have a lot of options for entertainment and if we loose our ability to have a fire in our backyards with family and friends I'm not sure what's left.
- I'm not a big fan of restrictions on when to have recreational fires.
- Dont burden sensible individuals with ridiculous restrictions.
- Current fire regulations work extremely well for the vast majority of residents.
- If you do not meet these requirements you should be able to apply for am on site visit to see if the property does pose a risk due to a recreational fire pit
- "Please don't take the ""rules"" path...creating more and more regulations that make Baden feel more like Toronto and less like the small community it has been.
- The ""extended family"" community environment takes effort...more than just refining the tools to increase the number of ways people may be fined.
- Thanks for doing the work you do. There are many of us who really appreciate this community and want to protect this awesome way of living."
- The bylaw needs to err on the side of those who would be negatively affected by back yard fires - also there needs to be better enforcement or checking for those breaking the rules, you can't

rely on neighbors calling into the township reporting someone having an illegal back yard fire pit, in theory these are supposed to be confidential, but I've seen it where somehow the neighbor (who now gets fined of course) finds out who called it in, and it turns into a nasty feud, so people are very reluctant to report these. So there needs to be random checks during the night hours including on weekends for the illegal fires (maybe a heat sensing drone could be used to help narrow down the search?)

- We have lived in New Dundee and never had a problem
- "I would like to see backyard fires stopped for the above reasons health and enjoyment of OUR space. We have 3 houses adjacent to our property that have fires. If not one burning at times its all 3 burning we cannot enjoy our outdoors. There is too much pollution in this world already why add to it.
- We have the right to enjoy our home. Smoke free. It is bad enough with cigarette smoke and other vapors wafting from the neighbors.
- Campfire are exactly that For camping where there is space and enough air for smoke to dissipate without intruding on those who do not wish to, or for health reasons can not be near fires.
- Baden has more houses more people and therefore will ne more fires if this continues."
- For the health and safety of the community, I disagree with this bylaw and hope you take these comments into consideration.
- Is there a grandfather clause to cover older permits?
- Questions are typically vague with the decision already made. Believe this move is brought on by city transplants who moved to a small town for a relaxed life, then force their ways on us because they want their city lifestyle.
- This is long over due, backyard fires are a staple in the summer (and all year in my opinion) i think more of a focus on backyard fire safety would be beneficial rather than implementing so many rules and restrictions
- will this retroactively apply to all of us who have a permit, or only new permit holders go forward? I'm saddened to think of the landscaping people will have to do if this change were to come out of no where.
- As a family who doesn't have many open wood burning backyard fires anymore (but would if we had a different pit in the backyard) ... I love the smell of a good backyard campfire and I think we need to encourage people to be more neighbourly. So much divide is happening in this town. Do a campaign as mentioned first: safety, combustibles/dangers, fire courtesy. Get the community involved. Bring people TOGETHER rather than divide them with more Bylaws. See what happens. Consider a new bylaw ONLY when the education/informing doesn't work. Give it time to work (quietly don't publically give a date). I bet you'll be surprised and won't need the additional policing. This is a good solution to find out how mature and responsive people can be And hopefully stop the complaints (or minimize them).
- Even if no fires are allowed, people will keep having them anyway - most people around here know that bylaw doesn't work past 4:30 or on weekends.
- My Final comment is if you comply with the current burn permit than I believe you should be able to have a fire any time of day as long as there isn't a fire ban in effect. We are basically a rural community that is unfortunately growing too fast.
- "I hope we can move forward with these changes....We need a bylaw that speaks to open air burning, but yet, is fair to most residents...
- Thx"
- Anyone should be able to have a recreational fire. It is their responsibility to watch it and be prepared for an event - with a bucket or a garden hose.

- There is absolutely no reason people in a rural community like ours shouldn't be allowed to have recreational campfires with their friends and family.
- All of us who have follow rules and obtained lifetime burn permits should not be subject to pulling out another enjoy freedom enjoyed by those responsible.
- I enjoy a nice controlled open flame fire in the backyard.
- I think that having a safe backyard fire is something that many people get enjoyment from and are a great way to spend time with friends and family. If there is a big concern about the hazards maybe making people attend a short safety course on having a safe fire could be introduced in order to get your permit.
- "Campfires should be able to be enjoyed responsibly by anyone.
- I think it is more of an issue and inconvenience to the neighbours when people smoke marijuana than have a campfire."
- Our small community outside the city should remain a small community feeling allowing monitored bonfires. It's one of the reasons that living in Wilmot township is so great.
- I do believe in burning wood only, I do not believe in burning any garbage or any type of plastics. They should be restricted.
- Not sure why this is fair if the permit has already been issued to be changed now?
- This is something that should be relaxed in Waterloo Region; many neighboring municipalities allow small recreational fires. With proper precautions, people should be able to enjoy backyard fires.
- There should be an allowance for large in-town properties to burn yard waste (these properties often have more mature trees) as long as there is a healthy distance from buildings. For example, we do small, recreational fires in the immediate backyard but burn fallen branches close to the river, which is 500 + ft. from the house. My neighbour burns leaves way too close to the houses and smokes everyone out. Wind needs to play a factor as well. A fire on a windy day is both a nuisance (smoke) and a potential danger.
- Leave well enough alone.
- "We are trapped in our home for almost 2 years now. Please allow the continued regulatory permitted recreational fires for those who enjoy responsibly.
- Thank you"
- If an existing landscaped fire pit surrounded by stone, etc, exists would there be grandfathering under the rules if an aspect of the final rules couldn't be met without significant expense?
- "I work hard to pay to own and maintain my property in Wilmot Township. A simple, responsible recreational fire is a good way to get to enjoy it with my friends and family.
- With the annual increase of my property taxes, it sure would be disappointing to lose another way to enjoy my home in Wilmot Township."
- We are wondering the reason for the change in the bylaws. Also just suggesting that it might help other people with good etiquette for fires to share a document that would support that.
- This is just another attempt to take away one of the joys of living in a small town.
- There is nothing more relaxing than sitting around a fire with friends, listening to music and having great conversation.
- "We would like to see the following:
 - firepit permit 1x for lifetime of current permit holder per property
 - more pro-active by-law enforcement of noise related incidents that are related to backyard firepits after 11 pm"
- Backyard fires are an important part of our lives. They bring family, friends and neighbours together. It's a social and relaxing event where people share stories and laughter and music

while enjoying each others company. If you are planning on taking this important event away, think again. Haven't we lost a lot already given our current situation?

