

The Wood Smoke Activist Network

February 2012 Newsletter

**Educating the world about the health and climate impacts of
wood smoke and combustion aerosols.**

Editor: Shirley Brandie

1/2/2012

The Wood Smoke Activist Network

WOOD SMOKE ISSUES

Volume 4, Issue 2
February, 2012

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Co-Editor: [Julie Mellum](#)

Fighting Wood Smoke Pollution from the Grassroots to Government Level

Welcome!

We hope that this newsletter will give you the information and inspiration you need. Regain clean air to breathe and eliminate the wood burning that is affecting your health and your home environment.

Please pass this issue on to others in need of help and suggest that they send an email to s.brandie@hotmail.com to be added to the mailing list.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to educate public officials, government and all citizens about wood smoke as a major form of hazardous air pollution that affects our health, use of our property, water, crops, livestock, the environment and climate change. We urge citizens everywhere to press for legislative changes to call wood smoke a public nuisance under state health codes.”



Newsorthy Links

Rebates available to replace wood stoves on Montreal island

Excerpt: The goal is to improve air quality during the winter, when smoke from wood stoves and other wood fireplaces creates high levels of particulate matter. They are tiny particles of pollution that are easily inhaled, aggravating respiratory or cardiac conditions.

Officials target polluting wood stoves

Summary: In developing countries, indoor pollution from wood burning is blamed for up to 2 million deaths per year! <http://cleancookstoves.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/Deaths-Map-07.21.11.pdf>

A bad season for wood burning

Excerpt: health is the motivation behind the restrictions because wood smoke has been linked to illnesses including **cancer** and heart trouble.

Valley's air under siege from fireplace soot

Excerpt: Wood smoke is dangerous, health researchers have found. The pollution penetrates deeply into the lungs and can enter the bloodstream. It has been linked to heart problems and early mortality.

Stove change-out expands to reduce regional air pollution

Excerpt: Health officials have identified this as one possible reason why the city's respiratory illness rates remain higher than the provincial average.

Please note:

I have decided to merge the CoalitionAgainstWoodBurning site with my own site to save, not only money, but repetition of information.
<http://woodburnersmoke.net>

All countries that had their own pages there will have their own pages now on my site.

I hope to add more countries to the site so if you know of anyone in another country who needs help and wants to have their country listed please have them get in touch with me at:
s.brandie@hotmail.com

I also would welcome some letters from you, telling your own story of how wood smoke has affected your health and your lifestyle. Photos may be included if you like. They help to show the conditions you are forced to live with.

As you know, I have a 'Bozo of the month' in my newsletter. Please don't hesitate to nominate your town and give the reasons why you think they deserve to be the Bozo. Your name need not be published.

The newsletters will continue to be sent out by email and also listed on my site.

Shirley

A City in Denial

Cornwall is a city in denial regarding the deadly airborne, toxic emissions permeating neighbourhoods from Woodsmoke emissions.

Since 2005, through to 2009 and up to 2011, almost 2012, this deadly issue regarding residential woodsmoke pollution has been addressed, respectfully, to our Members of Parliament, Cornwall Fire Department, Fire Chief Myles Cassidy, Mayor Bob Kilger, all members of the Cornwall City Council, and Dr. Paul Roumeliotis from our EOHU. Letters and follow up action regarding the toxic effects that wood burning has on our health, documented material, attachments and further data was presented in personal meetings, regarding how deadly neighbourhood wood burning is to our health. Every possible contact was made to inform each of you that we are city residents who are suffering from Woodsmoke.

Air Is Precious gave testimony to all the Cornwall city Council, met with Dr. Paul Roumeliotis, Medical Officer of Health, Mayor Bob Kilger, Members of Parliament and Provincial Parliament again addressing this toxic issue of Wood burning within our city. Yet, as today, all of you have taken disgracefully, absolutely no pro-active action to ban/prohibit the use of all wood burning devices. Because of your non-action, Cornwall residents who are ill and suffering continue being assaulted by the daily stench and poison of Woodsmoke.

How can you still remain indifferent, apathetic, neglectful, and ignorant on the Woodsmoke issue? This airborne, noxious, deadly emission (PM2.5) has and is destroying our health and environment in Cornwall.

You have acknowledged that our city was involved in a church sex scandal with local residents being gravely harmed. You have acknowledged that we suffered for years from toxins being pumped into our air and water from Domtar and the Cotton Mill. You acknowledged that other areas of Cornwall were polluted with toxins that could cause harm to resident's lives. Yet, sadly and pathetically, all these years later, you still allow this airborne deadly Woodsmoke to fill our air daily which destroys our health with its cancer causing chemicals and take away any possible quality of life. Cornwall residents cannot even open a window for fresh air, use our property, or walk on city streets due to the saturated, acrid Woodsmoke that is present.

What are you afraid of? Why won't some of you stand up for what is right and good and decent and do something to stop this Wood burning that is making many city residents ill? We are suffering, becoming sicker and many have died from Woodsmoke related diseases. Those of us with cancer, Asthma, COPD, Cardiovascular, Cardiopulmonary, Stroke, respiratory, are closer to dying everyday due to Woodsmoke.

What about the taxes we pay? What about our protection? What about our rights to breathe healthy air...air that is Woodsmoke-free?

How much longer must we wait for action and help from our city of Cornwall to end this environmental and personal terrorism...A.K.A...Woodsmoke?

[Linda Baker Beaudin](#) - Air is Precious

The question for EPA is: Where was the Public - where were the Towns - where were the States?

