

The Wood Smoke Activist Network

June 2011 Newsletter

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

Editor: Shirley Brandie

1/6/2011

The Wood Smoke Activist Network

WOOD SMOKE ISSUES

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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@sympatico.ca 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 and to ban all wood burning.”



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](#).

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.

Sic Utera Tuo Ut Alienam Non Laedas: use your property in such a fashion so as to not disturb others.

<http://www.canadalegal.com/gosite.asp?s=1406>

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Legal firms that offer 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

Steps to Success...for fighting wood smoke oppression of all kinds

WOOD SMOKE--Talking Points

WOOD SMOKE VIOLATES YOUR PROPERTY RIGHTS... to use and enjoy your property smoke-free. This should be your MAIN FOCUS. The smoke shouldn't trespass onto the property of others. This nuisance ordinance precedent is established and to some degree enforced in Elmira, NY. Ask the secretary at this number to please email you a copy of their ordinance, which states that smoke and other noxious and deleterious fumes that pass onto the property of others is punishable by \$250 (for the second offense) or a jail term. It is not online, so you must request a copy. This law has been on the books for many years, as it was in much of New York until new ordinances were written to allow for more recreational wood burning.

PHONE: 607-737-5654 Elmira's city attorney is willing to discuss their law.

1. NEVER GIVE UP!
2. IN PLEADING YOUR CASE, STRESS THAT:
"WOODSMOKE IS MORE THAN A NUISANCE: IT IS A SEVERE PUBLIC HEALTH HAZARD". The black carbon soot in wood smoke and vehicle exhaust is A PROVEN CAUSE OF PREMATURE DEATH IN PEOPLE OF ALL AGES from asthma attacks and heart attacks. Kids are the most vulnerable.

3. THERE IS NO SAFE LEVEL OF WOOD SMOKE; it is implicated in asthma attacks and heart attacks. (“Wood stoves may cause cancer, heart disease”, FoxNews.com, Feb. 07, 2011).
<http://www.foxnews.com/health/2011/02/07/wood-stoves-cause-cancer-heart-disease>
4. Burners are taking your full enjoyment of your property—you must fight for your family’s health and for your property. CONTACT A LAWYER WHO CAN READ THE “COMMON LAW DOCTRINE” ON THE HARMS TEST, which deals with what it would cost you to sell your home at a loss, versus what it would cost the person with the wood burner to heat with something else. *Even if you don’t use an attorney, this is a valuable negotiating tool.*
5. You may have to sell your property at a steep discount, because you would have to disclose the frequent presence of wood smoke as a “material fact” that could affect another buyer’s use and enjoyment of the property. This would limit the buying pool to begin with. If it sells at all, it would possibly sell for maybe 20-30% less than comparable properties that are not impacted by wood smoke. Just like homes near freeways and busy streets historically sell for considerably less due to pollution.
6. Never settle for “raising the smokestack” or “increasing the setback”, or you lose. The smoke’s fine particulates never disappear and whirl around in gusts, always affecting someone else’s property and their health. WOOD SMOKE ALSO DAMAGES CROPS, WATER QUALITY, LIVESTOCK AND WILDLIFE.

7. TAKE A FEW KEY PHOTOS. Keep it simple. Label them and indicate where your property is.
8. PRINT OUT A FACT SHEET ON WOOD SMOKE and give to neighbors and city/town officials. See www.burningissues.org.
9. ALSO PRINT OUT KEY ORDINANCES OF OTHER COMMUNITIES WITH BANS ON WOOD SMOKE. See www.burningissues.org under LEGAL.
10. ARM YOURSELF WITH A FEW KEY ARTICLES ABOUT WOOD SMOKE. “Air pollutants from fireplaces and wood-burning stoves raise health concerns”, Embargoed for release, Feb. 5, 2011, Washington, Feb. 5, 2011. Excerpted from report by American Chemical Society, “Oxidative Stress, DNA Damage and Inflammation Induced by Ambient Air and Wood Smoke Particulates Matter in Humans”
11. GET A LETTER FROM A DOCTOR, documenting how wood smoke is harming—or will harm—your health. To ensure that your message isn’t diluted, WRITE THE LETTER YOURSELF AND ASK YOUR PHYSICIAN TO SIGN IT-- OR TO PUT IT ON THEIR LETTERHEAD. Share it with your neighbor and city officials. Doctors may be reluctant to get “involved;” they often not aware that wood smoke is hazardous, because they have been trained to prescribe rather than prevent.
12. FIRST TRY TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE YOURSELF, in a friendly but persistent manner. Offering to neighbor for their “HELP” is disarming. Even offer to share the cost or pay for a gas furnace can be less expensive than a lawsuit, or