- Just enforce the current rules, we do not need tighter rules for law abiding citizens
- In a residential sub division, having a fire is not essential to living there. If someone wants to have a 'camp' fire, they should try camping.
- How do you control neighbours from burning pressure treated wood?
- Fires provide us with the opportunity to gather open air to build community.
- The question though is who is going to ensure the spark arrester lid is being used
- I get that safety in the community is a concern, but limiting these kind of activities is problematic. There are already so few things families can engage in together (especially during COvid) and that take place outdoors. Campfires are an affordable and accessible activity for most people so policing this seems somewhat unfair.
- I strongly believe that backyard recreational fires should not be permitted for health, safety and environmental reasons.
- "Backyard campfires should be allowed.
- This is a staple experience in both myself and my partners childhood, and we continue to have regular fires with our kids and friends/family.
- It is a quiet way to enjoy visiting outdoors on our own property."
- Thank you for gathering public input on this. Wilmot has a history of limited public input, and it's essential to build trust with citizens by offering public input opportunities.
- I have asthma. Therefore I am the type of person who would be affected by an air quality issue. In my 6 years of living in Wilmot, I have not once experienced breathing issues due to someone's recreational fire. If anything, moving from the city to a rural area has improved my situation. ***I think it does bear to mention that when having my fires, out of respect of my neighbours, I burn clean, dry wood. Even when I burn yard waste (branches, twigs, ect) I allow time for it to dry out in an effort to reduce smoke. Maybe if everybody conducted themselves with others in mind, a review of the fire policy wouldn't be required
- It is not broke, don't "fix" it. Leave the bylaw alone. This is country living, part of country living is being able to have a backyard camp fire to sit around and roast marshmallows. Making memories
- Hey Thai by law is a violation and impacts the ability for me and my family to enjoy our own backyard.
- There are no issues that I or my neighbours are aware of, why must this change?
- Extend the campfire hours during winter months to allow afternoon fires.
- I wish all recreational fires were banned, but i know that is probably not possible. And if it were done everyone would just say they were cooking hotdogs. But having a time frame is better as i would know when it is safe to be outside or open windows. But, what about all the people burning twigs and grass and whatnot during the day? I smell that smoke usually all weekend long. You would need to be out enforcing it for the first while as people will not give a d*mn.
- Good idea
- Recreational fires would be allowed at anytime not just after 5pm
- I grow up in Wilmot and currently still live here. I have great memories of having daytime and night time fires and have never had a problem with my neighbours also having them. Safety is important but if we are having safe fires I don't see why a time frame needs to be put in place.
- In my personal experience, people choose to reside in Wilmot because it's a rural area; I'm sure for many, the ability to enjoy a campfire is part of that experience. Though I have never had a fire in my 18 years here, I know many who have appreciated the opportunity. On the rare occasion when the smoke is troublesome, we close the windows for a bit; I understand not

everyone will see it this way - but perhaps it's not necessary to cater to people who choose to move to a place where burn permits were a possibility, then want to make changes... Please consider keeping Wilmot a unique place, distinct from surrounding urban areas.

- I would like to see the time extended from midnight to 1:00am on Friday and Saturday nights.
- Allow the time to be until 1am on Friday and Saturdays.
- I think backyard fires are a great way for families to get outside enjoy . I feel most adults are very responsible , will this include fires on peoples decks I I should, I have seen some scary fires on decks.
- Why change what works
- Im concerned this has been developed based on the feedback from the vocal minority. Im also concerned that this survey will only be filled out by the vocal minority. People only go out of their way to complain. Again, what *real* problem are we solving here? Residents against fires are welcome in the city.
- Who's idea was this? I am not interested in changing much of anything, except when my neighbour has a BIG fire in his backyard with the trees so close.
- I also believe there should be restrictions on size. Hopefully being in the container type pits will help. Please also ensure people are not allowed to burn garbage as I have neighbours who burn their waste from building a shed.
- Sounds good
- My family and I enjoy having campfires with family and friends. It's one of the biggest reasons we choose to live in a "small town". We feel the community around us, who also enjoys campfires with family and friends, are responsible In making sure fire safety is a priority, and therefore, we believe that campfires should continue to be permitted in Wilmot Township
- "We enjoy recreational fires and serves our purposes for yard waste removal due to large property.
- Would suggest that a broader mailing of survey would be advisable."
- Recreational fires and yard waste fires should be allowed any time of day, especially for larger properties
- Adequate fire surpression must be near by. Garden hose or fire extinguisher in case of emergency. Fires should burn dry seasoned wood to prevent excessive smoke.
- Include verbiage regarding propane and natural gas fire pits.
- Does that spark arrest lid have to be in place during the fire? Or just collocates to be placed over the fire in case of sparks?
- As a full time firefighter and volunteer firefighter I feel like there is no call volume or incidents that warrant the need to limit or reduce having campfires and burning yard waste and feel like people should be able to practice safety and make decisions that best suits them as home owners and tenants.
- "The fact that the last question mentions a ""compromise"" would tend to imply that there is pressure to change the existing by-law regarding recreational fires (more or less restrictions, I cannot tell), background information which should perhaps be included with this survey.
- People may complain that the fires interfere with the enjoyment of their property, but such complaints must be balanced by the enjoyment other people may have in being able to have a fire occasionally. How would the township react if everyone who wanted a fire but was not allowed were to complain?"
- Getting tired of all levels of government giving into a few complainers , the prime ministers walk is a good example of taxpayer dollars spent then destroyed by the loud minority
- People with existing permitted firepits should have their pits grandfathered in to the new bylaw.