<http://www.midstateshpba.org/2011/11/nsps-webinar-on-dec-8.html>

NSPS Webinar on Dec. 8 run by EPA

All manufacturers who support the Hearth, Patio & Barbeque Association (HPBA) in the mid-states NSPS efforts are invited to attend a Webinar on December 8, 2011, to discuss these efforts, and review our best understanding of the future NSPS timeline. The webinar will begin with a short briefing by EPA staff, including Gregory Green, Director of the Outreach and Information Division (OID), and Gil Wood, who is the project lead for the NSPS review. Following their briefing, and after they have left the webinar, manufacturers will hear from our special Legal Counsel, David Menotti, our NSPS technical consultant, Bob Ferguson, and HPBA staff. The group will discuss all the issues under consideration in this review, and offer an opportunity for members to raise questions about any aspect of this process, or the webinar.

Member Manufactures will need to register for the webinar, and must be current in their NSPS support assessment. Please contact Rachel Feinstein, Feinstein@hpba.org in order to receive instructions for the webinar. Companies may register as many unique locations as they wish. If anyone has questions about this list of issues, or issues they hope the EPA covers, prior to the webinar, they are welcome to contact John Crouch, crouch@hpba.org

HPBA is considering another face to face meeting, similar to the January 2011 meeting in Dallas, but will not schedule it until the EPA's proposal has been released.

This shows that EPA has industry sitting at the table and is asking for their input ----- and yet EPA -- which is meant to protect the public's health as well -- does not have the public at the table -- and therefore does not have any public input. With people, towns, and states being so badly affected by the emissions from outdoor wood furnaces - this does not seem like a very good way for EPA to affect this serious problem. Should industry alone be influencing EPA's air emission standards when the public has not been invited for their input?

Industry makes money on what they sell and should have a voice - however, the public has to breathe the air --- and therefore should have a voice as well.

The webinar meeting held by EPA in December -- and described above -- was for the manufacturers and sellers of wood-burning appliances to discuss EPA's proposed New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) --- which are the federal standards promulgated by EPA for major and minor sources on a category-category basis. NSPS are national emission standards that can vary from source to source.

Out With the Old, and In With the New!!

Out with the old and in with the new are words of empowerment as we move toward the beginning of the New Year. A New Year signifies many events in our life. The days of the old year become our mile markers of what we accomplished and journeyed through. We celebrated births, weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, career promotions. We acknowledged, job loss, decreased health, and a multitude of events that made up our life.

For many, 2012 will truly represent a fresh and clean slate. 2012 will also become the year that Canadians, proudly, speak up and take pro-active action to demand their right to breathe healthy air that is woodsmoke-free in their neighbourhoods.

2012 will be the year that we say out with the bush-like attitude of wood burning within our city structure. It will be the year we welcome fresh, pure, unadulterated air to our neighbourhoods without backyard bon fires, fire pits, wood fuelled bbqs, chimeneas and other wood burning devices destroying our health, our air and our environment.

The New Year must see the end of all forms of biomass burning. This New Year, out with the passe, negative, inaccurate concepts about how good wood burning is, when medical evidence, scientific data and environmental statistics all concur that Wood burning is doing just the opposite. Wood burning is harming every aspect of our daily life. Wood burning destroys every breath we take!! Wood burning kills!!

Out with the attitude about roasting marshmallows that end up crusted with brown, black charred toxins to be eaten by our children. Find a new recipe book for 2012 and other ways to enjoy "marshmallows". Wood burning kills! Let's end Wood burning and let our children live a healthier life without deadly Woodsmoke.

Out with the old and in with the new, truly healthy, clean, and environmentally friendly way of enjoying the back yard. Say what you mean and mean what you say. Wood burning is dirty, deadly, unhealthy, and destructive! There is no such thing as a "Green Community" if Wood burning is allowed.

Out with the negative, uncaring, attitudes of elected leaders in our communities who continue to condone, enable and support Wood burning, a toxic form of airborne pollution that is destroying our health, our community air and our quality of life.

In with the new by-laws to prohibit the use of all outdoor open air burning that every season smothers families in deadly Woodsmoke emissions in their neighbourhood. Out with living with our windows shut from neighbours Woodsmoke!!!

Out with not being able to enjoy our property or access to other areas due to the fact the air is so heavily polluted and saturated with Woodsmoke. In with "Green and Clean" air that should surround us, not dirty and polluted air from Wood burning!

Make 2012 out with the old and truly in the New Woodsmoke-free!!

Posted By: Linda Baker Beaudin Air Is Precious, Cornwall, Ontario

Canst Thou Not Butt Out Already

Since cancer forced me to take early retirement I have had some time to read up on air pollution. Among the many relevant books in the UNBC library is “Fundamentals in Air Pollution from Processes to Modelling” by Bruno Sportisse, 2010. This book is a translation from the French and can be found at TD 881S6613. The contents show many complicated mathematical equations that are too difficult to actually print out so I will just try to stick to basic ideas that the average wood-burner can understand.

I have a degree in honours math from UBC and the early 70's and thus have a great appreciation for the complexity of pollution dispersion equations. I have not solved these types of equations by hand since computers came along. It is so easy to just throw another log on the fire, to ignore the smoke and also to ignore any consequences. Here are some points for wood burners to consider. My apologies to Job of the Old Testament for the ancient sarcastic questioning technique but we have come a long way since those early ignorant days.

Canst thou calculate any of the recent equations for models of global warming, ozone destruction or air quality without just jumping on this or that bandwagon in support of your bias? Modern supercomputers and the internet are giving increasingly better results in predicting long term global trends, be it warming or cooling, especially if enough factors are considered, like the albedo cloud effect, feedback mechanisms, or the true chemistry of the atmosphere.

Canst thou use the Monte Carlo methods applied to the probability density functions of multi-model systems that are now able to produce reasonable results that give decent predictions of particle concentrations? Easy to smoke out your neighbours though, isn't it!