- waiting for an ordinance change. A court of law wants to know you have tried to resolve these issues on your own.
10. Try taking your burning neighbor to [SMALL CLAIMS COURT](#) While a judge cannot order the appliance removed, they could order the burner to reimburse you for days you couldn't use your property due to the smoke, (indoors and out) or pay your health care costs. Some such cases are being won.
 11. ALL CITIZENS ARE ENTITLED TO SPEAK AT CITY COUNCIL AND TOWNSHIP MEETINGS according to law. Gather other supporters if possible and ASK PUBLIC OFFICIALS TO BAN WOOD BURNING ALTOGETHER, because they violate your property rights and are a well-documented public health hazard.
 12. WRITE A SIMPLE LETTER TO YOUR MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS before and after speaking at a township or council meeting. ASK FOR THEIR HELP.
 13. HAVE A LAWYER WRITE A SIMPLE LETTER TO YOUR NEIGHBOR or to a township board, asking for resolution. A letter should cost less than \$125, and it convinces others you are serious.
 14. HIRE AN ATTORNEY WHO HAS EXPERIENCE IN THIS AREA. COSTS CAN RANGE FROM \$5000 and up, but what is your life worth?

OTHER TIPS:

HOW TO RESPOND TO THE QUESTION, “ARE YOU TRYING TO BAN ALL WOOD BURNING?” Put the question back on them, acknowledging that it is ultimately their decision. You say, “The science is very clear. There is no safe level of wood smoke. Knowing this, you (councilpersons, etc.) should ask yourself what you want for yourself, for your family and for your community. The answer for us is clear. The people elected you to do the right thing for the community. The right thing is not always the easy thing.”

SAMPLE NUISANCE ORDINANCE (FROM CLINTON TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN), TO USE AS A MODEL.

Code of Ordinances CHAPTER 676

Safety, Sanitation and Health 676.07 AIR POLLUTION.

(a) No person shall create, cause or maintain any nuisance within the Township by the unreasonable creation of dust, smoke, fly-ash or noxious odors, offensive or disturbing to adjacent property owners and residents of the area.

(b) The determination of whether any activity enumerated in subsection (a) hereof is a public nuisance, and a violation of this section shall be in the absolute discretion of the Superintendent of the Building Department of the Township, subject only to review by the Township Board, upon proper application therefore made by the alleged violator within fourteen days after such determination by the Building Department Superintendent. (Ord. 184. Passed 8-31-64.)

OTHER USEFUL TIPS

*Wood smoke trespass violates most nuisance ordinances, but the problem is enforcement. Because a city or county claims not to have the budget to enforce ordinances, you must convince them of the importance of doing so and give them the following ideas:

1) Simply by having a no burning/wood smoke ordinance in place will curtail a lot of burning to begin with. There will be pressure to conform, even without penalties in some cases.

2) Tickets can be issued by the police or Fire Department

3) Propose that “spot checks” can be used to help prevent burning.

*Pass flyers to neighbors, post in libraries, at your town hall (leave here and there without having to ask permission)—and in coffee shops.

*Email info@takebacktheair.com to connect with others in your state or in the country who are also fighting OWB smoke or recreational burning wood smoke.

Newsworthy Articles

May 04 2011 - Brantford, Ontario: [Name of a Toxic](#)

The Expositor

Excerpt:

Since the Ontario Ministry of the Environment state they have our best interest at heart to “inform” us about these toxic substances, why are we not being informed? Where are the notices in our mailbox? Where are the updates regarding Woodsmoke as a Public Health Issue from our local Health Boards?

Asthma: More Americans than ever before say they are suffering from asthma. It is one of this country’s most common and costly diseases.

Consider these facts from the [Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America](#):

Every day in the U.S.:

--40,000 people miss school or work due to asthma.

--30,000 people have an asthma attack.

--5,000 people visit the emergency room due to asthma.

--1,000 people are admitted to the hospital due to asthma.

--11 people die from asthma.