- Rural fires for yard waste what would guidelines be ? I have not seen any fires from rural properties in years due to restrictions. I will review bylaw thank you
- "Multiple neighbours enjoy small fires out back with their kids.
- Fire safety is important. We haven't witnessed any large fires or fires held in windy conditions.
- Common sense has prevailed...at least on our street."
- Our campfire privilege is very important to residents of Wilmot Township. If our neighbouring Kitchener residents are allowed backyard campfires, it makes no sense to take this away from our residents, where properties are more spread out and there is much less population.
- Living in a small community like Wilmot backyard fires is something that we have always done and should continue to do. If fires are becoming a problem start to in force the current burn permits and ask to see permits from people how don't seem to be following the current rules.
- Does combustibles include trees? Hopefully this vague term is clarified in the bylaw. Requiring all fires to be enclosed in a manufactured device means you are denying fires to anyone who cannot afford such a device, which can be (and likely will be) viewed as discriminatory. Safety measures are important, but a fire can be safe without being in a purchased product.
- "In this day and age we are hearing nothing but climate warming this, pollution that...why do we need to pump more pollutants into the air.
- Don,t buy a gas vehicle...save the earth...but hey go ahead and burn that crap you have to pay to take to landfill, bylaw doesn,t work after 5pm and my neighbour wont,t squeal.
- An outright ban is the only way."
- Backyard campfires are wonderful way to enjoy the outdoors with family and friends.
- If there are concerns with specific area or people now, have fire department or bylaw deal with them and leave the rest of the tax payers alone.
- According to a article in Wilmot post July 22 edition the problem is smoke complaints and false alarm calls. If these are the issues than education to all would seem like a wiser choice than making it impossible with unnecessary regulations for those that enjoy family time a few times a year around a campfire.
- "I think the by-law needs to include allowances for those who have larger properties.
- Those of us who have over .75 acre do not need the same rules as someone who lives on a lot that is in the city.
- Please don't lump us all together."
- I would like to know why those that disagree with this proposal have to justify their responses, while those who agree do not have to give reason for their agreement. I think we need to look at this on a common sense level. In general those with firepits will be in favour of leaving things the way they are. Those that do not have fire pits will be killjoys and want them banned. It would be good to have statistics along with these proposals. Stats such as, How many fires got out of hand in the last 5 years? How many complaints of smoke can into the municipality, How many properties do open air fires. Giving us some context of whether there is an actual issue or just people wanting to complain and force change would be important to solving these issues. I would think that there are more important things to focus on these days, especially if you are concerned about air pollution. Have you see how many dumptrucks drive our roads? Now there is an issue that needs some serious discussion on. Focus on that and let's leave the smores to the kids to enjoy.
- 11pm curfew would be better
- An outdoor fire is a great way to socialize especially during social distancing. It can be a great family time with marshmallows and hot dogs, an inexpensive family outing.
- Well really we are supposed to pay dog tax every year! I think that if you wish to use a fire pit then there should be a tax on this fire pit every year. Those individuals having fires not paying the tax should be heavily fined. Our air quality is horrible. I would like to see fire pits completely

banned as this would stop them from being used to burn yard waste and other debris that can be readily disposed using our wonderful waste management system. Just weeks ago when you looked to the north the haze from fires burning out of control was horrible. This week the air has been so hot and stillsmoke just lingers. I cannot stand smoke on my 1/2 lot (135 feet wide) when the half acre lot next to me decides to burn junk so fires on smaller lots will be worse. If you allow fires on smaller lots then you will find that they will not be following the rules with the contained device. I have much less of a problem when recreational fires are set after dark at night as they are less annoying and if there are any sparks they are visible. One morning I got up to find some charred debris very close to my house. I have a sided houseone spark under the siding at the sill plate and up in smoke.

- If it is an open fire pit with no spark arrester used to cook hot dogs; marshmallows etc. it should be farther from combustibles possibly 8m. and for social conversation and enjoyment.
- I like the time frame from 5pm to midnight.
- People have been having fires safely in this community for many years, what is the concern? Safety should be considered and if people are able to meet the safety requirements that should be sufficient. People move into the Townships to experience a rural type lifestyle, little by little we seem to be losing that and becoming just as restrictive as the city's.



FIRE SERVICES

Staff Report

REPORT NO: FD2021-11

TO: Council

SUBMITTED BY: Rod Leeson, Fire Chief

PREPARED BY: Rod Leeson, Fire Chief

REVIEWED BY: Sandy Jackson, Interim CAO

DATE: September 13, 2021

SUBJECT: Fire Route Bylaw Update

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approves Bylaw 2021-41 to designate private roadways as emergency Fire routes along which no parking of vehicles shall be permitted and to Repeal Bylaw No. 85-5 being a Bylaw to designate private roadways as emergency fire routes and requirements to be observed.

SUMMARY:

Section 7.1(1)(c) of the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997, S.O. 1997, c.4, as amended provides that a municipality may pass Bylaws for designating private roadways as fire routes along which no parking of vehicles shall be permitted, and providing for the removal and impounding of any vehicle or vehicles left along the designated routes, at the expense of the owner.

BACKGROUND:

The principal reason for a Fire Route Bylaw is to designate fire routes that have already been identified through site plan and building permit approvals and when private roads are found to be impassable, difficult, cause damage to fire apparatus or likely to delay response which may lead to public safety concerns. The Fire Chief has the authority to control traffic in approved fire routes by establishing penalties for parking, standing, stopping violations, maintenance or any other hazard(s) that would impact a designated Fire Route.

The Ontario Building Code includes provisions for firefighting and specifies that buildings of a certain size be required to have access routes for fire department vehicles. It specifically defines minimum requirements for the location and design of fire routes.