Canst thou use the century-old math techniques that are now refined to produce better and better comparisons of theory with actual data collection for pollution? The older Gaussian plume models are being continually improved by modern modelling techniques like the particle

Lagrangian or the 3D-Eulerian multiphase chemistry transport models. But it sure is easy to just throw another log on the fire.

Canst thou work out the time evolution of your smoke concentration with an advection-diffusion-reaction partial differential equation? The forest fire smoke of August 2010 has taught me that any smoke will get all the way from British Columbia to Saskatchewan, no matter how seldom you fire up that wood stove for a little bit of selfish heat.

Canst thou calculate anything about the local conditions that will minimize the effect of wood smoke? Do you know anything about the Atmospheric Boundary Layer (ABL) that is relevant to local wood smoke?

Canst thou calculate the Brunt-Vaisala frequency to estimate the height of vertical mixing in a layered atmosphere? Do you know what part of the ABL is sensitive to a few hours of pollution?

Canst thou appreciate the two main concepts that are used to describe the ABL, thermal layers and turbulent mixing? Atmospheric turbulence is important to disperse pollutants and has two main sources, thermal convection (vertical buoyancy of air parcels) and mechanical advection (horizontal wind).

Canst thou calculate the thermal vertical convection turbulence of the ABL by using the buoyancy ideas of Archimedes, limiting the air parcels to adiabatic processes (no heat transferred between air parcels and the environment), using the First Law of Thermodynamics, the Ideal Gas Law, Newton's Second Law and also using the Poisson Equation to estimate potential temperatures? The Rayleigh number is used to measure this thermal vertical convection turbulence.

Canst thou calculate the Dry Adiabatic Lapse Rate (DALR) to determine the stability of the ABL? A negative number indicates a temperature inversion and has two typical cases. The first case is a surface inversion due to the cooling of Earth's surface at night or the albedo effect of snow cover in winter. The second case is when less wind causes a build up of smoke because of anti-cyclonic meteorological conditions (nice sunny dry weather).

Canst thou calculate the Moist Saturated Adiabatic Lapse Rate (MSALR) to basically show that rainy weather is less stable than a dry air mass and disperses air pollution? This is actually the time to safely burn for house heat.

Canst thou calculate the mechanical horizontal advection wind turbulence of the ABL by using the Coriolis force associated with the Earth's rotation plus the pressure gradient force, the geostrophic wind and the wind speeds of the low atmosphere? The Reynolds number is used to measure the mechanical horizontal advection wind turbulence.

Canst thou combine the two main parts of turbulence (vertical and horizontal) into a huge coordinate based system called the Specific Turbulent Kinetic Energy (STKE) equation?

Canst thou get a special ratio called the Richardson number to estimate the height that pollutants will reach? Do you know that you should not be burning wood if that mixing height is lower than 100 m? But it sure is easy to be inconsiderate to others instead of appreciating the three R's (Rayleigh, Reynolds, Richardson numbers) of wood burning.

Canst thou differentiate the STKE equation over time and apply a mathematical system called the Reynolds Averaged Navier Stokes (RANS) model which is further supported by the so-called Kolmogorov analysis although averaging techniques and closure schemes must also be applied? Sure easy to throw another log on the fire, and you will.

Things go on and on in this Sportisse book with explanations of the Boussinesq approximation for fluid mechanics equations, the four parts of the Navier Stokes equations that deal with wind velocity, density, temperature and humidity, magnitude analysis, Ekman spirals, low-level nocturnal jets, K-theory, counter-gradient models, turbulent diffusion in the Surface Boundary Layer (SBL), the Monin-Obukhov length, the Businger functions, the urban heat island, Oke's Law, the Courant-Friedrichs-Lewy (CFL) number, and my favourites, the Beer-Lambert-Bouguer Law and the Damkohler Number.

My apologies for all the blah, blah, blah... really? To keep things simple let me introduce a reasonable solution for considerate citizens in any crowded area. Call it the Wood Burning Law or "Just Butt Out Already with All the Smoke in Crowded Areas" (JBOAWATSICA). And if you plead poverty because of payments then sell that huge wood hauling diesel. Wear double or even triple layers of clothes in a colder house and show some respect for neighbours and cleaner air. Yet it is so easy and inconsiderate to just throw another log on the fire.

Vic Steblin - Prince George, B.C.

BSc Honours Math - MA MATH Education from UBC - Retired

Oak Grove, Minnesota

Maybe they should rename the place to **Smoke Grove!**

The neighbor is a big "green heat" enthusiast!

His hydronic heater is the talk of the neighborhood.

The future is now! Check it out.

<http://www.freeinside.net>

Sincerely,
Ed A.
Oak Grove MN



Legal Help

****Note to any legal firm that can provide help with residential wood smoke issues and wishes to add their name to this page.****

Please email Shirley with your state/province, name of firm, who to contact (email address & telephone)

NOTICE of FLORIDA and KENTUCKY ATTORNEY WILLING TO CONSIDER WOOD SMOKE CASES, perhaps on a contingency.

Attorney **Sherri Myers** is a Florida attorney who is also licensed to practice in Kentucky and in 2 federal courts. She specializes in the rights of persons with disabilities, many of whom may be protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA, the civil rights law that is intended to ensure that citizens with disabilities such as asthma, for example, have “access” to public spaces such as city parks, streets and sidewalks. A federal court in northern Iowa ordered the town of Mallard, Iowa, to disallow wood and leaf burning, because the smoke presented a physical barrier to a small child with severe asthma, making her unable to use city streets and sidewalks.

Sherri is interested in legal issues that impact persons with multiple chemical sensitivity and other environmental illnesses. She also serves on the Pensacola City Council and in that role is working to influence governmental policies on environmental issues. She is the Advocacy Coordinator for the Center for Independent Living Disability Resource Center. Sherri lives in Pensacola, which is located in the panhandle of Florida. Contact her at sfmada@aol.com. Phone: (850) 484-0902

Legal Help

Outdoor Wood Boilers have the potential to create nuisances or harm human health by releasing unsafe levels of Particulate Pollution and other cancer causing air contaminants.