May 06 2011 - [We are what we breathe.....](#)

Brookings

Excerpt:

It is well known that air pollutants, ranging from particulate matter (soot) to ozone, are the cause of a variety of illnesses and even premature death. In fact, recent research suggests that 94 percent of the non-climate-change costs of air pollution are health-related. From asthma to premature mortality, the list of ways in which air pollution can harm our health is lengthy and well-documented. What is less obvious, however, is the impact pollution has on employment and productivity.

May 12 2011 – [New IDM rule.....](#)

Synopsis:

Effective May 18th, the Indiana Pollution Control Board will place restrictions on OWBs and the setback of the units from neighboring properties.

May 18 2011 - [Carbon black nanoparticles activate.....](#)

Iowa

Synopsis:

Researchers have found that inhaling black carbon nanoparticles creates a double source of lung inflammation.

A True Hero by Cindy Moyer

Steve knows all about being a hero. As a full-time firefighter, living and working in Southwestern Ontario, Steve regularly puts his life at risk because he knows it's the right thing to do. Integrity is important to Steve, but so is being a part of the community in which he lives. There is another hero in this story, an unacknowledged hero who lives by a code of ethics that isn't necessarily as brave and daring as fighting fires, but on a societal scale of heroics, equally honourable.

Steve and his family had always dreamed of owning a property on the edge of a small town so when they heard about a property that was available, they quickly jumped at the chance. For a few years, Steve and his family lived in relative peace and tranquility, avidly working on property improvements and investing in landscaping and home repair that would make their dream a reality.

Their neighbourhood was sparsely populated and it wasn't long before Steve and his small family made friends within the community and in particular a mature couple that lived next door. The couples often visited, and there were many BBQ's, idol fence-chats and bottles of cold beer shared on hot days.

One day Steve noticed the neighbour installing an outdoor wood boiler (OWB) in his backyard. Steve commented that he hoped the smoke wouldn't be a problem and his neighbour promised it would be set back far enough and used infrequently. Steve didn't give it another thought - until the cold weather arrived.

It wasn't long before Steve and his family began to notice the smell of smoke permeating their home and days when their property was engulfed in it. What made the situation particularly worrisome for Steve and his wife were their young children, and Steve's knowledge of the effects of long-term exposure to wood smoke and other burnable material.

As a firefighter, Steve is trained on smoke and how to tell the difference between different types of combustibles. It didn't take long before Steve discerned that more than clean burning wood was being burned in the incinerator.

As a good and responsible neighbour, Steve approached the OWB owner and mentioned that he could smell garbage burning. He politely informed his neighbour that burning anything other than clean, seasoned wood was prohibited by local bylaws, and that the burning of garbage was strictly forbidden. Steve came prepared with copies of different codes and by-laws and in a helpful manner, hand-delivered them to his neighbour. This was also opportunity for Steve to convey to his neighbour his concerns for the health and welfare of his family. To the neighbour's credit, he agreed to only burn clean, seasoned wood on days when the wind wasn't blowing in the direction of Steve's house. Unfortunately for Steve and his family, wind can change direction without notice.

Steve and his family lived with the nuisance of the smoke from the OWB next door, at times impacting their lives sufficiently that their children could not play outside. Smoke smell invaded their home and the air outside was so fouled with particulate matter that they could not work or enjoy their own property.

As a firefighter, Steve began to look into ways in which provincial and municipal resources could be of assistance and like many others who are dealing with issue of wood-smoke nuisance, quickly discovered the political "hot potato" that government is averse to dealing with. Steve was shocked to learn that the Ontario Fire Code doesn't have authority to deal with OWB smoke emissions and actually exempts them. Steve also discovered that the Province of Ontario is of the opinion that the issue of smoke nuisance falls not under the statutes of health or the environment, but for discussion in the public chambers of local municipal councils. It was not long before Steve learned that his municipality was unprepared, unaware and unwilling to deal with the private matter and Steve was back to square one.

Undaunted, Steve continued to search for assistance from any and all resources he could find, only to discover that he was on his own. Concerned about the health of his children and in particular his youngest daughter, who suffered from a recurring respiratory illness, he began to make plans for her to live with relatives. This was the motivation Steve needed to spring into action and provided him with the resolve to make a decision. Steve sat down with his wife and discussed their options. With their dream life in shatters and the possibility of one of their children being sent away, the couple made the decision to risk it all - they'd simply had enough.