REPORT:

The Fire Chief and Fire Prevention Officer have reviewed the existing bylaw and recommend changes that reflect the needs of the Township. The Fire Protection and Prevention Act provides municipalities with the authority to pass a Bylaw designating private roads as fire routes along which no parking of vehicles shall be permitted and providing for the removal and impounding of any vehicle parked or left unattended along a fire route at the expense and risk of the vehicle's owner. Private road, in this context, means any private road, lane, ramp or other means of vehicular access to or from a building or structure and may include part of a parking lot. The Fire Protection and Prevention Act also provides the Fire Chief with a broad inspection authority to ensure fire safety, including the authority to order an owner or occupant of land to take measures to ensure fire safety. Fire safety in this context means that a fire apparatus can safely travel the private road without being damaged or delayed due to the condition or design of the private road. The Planning Act provides that as a condition to the approval of site plans, the Township may require the owner of the land to provide to the satisfaction of, and at no expense to the Township, access driveways or lanes, including driveways or lanes for emergency vehicles on private property.

It is prohibited to obstruct, encumber, damage or alter a designated fire route. Designated fire routes ensure that the Fire Department can prevent the spread of fire, reduce property and environmental damage, and most importantly, reduce injuries or death. The requirements for when a fire route is required, how it is constructed, identified and approved are all laid out in several pieces of legislation, which are:

- Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13
- Ontario Building Code, O. Reg. 332/12
- Ontario Fire Code, O.Reg 213/07
- Fire Protection and Prevention Act, S.O. 1997, c.4

To reduce the administrative burden on the Fire Department the proposed bylaw would include a provision for a registry. The registry would include all existing and future properties that have identified fire routes included and would be stored in the Fire Departments Records management system.

ALIGNMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT STRATEGIC PLAN:

This report highlights community engagement ensuring we communicate Township matters and the continued enjoyment to maintain quality of life through ensuring their safety.

ACTIONS TOWARDS UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Good Health and Well being that promotes well being for all ages.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

There are no financial considerations to this report.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Bylaw 2021-41 to designate private roadways as emergency Fire routes

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT
BYLAW NO. 2021 – 41**

Being a Bylaw to designate private roads as fire routes along which no parking of vehicles shall be permitted and to repeal By-law No. 85-5

WHEREAS Section 7.1(1)(c) of the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997*, S.O. 1997, c.4, as amended (the “**FPPA**”) provides that a council of a municipality may pass by-laws designating private roads as fire routes along which no parking of vehicles shall be permitted and providing for the removal and impounding of any vehicle parked or left along any of the fire routes at the expense of the owner of the vehicle;

AND WHEREAS subsection 7.1(4) of the FPPA provides that a municipality may appoint an officer to enter upon land and into structures at any reasonable time to inspect the land and structures to determine whether by-laws enacted in accordance with section 7.1 of the FPPA are being complied with;

AND WHEREAS the Council of The Corporation of the Township of Wilmot deems it necessary and desirable to designate certain private roads as fire routes in the Township;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The Corporation of the Township of Wilmot hereby enacts as follows:

1.0 SHORT TITLE

- 1.1 This by-law may be cited as the “Fire Route By-law” and may be referred to internally herein as the “By-law”.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 “**Authorized Sign**” means a sign for an established Fire Route which is used to regulate traffic as set out in **Schedule “B”** to this By-law;
- 2.2 “**Building**” means a building as defined in the *Building Code Act, 1992*, S.O. 1992, c. 23, as amended;
- 2.3 “**Council**” means the Council of the Township;
- 2.4 “**Fire Chief**” means the person appointed by Council to be the Fire Chief of the Township pursuant to section 6 of the FPPA, or his or her designate;
- 2.5 “**Fire Department**” means the Fire Department established by the Township;
- 2.6 “**Fire Route**” means a Private Road that is established as a fire route by the Fire Chief in order to permit the Fire Department to have necessary access to or from a building or structure in the case of a fire or other emergency;

- 2.7 **“Fire Route Registry”** means a list of all established Fire Routes in the Township, which shall contain, at a minimum, the address and/or legal description of the Fire Route, and a plan showing the location of the Fire Route;
- 2.8 **“Officer”** means a municipal law enforcement officer appointed by by-law to enforce municipal by-laws, the Fire Chief or a Police Officer;
- 2.9 **“Property Owner”** includes a person:
- (a) whose interest in land is such that they are deemed to be an owner under the appropriate land titles system; and
 - (b) who is, or appears to be, receiving rent or other compensation from the use of land by a third party whether he/she is receiving it on his/her own account or as agent, trustee, or representative or like capacity;
- 2.10 **“Private Road”** means any private road, lane, ramp, or other means of vehicular access to or from a building or structure, and may include part of a parking lot;
- 2.11 **“Park”** or **“Parking”** when prohibited, shall mean the standing of a Vehicle, whether occupied or not, except when standing temporarily for the purpose of and while engaged in loading or unloading merchandise or passengers;
- 2.12 **“Stand”** or **“Standing”** when prohibited, means the halting of a Vehicle, whether occupied or not, except for the purpose of and while engaged in receiving or discharging passengers;
- 2.13 **“Stop”** or **“Stopping”** when prohibited means the halting of a Vehicle, whether occupied or not, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic;
- 2.14 **“Township”** means The Corporation of the Township of Wilmot; and,
- 2.15 **“Vehicle”** includes a motor vehicle, trailer, traction engine, farm tractor, road building machine, bicycle and any vehicle drawn, propelled, or driven by any kind or power, including muscular power.

3.0 GENERAL

Establishment of Fire Routes

- 3.1 The Fire Chief may require, at any time, that a Private Road in the Township be established as a Fire Route.
- 3.2 Where a Private Road has been required by the Fire Chief to be established as a Fire Route, it is hereby designated as a Fire Route and shall be added to the Fire Route Registry.

Minimum Fire Route Requirements

- 3.3 For all Property Owners who own a Private Road that has been designated as a Fire Route under this By-law, the Property Owner of such a Fire Route shall be responsible for ensuring that the Fire Route is constructed or modified and maintained in accordance with the minimum requirements set out in **Schedule "A"** to this By-law, at the Property Owner's sole cost and expense.

Authorized Signs

- 3.4 For all Property Owners who own a Private Road that has been designated as a Fire Route under this By-law, the Property Owner of such a Fire Route shall be responsible for, at the Property Owner's sole cost and expense, purchasing, erecting and maintaining all Authorized Signs for the Fire Route, in accordance with the sign requirements set out in **Schedule "B"** to this By-law and as approved by the Fire Chief.