Scientific studies and lab testing have shown that some Outdoor Wood Boilers exceed EPA safe air thresholds at levels that can cause both short and long term health problems, even death.

The American Lung Association states that anyone can be affected by particle pollution but several groups are most at risk:

- Children under 18
- Adults 65 and older
- Anyone with chronic lung disease, such as asthma, chronic bronchitis, or emphysema
- Anyone with a cardiovascular disease, such as high blood pressure, coronary artery disease, or congestive heart failure and diabetes.

Joe Ritch an attorney in Corpus Christi Texas who specializes in nuisance and product liability believes everyone should be able to live in their home and enjoy their property without fear of harm.

If you or someone you love is being adversely affected by the contaminants emitted from an Outdoor Wood Boiler you may be eligible for representation with no out of pocket expenses. To have your case evaluated please call 361-885-7500 and ask for Joseph Ritch.

Wood smoke issues gain momentum in the Minneapolis, Minnesota metro

Edina, a medium-sized suburb adjacent to Minneapolis, had decided to convert 2 wood burning fireplaces in a city-owned park building to gas, to benefit public health and the environment. Nevertheless, they voted to let the 3rd fireplace, an outdoor unit, remain as wood burning. This is inconsistent with Edina's ban on cigarette smoking in the parks. And it also flies in the face of ADA Guidelines that require cities to fulfill their accessibility requirements for all people by removing barriers to access. To asthmatics and many others, wood smoke presents a serious barrier to the use of public events and spaces.

Julie's thoughts on this were recently published in the local Edina Sun-Current newspaper. (Below)

TAKE ACTION: Please click on the link below it to send your opinion to the Edina Wood Smoke blog.

City Council members support dirty air

Julie Mellum: info@takebacktheair.com

It's important to know where elected officials stand on issues of public welfare, such as air quality. Per the 11/24 article, "Two Centennial Lakes fireplaces to burn gas," council members xxxxxxx and xxxxxx cast "nay" votes against converting the outdoor wood burning fireplace. Member xxxxxx, absent at first vote, later used his influence to scotch the conversion.

It was also disturbing to read that newly-elected School Board member, xxxxxx, dismissed wood smoke as "just a potential nuisance that comes with city living," ignoring children's environmental health as key to their performance in school. And that asthma is the number one reason for absenteeism. These votes for smoky air symbolize the refusal of some elected officials to take public health seriously by upholding "recreational pollution" as the gold standard.

Wasn't the switch to gas intended to enhance accessibility for all people to the park? The decision not to convert the outdoor fireplace is in conflict with the city's ban of cigarette smoking in parks, which was established to protect and improve public health. Edina has a legal responsibility to remove barriers preventing access to public spaces. Children and anyone with asthma especially need clean air to breathe, not wood smoke-infused air.

I believe that if asked, the majority of Edina citizens would prefer clean air. What's your vote?

<http://www.ci.edina.mn.us/wordpress/?p=715>

EDITOR'S COMMENT (Shirley) TO ABOVE ARTICLE:

BLACKMAIL:I was horrified to think that someone would attempt to use the tactics that a certain vigilante stated in an email to the mayor and council after Julie's opinion was published, that he had been contacted by 'someone' and asked to "create a public outcry" and "resident firestorm" about the possibility of converting the outdoor fireplace to gas.

He said "There is enough money available to mail thousands of incendiary pieces to carefully targeted recipients" – and "surprise pack" a city council meeting with people wanting to make public comment." I'm not sure where the money would come from, but checking his one-page web site showed that neither the 'contribute' or 'contact us' buttons worked.

In my opinion he is deliberately trying to intimidate and manipulate the leaders of Edina. For what reason? What does he hope to achieve? Why does he want to continue the fouling of the air in a park that is there for everyone to enjoy?

Something stinks and it isn't just the wood smoke!

Shirley

A point to ponder

**TABLE III.1.1 ONTARIO PARTICULATE EMISSIONS - cont'd
(1995 Estimates)**

CATEGORY / SECTOR	PM tonnes	PM ₁₀ tonnes	PM _{2.5} tonnes
FUEL COMBUSTION			
Commercial Fuel Combustion	1,050	961	910
Electric Power Generation (Utilities)	5,797	1,680	719
Residential Fuel Combustion	1,886	1,754	1,704
Residential Fuelwood Combustion	28,597	28,025	28,025
CATEGORY TOTAL:	37,330	32,419	31,358

**This estimate is from 1995.
Any guess what it might be now?**

http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@ene/@resources/documents/resource/std01_079049.pdf

**Pass this on to those that think wood
burning is clean burning!**

From: Environment and Human Health, Inc.

The people who wrote to us today are from Indiana - but it doesn't matter what the state one is from - the story is the same everywhere. Unless you have enough money to abandon your home and move to another home - you and your family are doomed to be sick from the excessive amount of wood smoke that comes into your home on a continuous basis.

Until this issue is solved by government regulations - our advice is - people must move out of these homes - it is just too dangerous to health to breathe in this much smoke on a continuous basis.

To [Environment and Human Health, Inc.](#) [Journal](#)

December 6, 2012

We are having a terrible time breathing in our own home tonight and can't get any help. We are in our 60's and I have had breast cancer and colon and we cannot afford to move out of our home.

Although we have had our house listed with four different realtors, we have come to the conclusion that no one wants a house with the devil stoking the fire. I have been awfully sick from this and had pneumonia twice. Our home was so beautiful -- we were gardeners. I grow irises and day lilies and all kinds of vegetables -- but now we can't get out in our yard even on pretty sunny days because of the horrible smoke. Lung specialist gave me prescription for a dust mask. It is hard to find the strength to go on when you have to look out the window on pretty days and watch your flowers die cause you can't go outside.