Steve and his wife invited the couple next door over for a talk and Steve was ready. On his coffee table he laid out by-laws about burning, successful tort cases on smoke nuisance and data and research on the health and environmental impacts of smoke. Steve approached his neighbour proactively, professionally and without heated emotion. He explained how his neighbour's actions were negatively impacting his family. He explained to the neighbour that his home was their dream; how he and his wife feared for the health of their young children and that the situation had exacerbated the health condition of his youngest daughter.

Steve sat across from his neighbour and without anger or malice, spoke man-to-man, heart-to-heart and pleaded for sympathy. Steve's neighbour patiently listened and reviewed all of the material that Steve had carefully laid out.

Finally Steve gave an ultimatum: that this was the last time he would speak to his neighbour as a friend. He disclosed that he and his wife had decided that they were prepared to give up a year of his wages or as long as it would take to fight the matter in court. With conviction and without malice, the message was conveyed that Steve and his family had suffered enough.

Outdoor wood boiler owners are adamant that they have the right to do as they see fit on their own property and while the law affords them rights, it consistently finds fault with those who infringe on their neighbour's peace, enjoyment and use of their own property.

I contend there are two heroes in this story; one is Steve for keeping his head and doing his research instead of allowing anger and frustration to rule his actions. He took the diplomatic and professional approach, methodically and rationally conveying his position to another human being.

The other hero is Steve's neighbour, who rose from his chair, reached across the living room table, shook Steve's hand and told him that it wouldn't be a problem next winter because the OWB would be gone.

This unsung hero heard the plea of a father and a husband and saw the pain he had caused this young family. This neighbour took a giant leap forward and rather than put his own needs and self-interest first, he found that no pleasure, financial gain or convenience was worth the suffering he had caused. When push came to shove, this man placed honour and integrity above personal gain.

Steve and his neighbour are both heroes in that they demonstrate the real potential in human nature, our ability to do what's right, even when we must sacrifice. Some heroes are easy to identify, but it's the ones with integrity and honour who are the true heroes, and we owe them a debt of gratitude as I'm sure Steve and his family would agree.

Cindy Moyer is a writer, living and working in Southern Ontario.

Wood Smoke a Health Hazard to be Aware of!

Written by Cathy Baiton

The adverse effects of cigarette smoke are well-known, but another source of second-hand smoke has become noticeable in parts of our city, as more chimneys are releasing wood smoke into the air.

In Canada and elsewhere, a movement away from residential wood burning is beginning to emerge, in light of ongoing research about its harmful effects. Wood smoke actually contains many toxins similar to those found in cigarette smoke, and components of both types of smoke are carcinogenic.

The extremely fine particles in wood smoke can penetrate deep into the lungs, and remain active in the body up to 40 times longer than tobacco smoke. Even short exposures can trigger or aggravate allergy, asthma or other health issues, and research shows that children in wood-burning neighbourhoods have more lung and breathing problems.

Because the particulate matter is so fine, up to 70 per cent of outdoor levels of smoke can enter homes nearby, as U.S. studies have shown. Residential wood-burning emissions are also a main cause of fine particle pollution in many cities – in some areas, even more than emissions from industry or vehicles. More information on the air quality and health effects of residential wood burning can be found at the excellent Burning Issues website, at <http://burningissues.org/>.

A number of places, such as Montreal and Hampstead, Que., have brought in public awareness efforts, regulations and bans to help local air quality and protect residents from exposure to wood smoke. Wood burning can be an option in the country where homes are widely spaced and the smoke can dissipate, but it's very different on residential streets where neighbours often bear the brunt of smoke or fumes produced by chimneys or fire pits nearby. We're fortunate to live in a region where cleaner-burning fuels are available, which the American Lung Association recommends using in place of wood whenever possible. As the Lung Association of Quebec says in an article about residential wood heating on its website: "It is time to care about the air that we pollute because it is the air that we breathe."

As a parent, I also hope people will consider the potential costs for the environment and health before burning wood in residential areas, to help the air stay healthier for everyone, in all seasons.

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 needed to protect air quality, health

A recent letter suggests that a wood-smoke bylaw may not be needed in Lethbridge. But I think it's vitally essential for all Alberta communities to have bylaws and bans protecting air quality, health, and the right to enjoy one's own home both indoors and outside free of toxic fumes.

The letter proposes a system of monitoring, and of warnings for those with health concerns. Yet, smoke exposure is unhealthy for anyone, and in an urban environment, many are at a special risk. No matter how it's done, burning wood releases harmful pollutants and these emissions impact the comfort, safety, and health of neighbours. Local policies should aim to prevent episodes of neighbourhood smoke from occurring, the way smoking bans in public places do.