Removal or Modification of Fire Routes

- 3.5 The Fire Chief may remove or modify, at any time, any established Fire Routes in the Township.
- 3.6 Where a Fire Route has been removed or modified by the Fire Chief, the Fire Route Registry shall be immediately amended to reflect that removal or modification.
- 3.7 Where a Fire Route has been removed by the Fire Chief, all Authorized Signs for the Fire Route in question shall be immediately removed from the Fire Route by the Property Owner, at the Property Owner's sole cost and expense.
- 3.8 Where a Fire Route has been modified by the Fire Chief:
- (a) the Fire Route in question shall be modified by the Property Owner, as required, and at the Property Owner's sole cost and expense, to meet the minimum requirements set out in **Schedule "A"** to this By-law; and,
 - (b) all Authorized Signs for the Fire Route in question shall be moved, purchased, erected or maintained by the Property Owner, as required, and at the Property Owner's sole cost and expense, in accordance with **Schedule "B"** to this By-law and as approved by the Fire Chief.

Fire Route Registry

- 3.9 The Fire Chief is hereby delegated the authority to maintain the Fire Route Registry and, as outlined in this By-law, may establish, remove or modify Fire Routes in the Fire Route Registry.

Fire Chief May Issue Order

- 3.10 Where a Fire Route has been designated under this By-law, the Fire Chief may issue an order requiring a Property Owner:
- (a) to establish, construct and maintain the Fire Route in accordance with the provisions of this By-law, including **Schedule “A”** to this By-law; and,
 - (b) to purchase, erect and maintain all Authorized Signs for the Fire Route, in accordance with the sign requirements set out in **Schedule “B”** to this By-law and as approved by the Fire Chief.

Fire Route Request

- 3.11 Where a Property Owner requests that a Private Road in the Township be established as a Fire Route under this By-law, the Property Owner shall:
- (a) file with the Fire Chief plans showing the proposed location of the Fire Route which shall meet the minimum requirements set out in **Schedule “A”** to this By-law, for approval of the Fire Chief;
 - (b) pay to the Township the applicable fees or charges pursuant to the Township’s *Fees and Charges By-law*, as amended; and,
 - (c) purchase, erect and maintain all Authorized Signs for the Fire Route, in accordance with the sign requirements set out in **Schedule “B”** to this By-law and as approved by the Fire Chief, at the Property Owner’s sole cost and expense.

Fire Route Offences

- 3.12 No person shall park, stop, or stand a Vehicle along, in, on or over any properly signed Fire Route designated under this By-law.
- 3.13 No person shall place anything along, in, on or over any properly signed Fire Route designated under this By-law so that the Fire Route is obstructed in any way, unless permitted to do so by the Township.
- 3.14 No person shall interfere with, deface, cover, or remove an Authorized Sign unless permitted to do so by the Township.
- 3.15 No Property Owner shall construct or maintain a Fire Route contrary to any provision in **Schedule “A”** to this By-law.

Offence Exception

- 3.16 Section 3.12 of this By-law shall not apply to any person who has parked, stopped or stood an emergency vehicle or a Vehicle owned or operated by the Township along, in, on or over any properly signed Fire Route designated under this By-law.

4.0 POWER OF ENTRY AND INSPECTION

- 4.1 An Officer may enter upon land and into structures at any reasonable time to inspect the land and structures to determine whether this By-law is being complied with.
- 4.2 For the purposes of an inspection under section 4.1 of this By-law, an Officer may, alone or in conjunction with a person possessing special or expert knowledge, make examinations or take tests, samples or photographs necessary for the purposes of the inspection.

5.0 OBSTRUCTION

- 5.1 No person shall hinder or obstruct, or attempt to hinder or obstruct, an Officer who is exercising a power or performing a duty under this By-law.

6.0 ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Administration

- 6.1 The Fire Chief shall be responsible for the general administration of this By-law.

Enforcement

- 6.2 All Officers shall be responsible for enforcing this By-law.

Failure of Property Owner to Erect Authorized Signs

- 6.3 Where a Property Owner fails to erect or maintain all Authorized Signs as required by **Schedule "B"** of this By-law, or as required by the Fire Chief, an Officer may enter on the Private Road owned by the Property Owner and may erect all Authorized Signs as required at the expense of the Property Owner and the costs incurred as a result thereof may be added to the tax roll and collected by the Town in the same manner as property taxes under the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

Impounding of Vehicles Parked in a Fire Route

- 6.4 An Officer may have a Vehicle which is parked, stopped or standing in contravention of Section 3.12 of this By-law moved or taken to and placed or stored in a suitable place and all costs and charges for the removal, care and storage of the Vehicle, if any, shall be a lien upon the Vehicle, which may be enforced in the manner provided by the *Repair and Storage Liens Act*, R.S.O. 1990. c. R25, as amended.

7.0 FINE FOR CONTRAVENTION

- 7.1 Every person who contravenes any of the provisions of this By-law is guilty of an offence and, upon conviction, is liable to a fine or penalty as provided for in the *Provincial Offences Act*, R.S.O. 1990 c.P33, as amended.

- 7.2 Upon conviction, in addition to any other remedy and to any penalty imposed by this By-law, the court in which the conviction has been entered many any court of competent jurisdiction may make an order prohibiting the continuation or repetition of the offence by the person convicted.
- 7.3 Where a Vehicle has been left Parked, Stopped or Standing in contravention of this By-law, the owner of the Vehicle is guilty of an offence, even though the owner was not the driver of the Vehicle at the time of the contravention of this By-law, and is liable to the applicable fine unless, at the time of the offence, the vehicle was in the possession of another person without the owner's consent.

8.0 VALIDITY, SEVERABILITY, AND INTERPRETATION

- 8.1 Should a court of competent jurisdiction declare a part or whole of any provision of this By-law to be invalid or of no force and effect, the provision or part is deemed severable from this By-law, and it is the intention of Council that the remainder survive and be applied and enforced in accordance with its terms to the extent possible under law.
- 8.2 Whenever any reference is made in this By-law to a statute or regulation of the Province of Ontario, such reference shall be deemed to include all subsequent amendments to such statute or regulation and all successor legislation to such legislation.
- 8.3 Words importing the singular number shall include the plural, and the words importing the masculine gender shall include the feminine, and the converse of the foregoing also applies, unless the context of the By-law otherwise requires.