People used to come walk through my yard but now even they can't stand the smoke. It gets on our clothes our hair even effects my eyes and I had surgery done on them. Our neighbor has the Woodmaster 400 in front of our door with in about 35 feet -- so the south wind will blow it in our home. Sometimes we have to get out of bed at 3 AM because we can't breathe. Whatever he is burning takes the oxygen out of air and we breathe like we are running a marathon. Our cars smell so bad we can't use the heater in it and have to use heated seats. I taped my windows shut but it still comes in. The Health Department doctor told us to leave our home and also our family doctor - but where do you go at our age if you can't sell your home?

My husband and I have a beautiful fruit orchard also that we are too old to replace. This place was our heaven but was turned into a hell by our neighbor and our county and state will do nothing. All we can do is pray a lot. Thank you. xxxxxxxxxxxx

xxxxxxx, Saint Paul, Indiana

Wood smoke: Know the Facts



Wood Smoke...

1. Violates the property rights of others to use and enjoy their property smoke-free.
2. Contains many of the same toxins that are in tobacco smoke. These include lead, mercury, arsenic, benzene, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), carbon monoxide and dioxin(s), “some of the most insidious chemicals known to man.” (Harvard School of Public Health). They also accumulate in the environment.
3. Is implicated in asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people of all ages, including sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).
4. Violates the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Guidelines by presenting a “barrier” to those with disabilities such as asthma, preventing them from accessing public spaces. Parks, bike paths, playgrounds, sidewalks, outdoor sports and public gatherings are often inaccessible and unhealthy, due to wood smoke.
5. Stresses *everyone’s* immune system. Children, the elderly, and those with asthma, lung or heart issues, diabetes or other disabilities are among the most vulnerable.
6. Is a major source of black carbon soot fine particulates, which are bundled with cancer-causing and hormone-disrupting chemicals.
7. Is implicated in reproductive birth defects and childhood diseases including asthma, pneumonia, cancer, autism, Asperger's Syndrome, allergies and other disorders.
8. Interferes with the seeding of rain and moisture in clouds, and also accelerates the melting of glaciers (www.burningissues.org/car-www/science/Climate/index.html) and www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/apr/20/black-carbon-emissions).
9. Burning wood is an increasingly serious fire hazard. Please don't burn wood!

For more information, contact info@takebacktheair.com
Website: www.takebacktheair.com

Possible ban or restriction on OWBs

I just read an article about Farmington Minnesota, which is considering a ban or restrictions on OWBs.

I AM ASKING: that you send this out to the biggest mailing list you have so that folks all over the country having smoke problems can send photos and supportive data showing how ineffective "controls" and 75 foot setbacks are.

The more cities that ban them, the better chance for higher up involvement at county or state levels. I want to keep the momentum moving on bans.

Please help by sharing this to as many people that you can.

Please send your photos and comments to:

http://www.ci.farmington.mn.us/Departments/Planning_Division/Planning_Division.html

JOIN OUR NEW NETWORK!

Our cause has gained great momentum, with more people joining the anti-wood smoke efforts weekly. Our focus now is to help everyone connect with others near us nation-wide in the US and Canada. We must unite in pressuring our municipalities and governments toward wood smoke regulations as soon as possible.

Therefore, I am looking for **Volunteer Wood Smoke Coordinators in EVERY STATE & PROVINCE to field and manage wood smoke complaints and issues in their own state or province.**

The goal is to share information nation-wide and to focus on wood smoke regulation.

I think it's safe to say that anyone reading this newsletter probably has issues with wood smoke.

If you are willing to give your name and email address so we can form a visible network please email [Shirley](#) or [Julie](#).

Perhaps you would be willing to help with letter writing, flyer passing, etc. No money is required, just a willingness to be someone others can contact for support or more involvement.

Contact Julie at info@takebacktheair.com if you would like your name to appear on our state/province-wide contacts page or if you'd like to become your state or province's "representative" to coordinate contacts within your state or province. Contact Julie, also, if you'd like to learn who else is fighting wood smoke in your area and if you want concrete suggestions on how to get results.

Network Representative List

(Blank lines are yet to be filled)