9.0 REPEAL

Repeal of By-law 85-5

- 9.1 By-law No. 85-5 of the Township is hereby repealed.

Transition

- 9.2 Notwithstanding Section 9.1 of this By-law, any Fire Route which was established under By-law No. 85-5 of the Township shall continue as an established Fire Route under this By-law, shall be included in the Fire Route Registry and shall be subject to the provisions of this By-law.

10.0 ENACTMENT

- 10.1 This By-law shall come into force and effect on the date it is passed by the Council of the Township.

Read a first and second time this 13th day of September, 2021.

Read a third and final time and passed this 13th day of September, 2021.

Mayor

Clerk,

SCHEDULE “A” TO BY-LAW 2021 - 41

MINIMUM FIRE ROUTE REQUIREMENTS

All Fire Routes shall be constructed in accordance with the Ontario *Building Code*, as amended, and maintained in accordance with the Ontario *Fire Code*, as amended.

SCHEDULE “B” TO BY-LAW 2021 - 41

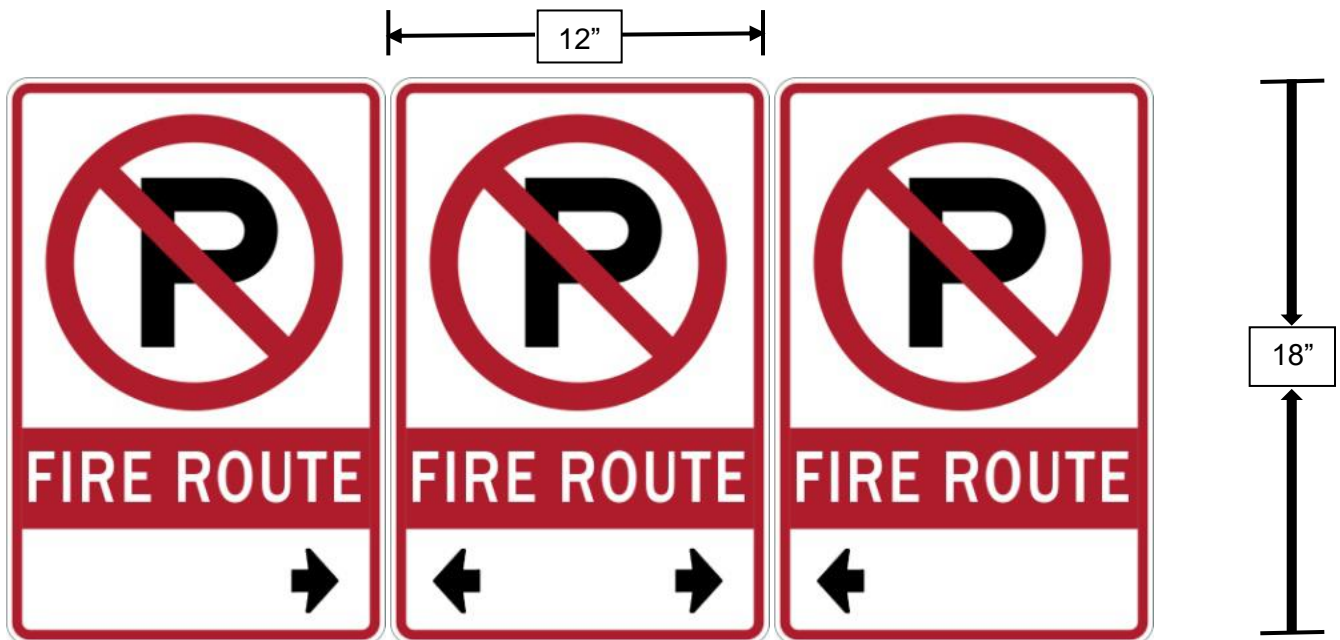
AUTHORIZED SIGN REQUIREMENTS

General Requirements

- Signs for established Fire Routes shall be erected in conformity with the requirements outlined in this Schedule, though the Fire Chief may require certain modifications to such signage, either visually or by adding or modifying the verbiage thereon, depending on the nature and location of the Fire Route in question.

Size and Design

- The size and design of Fire Route signs shall be as follows, unless they are required to be modified by the Fire Chief, if deemed necessary by the Fire Chief:



Spacing / Height of Fire Route Signs

- Signs for Fire Routes are to be spaced at intervals of not less than 15.2 meters (50 feet) and not more than 45.7 meters (150 feet) along the designated Fire Route, and at a height of not less than 1.8 meters (6 feet) – one sign at each limit of the Fire Route. The signs delineating the Fire Route must be posted clearly to indicate the Fire Route.

Turnaround

- Where Fire Routes are more than 91.44 meters (300 feet) in length, a hammerhead of 6.09 meters (20 feet) by 24.38 meters (80 feet) or a 27.43 meter (90 feet) turnaround shall be provided.

Report IC2021 - 04
to the Council of the Township of Wilmot
in relation to an investigation under the
Code of Conduct for Members of Council related to
Council Code of Conduct Inquiry 2021-04

=====

Robert J. Williams, Ph.D.
Integrity Commissioner
Township of Wilmot
August 30, 2021

Summary

1. Report IC2021-04 of the Township of Wilmot Integrity Commissioner dated August 30, 2021 advises Wilmot Township Council that an investigation as a result of an application for an inquiry (Inquiry 2021-04) under the provisions of the Township of Wilmot's Code of Conduct for Council concludes that no contravention has occurred.

A. Context

2. Amendments to the *Municipal Act, 2001* passed in 2006 added a new part to the Act entitled "Accountability and Transparency" which authorized municipalities to establish codes of conduct for members of the council and to appoint an Integrity Commissioner. The Township of Wilmot adopted a Code of Conduct for Elected Officials on November 19, 2007.