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Wyoming		

CO Level	Action	CO Level	Action
1-4ppm	Normal levels in human tissues produced by body.	50ppm	US OSHA recommended 8 hour maximum workplace exposure Maximum NCI level for Unvented appliances
3-7ppm	6% increase in the rate of admission in hospitals of non-elderly for asthma. (Sheppard-1999)	70ppm	1st Alarm level of UL2034 approved CO Alarms- 2-4 hours 3rd Alarm level for NSI 3000 - 30 seconds NSI 3000 Low Level Monitor cannot be silenced by reset button
5-6ppm	Significant risk of low birth rate if exposed during last trimester (Ritz & Yu-1999)	100ppm	Maximum NCI CO level during run cycle in all vented appliances(stable) Maximum NCI CO for all oil appliances
5ppm	1st visual display on NSI 3000 Low Level CO Monitor	200ppm	First listed level(established in 1930) healthy adults will have symptoms-headaches, nausea NIOSH & OSHA recommend evacuation of workplace Maximum "Air Free" CO for vented water heater and unvented heaters (ANSI Z21) UL approved alarms must sound between 30 – 60 minutes(NSI 3000 – 30 seconds)
9ppm	ASHRAE standard for allowable spillage from vented appliances, indoors, for 8 hours exposure daily. EPA standard for outdoors for 8 hours and a maximum 3 times per year. (Clean Air Act)	400ppm	Healthy adults will have headaches within 1-2 hours. Life threatening after 3 hours Maximum "Air Free" CO in all vented heating appliances (ANSI Z21) Maximum EPA levels for industrial flue exhaust UL Alarms must alarm within 15 minutes (NSI 3000 – 30 seconds) Maximum recommended light-off CO for all appliances – NCI (except oil)
10ppm	Outdoor level of CO found associated with a significant increase in heart disease deaths and hospital admissions for congestive heart failure. (JAMA, Penny) 1st ambient level occupants should be notified-NCI Protocol	800ppm	Healthy adults will have nausea, dizziness, convulsions within 45 minutes. Unconscious within 2 hours then Death(established in 1930) Maximum "Air Free" CO for unvented gas ovens (ANSI Z21)
15-20ppm	First level World Health Organization lists as causing impaired performance, decrease in exercise time and vigilance 1st Alarm level for NSI 3000 Low Level CO Monitor-5 minutes	800ppm+	Death in less than one hour
25ppm	Maximum allowable in a Parking Garage (International Mechanical Code)	2000ppm	EPA standard for new vehicle emissions
27ppm	21% increase in cardio respiratory complaints (Kurt-1978)	3000ppm+	Typical emissions from propane lift trucks, gasoline powered tools etc. Death in less than 30 minutes.
30ppm	Earliest onset of exercise induced angina (World Health Organization) 1st visual display on UL2034 approved CO Alarm-Must not alarm before 30 days		
35ppm	US NIOSH recommended 8 hour maximum workplace exposure EPA standard for outdoors for 1 hour and a maximum of 1 time per year Level many fire departments wear breathing apparatus before entering 2nd ambient level occupants should be notified and space ventilated 2nd Alarm level for NSI 3000 Low Level Monitor-5 minutes		

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All burning results in very fine micro particulates and there is no safe level of this asbestos sized, dangerous air pollutant. Solid fuels, such as pellets and especially wood, produce more smoke and emit more fine particulate air pollutants than cleaner fuels such as gas and electricity.

Bylaws & Bans

****I am beginning to compile a list of municipalities that are acting on wood smoke emissions. Please [send me a link](#) to any that you find to be added to the list.****

Golden, BRITISH COLUMBIA- passed a bylaw prohibiting the installation of any solid fuel burning appliance (Bylaw # 1150).

Hampstead, QUEBEC - banned all new installations of wood stoves and ordered existing wood stoves to be removed within 7 years. (Bylaw # 729-2)

Montreal, QUEBEC (Apr. 29/2009) - no further installation of any wood burning stoves or fireplaces.

Suffolk, NEW JERSEY - bans all OWBs within 1000 feet of another house.

Stillwater, MINNESOTA - bans all wood burning or boiling stoves - existing and future (March 11, 2010).

Pleasant Prairie, WISCONSIN - bans all new outdoor wood furnaces and wood boilers.

Savage City, MINNESOTA - prohibits outdoor wood boilers (OWBs).

Burnsville, MINNESOTA - banned OWBs December 2008.

New Prague, MINNESOTA - total ban on OWBs.

Grand Forks, BRITISH COLUMBIA - The bylaw states that “no person shall create a nuisance using a wood burning appliance in such a way as to disturb the health and comfort of two or more persons from separate dwellings.” Enforcement would be complaint driven and fines could be up to \$500.

Houston, BRITISH COLUMBIA - requires uncertified appliances to be removed by 2010.

St. Thomas, ONTARIO - prohibits the use of outdoor fireplaces including wood boilers and chimeneas.

Sarnia, ONTARIO - has set stringent restrictions on setback distances for outdoor boiler operations from the nearest dwellings and property lines.

Nation, ONTARIO - outdoor wood boiler specifications have been set which include minimum lot sizes, distance from property lines and distances from property buildings.

Elmira, NEW YORK - Ban on smoke and other deleterious fumes that cross property lines onto the property of another. Fines are \$250 for a second offence or a jail term. Best ban in the country!

Marion, IOWA -prohibits new outdoor wood-burning boilers within city limits and to regulate existing setups. All existing boilers must be registered by Jan. 1; have smokestacks two feet higher than any residential roof within 300 feet of the system; and be removed when the property changes hands.

CONNECTICUT - Avon, Granby, Tolland, Hebron, Woodbridge, South Windsor, Portland, Norfolk, Ridgefield, Haddam, Cheshire, West Hartford, Hamden, North Haven and New Fairfield – 15 towns have banned outdoor wood furnaces in order to protect the health and property values of their citizens.

Inver Grove Heights, MINNESOTA - Nov. 15, 2010 - council bans all OWBs. All OWBs must be removed from properties by Oct. 01, 2011.

The STATE of WASHINGTON - has laws to address neighbor's wood smoke. According to the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, “generating excessive smoke is not only unneighborly, it’s illegal. Under state regulations, smoke from a person’s chimney cannot exceed 20 percent opacity for six consecutive minutes. Greater smoke densities could result in fines from air pollution control officials. It is always illegal to smoke out your neighbor. Everyone has a right to breathe clean air. If smoke from your fire is affecting your neighbors, it is considered a nuisance and subject to enforcement action.”

Salmon Arm, BRITISH COLUMBIA - No person shall install an Outdoor Solid-Fuel Combustion Appliance in or about any premises.

Huron East, ONTARIO - Bylaw passed - all new OWB's to have minimum setback allowances and lot sizes. A great improvement over what they had before – nothing.

Nappanee - Bans Outdoor Wood Furnaces

Twinsburg, OHIO - Council voted 7-0 in favor of adding outdoor wood-burning furnaces or boilers to a list of items that are restricted.

Marion County, INDIANA - OWB ban.

Evansville, INDIANA – OWB ban.

Long Beach, INDIANA - OWB ban.

City of LaPorte, INDIANA - OWB ban.