3. The Township of Wilmot retained me in January 2014 to serve as its Integrity Commissioner under the terms of what are now section 223.3 of the Ontario *Municipal Act, 2001*. Under that section, the Integrity Commissioner is responsible for performing in an independent manner the functions assigned by the municipality including "the application of the code of conduct for members of council" and "the application of any procedures, rules and policies of the municipality ... governing the ethical behaviour of members of council."

B. The Request for an Investigation

4. A resident of Wilmot Township filed an application for an inquiry in accordance with the proper procedure for the submission of a formal complaint under the Township of Wilmot Code of Conduct for Elected Officials.

5. The appellant's submission can be narrowed down to two allegations:

1. that a series of tweets posted by Councillor Jenn Pfenning following a meeting of Council on April 26, 2021 "completely made false and misleading statements" about what "a delegate said" at that meeting; and
2. that Councillor Pfenning's tweets were "personal attacks" directed "towards a member of the public and constituent in the Township of Wilmot."

6. The appellant contends that Councillor Pfenning's actions are contrary to the "Statement of Principle" in the Township of Wilmot Code of Conduct for Elected Officials. One declaration in that part of the Code states that "Members of Council are responsible for making honest statements. No member shall make a statement when they know that statement is false." The applicant also lists a second statement as a reason for this inquiry: "All members to whom this

Code of Conduct applies shall serve their constituents in a conscientious and diligent manner” but does not refer to it further in the application.

7. As will be discussed further in paragraph 21, it is the responsibility of the Integrity Commissioner to apply the substantive rules included in the Code to the facts of the situation brought to his attention by the appellant to determine whether the actions or words of an elected official can be deemed to be a violation of those rules. However, under what may be called the ordinary principles of statutory interpretation, a statement of principle does not create a clear enforceable obligation.¹ Rather, it establishes a framework for expected behavior and decision-making that may be used to interpret substantive obligations that are found elsewhere in the Code that can be applied to the behaviour of an individual Member.

Despite the fact that the statement of principles creates no legally enforceable obligations, I will nevertheless address the validity of the allegations made in this request since they were submitted in response to what was perceived by the resident to be unacceptable behaviour by an elected official. In the present political climate in the Township of Wilmot, I believe that it is in the interests of members of Council and the community to respond to this submission and two others filed by the same resident to help to clarify the scope and applicability of the Code of Conduct.

¹ See, for example, Township of Madawaska Valley Integrity Commissioner File 2016-03, August 9, 2018.

A Note on Confidentiality:

8. The *Municipal Act, 2001* (s.223.6 (2)) directs that an Integrity Commissioner shall only disclose “such matters as in the Commissioner’s opinion are necessary for the purposes of the report.” In keeping with the responsibility of the Integrity Commissioner to respect confidentiality during the conduct of an inquiry, I will continue to hold the name of the appellant in confidence in this report.

C. Background

9. I spoke with the appellant and Councillor Pfenning by phone to clarify some of the matters raised in the submission. I shared an anonymized copy of the resident’s submission with Councillor Pfenning and requested that she provide me with a written response. As requested by the appellant, I viewed the video record of the April 26 meeting (several times) to help me understand some of the events that the appellant described, in particular the appearances by a delegation that the appellant links to Councillor Pfenning’s subsequent social media posts.

D. The Events

10. At a virtual meeting on April 26, 2021, Wilmot Council considered a report from the First Peoples Group on the process to be followed in relation to the future of the Prime Ministers Path project, a planned collection of twenty-two life sized, bronze sculptures of Canada’s Prime Ministers located on the grounds of a Township facility, Castle Kilbride, in Baden. The future of the Prime Ministers Path project had been at the forefront of political debate in the Township since June of 2020 when a statue of Sir John A. Macdonald was twice doused with red paint, actions that prompted on-going protests both advocating for the removal of the statue and in support of keeping it. At the same time, there has been increasing tension in the Wilmot community over allegations of racial intolerance that also became an unwelcome part of the municipal landscape in the wake of the Black Lives Matter movement in mid-2020.²

11. The Macdonald statue was removed by Township staff in September 2020 and Council took steps to review the entire Prime Ministers Path project. A contract to provide advice to Council was awarded to the First Peoples Group who would lead a process that involved consultation with the indigenous community and Wilmot residents generally. At the same meeting as the First Peoples Group outlined the public engagement process it would be

² See Township of Wilmot Integrity Commissioner Report IC 2020-01, November 27, 2020.

undertaking, the municipality took steps to ensure greater representation for members of the IBPOC community on existing Committees of Council.

12. Several members of the public appeared as a delegation at the April 26 meeting, many with prepared statements, one of whom was Mr. David Atkinson.³ While all delegations applauded the forthcoming process of consultation on the Prime Ministers Path project, some expressed concerns that the Township was being portrayed “unfairly and irresponsibly” (Mr. Atkinson’s words) as racist by people both inside and outside the municipality. In particular, Mr. Atkinson argued that many residents who supported keeping the Prime Ministers Path were being branded as racist. He stated that “the PMP project is not about racism” but history. Mr. Atkinson then went on to explicitly denounce Councillor Cheryl Gordijk for statements quoted in local media outlets in which she used the term “underbelly” in reference to a number of incidents in the Township that appear to be racially-motivated.⁴

13. Other delegates (in particular Mr. John Bailey) took the view that regrettably there is such an element in Wilmot – albeit a tiny minority - and that it must be acknowledged and addressed. He supported Councillor Gordijk for speaking out on the issue. Mr. Atkinson requested a second opportunity to address Council and directed criticism at Mr. Bailey personally (for which he was reminded of the decorum requirements for Council Meetings) and again at Councillor Gordijk for the statement quoted in the media, using what I consider confrontational language (see paragraph 14).

14. On April 27, Councillor Pfenning posted five tweets identifying herself as “Jenn4Wilmot@JennPfenning” that were critical of statements made to Council, in particular quoting Mr. Atkinson’s statement that was explicitly directed at Councillor Gordijk: “Don’t speak out and I’ll leave you alone. Don’t be quoted in the paper and I won’t bother you.” In a second tweet Councillor Pfenning indicated that these words “were an attack by a delegate at last night’s

³ To be clear: Mr. Atkinson is not the applicant in this inquiry.