Michigan City, INDIANA - OWB ban.

Butler, Indiana - Bans OWBs within city limits.

Editorial

February... What have we accomplished so far in 2012?

I still am hearing from many who are having problems with a neighbor's burning.

Are they waiting for a miracle to stop the smoke? I don't think they are. What they are is baffled by the lack of caring from their municipalities.

They have tried their Mayors and Councilors and even the Fire Department. Some have even been told that their calls will not be taken any longer as they have called too many times. Every time they have called they are given the same answer "There is nothing we can do because there are no bylaws that cover nuisance smoke."

How pathetic is that for an excuse?

Where can they turn to for help? Nowhere where any quick action will be taken. They are doomed to live in an environment filled with the smoke released by their neighbor. UNLESS they can find a councilor who realizes the dangers associated with breathing wood smoke.

I suggest that each and every one of you start to forward this newsletter to all members of your town council and pray that one of them will actually see what is happening with all the smoke that is being released into the air we all need to breathe. They say that just ONE person can make a difference. Find that person, help that person with information needed and you will finally get action.

There is plenty of information on my web site that you are free to use.

[Wood Burner Smoke](#)

Shirley

BOZO of the Month



In my opinion

Salmon Arm, B.C. wins again!

Repeatedly, I hear from people in Salmon Arm telling me they are deluged in smoke.

Their council members have spoken from both sides of their mouth, having banned new installations yet allowing the grandfather clause to permit operation of pre-bylaw OWBs. Also, they have defined outdoor burning as meaning "all burning done outdoors": outdoor burning requires a permit, thus falls under burning regulations etc. according to the bylaw.....Salmon Arm requires no permits for OWBs, thus have no control over the type and quantity of fuel/emissions.

The Ministry of Health has issued reports that emissions from OWBs are harmful to people, particularly those with lung and/or heart disease.

The Ministry of Health has ordered the closure of one of these units in the city of Salmon Arm. An employee of the Ministry of Health reportedly happened to live in that neighborhood.

I smell more than smoke here!

Bylaw amendments.... Have they heard of them?

Shirley

Photos and Videos

Just a few photos to show to your public officials and others you want to convince that only a ban on smoke release will change this!

[Click here for videos](#)



[To see some photos that victims of wood smoke have sent click here](#)

To have your own photo listed, send an email to: s.brandie@hotmail.com

LINKS & MORE

[Click here for a heart-breaking story & video of a family subjected to wood smoke.](#)

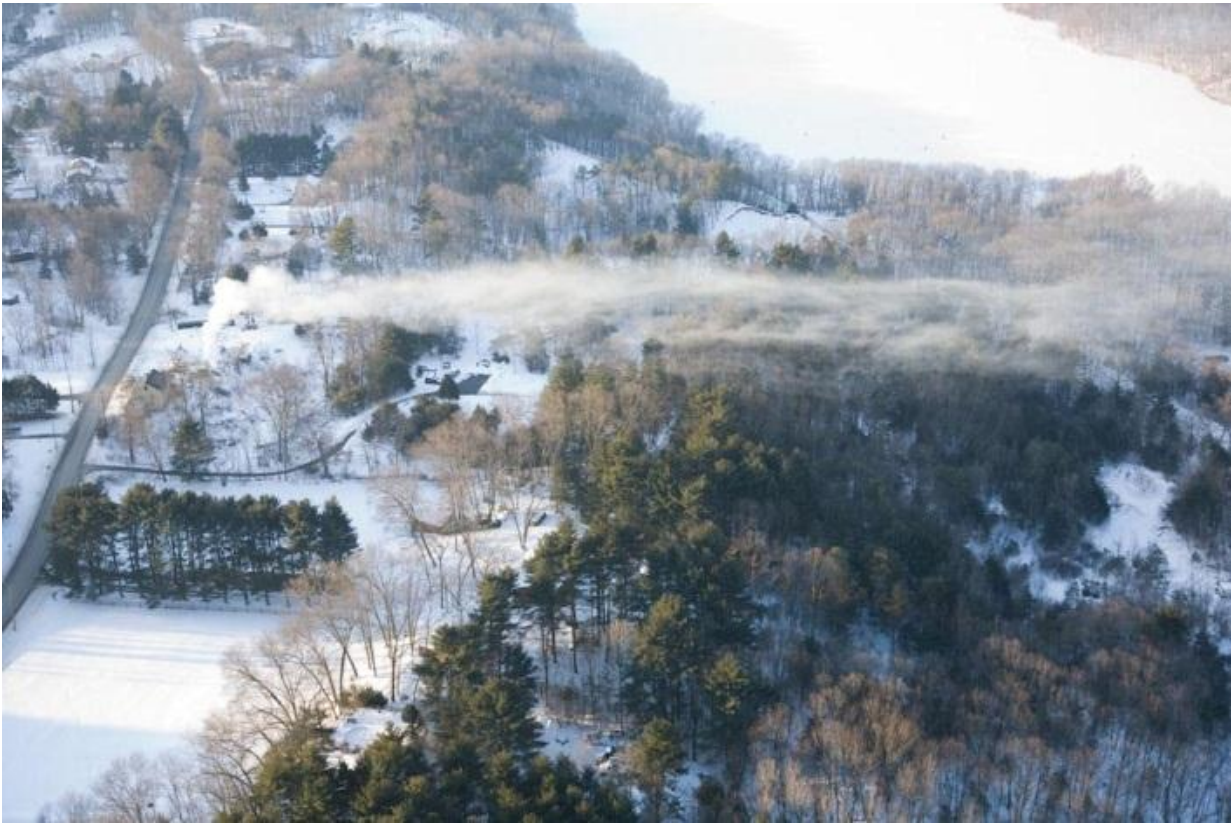
[Click here to see Clive Stott's peaceful, but meaningful protest of forestry burning in Australia.](#)