⁴ The Councillor’s words are quoted in Luisa D’Amato, “‘White Lives Matter’ flyer may not be all it seems,” *Waterloo Region Record*, April 23, 2021 <https://www.therecord.com/news/waterloo-region/2021/04/23/white-lives-matter-flyer-may-not-be-all-it-seems.html>.

See also Ben Eppel, “‘White Lives Matter’ posters show up in New Hamburg one day after verdict in George Floyd murder,” *Kitchener Today*, April 21, 2021 <https://www.kitchenertoday.com/police-beat/white-lives-matter-posters-show-up-in-new-hamburg-one-day-after-verdict-in-george-floyd-murder-3653987>

Wilmot Township Council meeting, direct[ed] at a council member who dared to speak publicly and acknowledge that racism is a problem in this community.” Another tweet posted in this string alluded to these remarks as “his defense against being told that his verbal tirade was not acceptable behaviour” and the final two express Councillor Pfenning’s perception that statements of this kind have had the effect of discouraging certain members of society – women, indigenous, black, people of colour and LGBTQ2+ people - from speaking up. In each case, she wrote “I Will NOT BE SILENT.”

E. Analysis

15. The applicant labels these tweets as “totally misleading and false” and that it is “shameful behaviour by a councillor to post statements which she knows are not true and what was intended.” In this request, the applicant does not cite specific provisions of the Code that are relevant to these accusations but submits that the tweets are a violation of the Code “under the ... reason” first quoted in Paragraph 6. To repeat a point made in Paragraph 7, the Integrity Commissioner is expected to apply the substantive rules found in the Code of Conduct. None were actually referenced as the basis for this inquiry.

16. However, as specifically requested by the applicant (building on the points made in Paragraph 7), I listened to Mr. Atkinson’s remarks several times to determine the validity of the allegations and found his remarks to be provocative and denigrating to members of Council, in particular those addressed to Councillor Gordijk. What I failed to discover is evidence that would lead to the conclusion that the tweets are “totally misleading and false.” I heard Mr. Atkinson say the words used in the first tweet and heard him single out a Councillor who believes that there is a racism problem in Wilmot; I heard him reminded that his vitriolic critique of another delegation was a violation of Council’s rules of decorum.

In other words, the video of the Council meeting unequivocally confirms that at least three of the five twitter statements refer to what actually happened and what was said. They did not contain “misleading and false” statements. The final two tweets are more general comments on Councillor Pfenning’s own perception of the experiences of women and minorities in the political environment. In my assessment, the applicant’s characterization of Councillor Pfenning’s tweets as “misleading and false” is not valid.

17. Nor can I confirm the applicant’s assertion that Councillor Pfenning posted statements “she knows are untrue and what was intended.” Where is the verified supporting evidence that I can examine to determine whether Councillor Pfenning “knew” the statement in her post is

untrue? As will be noted again in Paragraph 21, an investigation under the Code must be based on factual evidence not insinuation. Since the applicant has provided no independently verifiable evidence that Councillor Pfenning “knew” that the statements in the tweets were “untrue” this allegation is also untenable.

18. The applicant writes “Was the delegate perfect, no. But he did and does not deserve to be attacked on social media.” I reached a different assessment since my research indicates that the delegate has previously been aggressively critical of the perspectives of members of Council he does not share.

The Wilmot Code of Conduct for Elected Officials does not include specific provisions addressing the content of social media postings by members of Council; I would expect that any revisions of the Code would certainly include such provisions. In the absence of any such guidance at this time, I accept that tweets have become a standard and reasonable means for any councillor to speak up in their own defence or in defence of their colleagues and can be accepted as identifiable public statements made by members of Council.

19. As noted in Paragraph 5, the applicant alleges that that Councillor Pfenning’s tweets were “personal attacks” directed “towards a member of the public and constituent in the Township of Wilmot.” But her posts did not attack the delegation personally nor was he named; she cited one example of the kind of language directed at certain members of Council but the posts expressed her rejection of the messages that this delegation and others have repeatedly made on the public record. Again, I do not find the applicant’s characterization of these tweets as “personal attacks” persuasive.

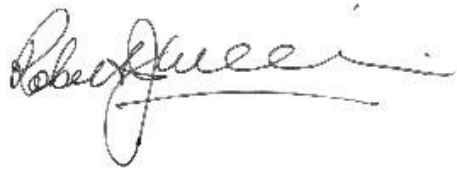
20. I must also acknowledge that this inquiry was hampered by the intemperate tone and confusion of the written submission itself. The affidavit that all applicants sign is ostensibly an affirmation that there are “reasonable and probable grounds” that a contravention has occurred and that the applicant will provide “evidence in support of the complaint.” Although this complaint states near the outset that Councillor Pfenning “completely made false and misleading statements” in “a 5 ‘Tweet’ rant about what a delegate said” at the April 26 meeting, there follows 38 single-spaced lines of accusations, exaggerations, rhetorical questions, incomplete descriptions of events at the meeting and references to other meetings of Council. None of these matters can be considered “reasonable and probable grounds” for this inquiry. Only at the bottom of the page does the statement “Below is her actually tweet” appear, followed by the text of the tweets, the “evidence in support of the complaint.”

21. An inquiry under the Code of Conduct is not conducted on the basis of a convoluted cascade of inflammatory language submitted by a complainant but on substantive and factual evidence. In this case, such “evidence” as was presented to the Integrity Commissioner failed to provide the grounds for taking an investigation any further, let alone determining that a violation has occurred that could result in the imposition of a penalty under the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

22. Based on the foregoing, I find that Councillor Jenn Pfenning has not violated the Township of Wilmot Code of Conduct for Elected Officials. The application is dismissed.

Recommendation

That Council receive for information the Integrity Commissioner’s Report 2021 – 04 dated August 30, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert J. Williams", with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

Robert J. Williams, Ph.D.
Integrity Commissioner, Township of Wilmot