[My PowerPoint Show](#)

[Video sent by email](#)

[Chase, B.C. video](#)

		<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Wood Burner Smoke</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Editor's Site</p>
	 <p style="text-align: center;"><u>cleanairtas.com</u></p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Freedom of Air</u></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TAKE BACK THE AIR</u></p>	
		 <p style="text-align: center;"><u>RAWSEP</u></p>



“Burning 2 cords of wood produces the same amount of mutagenic (capable of causing cell mutations that can cause cancer) particles as driving 13 gasoline-powered cars 10,000 miles each at 20 miles/gallon. These figures indicate that the worst contribution that an individual is likely to make to the mutagenicity of the air is using a wood stove for heating, followed by a diesel car.” (Dr. Joellen Lewtas, Contribution of Source Emissions of the Mutagenicity of Ambient Urban Air Particles. U.S., EPA, #91-131.6, 1991)

Canadian Action Activities

Wood smoke is a major problem in all of America and Canada. National efforts are gaining momentum. Regardless of where we live, our actions should focus on getting our national governments to regulate wood smoke. To make an impact, if each reader calls or emails each of these contacts, we can move mountains.

Go for it now!

Health Canada assesses scientific evidence about the health effects of wood smoke and makes this information available to Canadians. Health Canada is also working with other government departments to determine the best ways to minimize risks associated with wood smoke.

In addition, Health Canada is a contributor to the *Burn it Smart!* Campaign sponsored by Natural Resources Canada.

Environment Canada: www.ec.gc.ca/cleanair

Health Canada: air@hc-sc.gc.ca

Air Health Effects Division, Safe Environments Program, Health Canada
400 Cooper Street Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9 Telephone: (613) 957-1876

Natural Resources Canada [Burn it Smart!](#) Sir William Logan Building,
11th Floor, 580 Booth Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0E4

Write or email to your local council & MPs to request that they create or amend a bylaw to cover nuisance smoke. Preferably, a ban on all wood burning in residential areas.

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment has released the latest news on Smog
<http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/air/smog/index.php>

[Click here for the Canadian Bill of Rights](#) You can apply for a review [here](#).

U.S. Action Activities

URGENT—Immediate Action ALWAYS Needed

A new EPA-certified wood stove promotion gives a 30% tax credit and a huge discount to the public. It is being funded by stimulus money from the US government. This flies in the face of the known hazards of wood smoke that the EPA acknowledges on their website. If we don't stop our states' stimulus money from funding this major promotion, it will be next to impossible to regulate or ban wood burning in any form.

If you have never protested wood smoke or called your public officials before, this is the time to do it!

- **Contact your US Senators and Representatives, as well as your state Senators and Representatives and City Council members. Ask them to see that the stimulus money does not go towards this promotion. It is crucial to let your elected officials know that you don't want the stimulus money used for this promotion in your community—but only to apply to gas or electric technology. (California has a change-out program that only allows swap-outs to gas or electric.)**
- **Let them know that wood smoke is a major health hazard and is a major contributor to global warming.**
- **Send an email to others and ask them for their help too. (See **suggested email below**).**
- **Be sure to call your US legislators and State legislators and City Council Members, to alert them to the problem and asking for their help too in keeping new EPA certified wood burning equipment out of your community, even if a state-wide promotion allows them.**
- **If we don't stop this unthinkable promotion, there is little hope for a healthy legacy for our children and grandchildren.**

Action #1- Suggested message for calling and emailing U.S. legislators and state legislators. Please also relay on to others and urge them to contact others.

Date:

Dear (elected official):

Please use your influence to disallow stimulus money to be used for EPA wood stove promotion in **(your state and/or your community.)**

According to the EPA's own website, wood smoke is a killer responsible for premature deaths nation-wide at a rate of 3% of the total deaths every year from fine particle pollution. (Harvard School of Public Health). That is close to 73,000 people in the U.S. each year--an epidemic! Wood smoke is extremely hazardous for children, the elderly and especially those with asthma. Asthma is already the number one reason for school absenteeism. It is even implicated in sudden infant death syndrome.

Our states are looking for ways to limit fine particulate pollution and better air quality. This should be a "no-brainer." Wood smoke emits over 9,600 % more lead than natural gas, according to the EPA's own data. It also emits arsenic, mercury, formaldehyde, polyaromatic hydrocarbons and dioxins, persistent organic compounds that do not break down in the environment or in human lungs, crops, soil and water supply. See <http://BurningIssues.org> for the facts.

Please do not allow stimulus money to be used for promoting more pollution.

(Sign your name and contact info)

About the Editors:

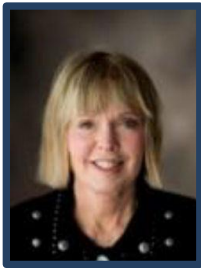
Shirley Brandie



Ontario Director of Canadian Clean Air Alliance <http://canadiancleanairalliance.ca>

She is retired from a medical laboratory and currently doing in-depth research on the effects of wood smoke on health and the environment.

Web site: <http://WoodBurnerSmoke.net>



Julie Mellum Minneapolis

Julie is a Realtor who knows that wood smoke devalues real estate as a “material fact” that can affect a potential buyer’s use and enjoyment of your property. She continually researches the latest science on wood smoke and is a member of the Edina, MN Community Health Committee.

Web site: [Take Back the Air](#)

If you would like to have your wood smoke story published, [click here to email it.](#)

*** We do not accept responsibility for errors in articles submitted for publication. It is the responsibility of the author to ensure the facts are, to the best of their knowledge, correct. ****

**** Please note that articles submitted for publication may be edited for grammar, punctuation and sentence structure.**

Send an email to s.brandie@hotmail.com to be added to the mailing list.