I believe our city should protect every resident, and stop wood-smoke problems from growing by:

1. Joining the other cities that ban residential fire pits using wood as fuel. Should citizens sensitive to wood smoke, and all who care about the air, have to suffer any longer from this unnecessary pollution?
2. Banning new installations of wood stoves, as places like Golden, B.C., Montreal, and Hampstead, Que., already have.

I think it's true that discussion of this issue should not be based on the amount of money spent for a wood-burning fireplace. The value of clean air is beyond measure, as is the importance of heart and lung health.

The American Lung Association officially cautions against wood burning, and urges cleaner alternatives. Could our city also begin to lead on this issue, by doing the same?

Cathy Baiton
Lethbridge, Alberta

Wood Burners Please Butt Out

There seems to be quite the double standard between smoking and wood burning. Smokers are blamed for all sorts of health problems and yet wood burners may be as bad or even worse. Who can decide how many smokers equal one wood burner? Some claim this is like comparing apples and oranges but according to a recent article on air quality the PM 2.5 sources that do the most damage to our lungs include diesel and gasoline engines, wood burning and industry.

Smoking is often a localized problem and adults can usually avoid smokers, but it is hard to avoid wood burning during poor air quality days, even if there are only a few in your area. Of course the smoke is most noticeable during the cold winter season and the problem often disappears during windy conditions.

Common sense says that if you have access to natural gas or electricity you should not be burning wood. Even the so-called super-efficiency units are like the silliness of putting a filter on a cigarette. Burning wood is not cheaper, once you take into account the unit itself, vehicle, saw, splitter, cleanup, time, health effects, etc.

The romance of wood fades when compared to lung disease. That recent article mentioned about 60 air quality deaths every year in the north and we should not blame transportation and industry for all of them.

Individuals can really help by stopping any burning and at any time of the year. Obviously, no-one likes to be told what to do, especially if you enjoy wood or have put a lot of time and money into a wood system, but in my opinion caring people would totally butt out with wood burning.

Vic Steblin is a retired science teacher from Prince George, BC who is concerned about air quality.

According to the USA Surgeon General's report (USSGR)[1], five of these chemicals are in cigarette smoke. However, all 16 PAH are in eucalypt smoke[2]; you would have to smoke 16,000 - 222,000 cigarettes to produce the equivalent amount of PAH as burning 1 kg firewood in a correctly-operated heater. Most wood heaters burn about 30 kg wood per day, so to produce the PAH from a typical correctly-operated wood heater would require the smoke from 0.5 - 7 million cigarettes.

Table 1: comparison of PAHs and other chemicals covered by the Australian Air Toxics or Air Quality National Environment Protection Measure (NEPM) in wood and cigarette smoke

	Carcinogenic Potential	ug/kg wood[2]	ng per cigarette[1]	Cigarettes needed to emit same as burning 1kg wood
PAH				
Naphthalene		5500		
Acenaphthylene		16000		
Acenaphthene		6400		
fluorene		8300		
phenanthrene		8400		
anthracene		1800		
fluoranthene		5800		
pyrene		4100		
<u>benz[a]anthracene</u>	1	750	20-79	16,667
<u>chrysene</u>	1	800	40-69	16,000
<u>benzo[b]fluoranthene</u>	2	680	4-22	52,308
benzo[k]fluoranthene		290	6-12	32,222
<u>benzo[a]pyrene</u>	4	820	20-49	27,333
<u>dibenz[a,h]anthracene</u>	3	900	4	225,000
<u>benzo[g,h,i]perylene</u>	1	520		
<u>indeno[1,2,3-cd]pyrene</u>	1	590		
NEPM-listed chemicals				
		mg/kg wood[2]	ug/cigarette	
Benzene		200	12-50	6,452
Formaldehyde		360	20-100	6,000
Toluene		69	20-60	1,725
Xylenes		18		
PM2.5		4500	20000	225
CO		120000	14-23	6,486,486
NO ₂		140		
SO ₂		15		
Lead		1	8-10	61
Other chemicals				
Acrolein		88	60-140	880
Dioxin		4.2 ng/kg		

Carcinogenic potential from Jordan[3] – 1-5; blank = unknown or inactive; bold underline = carcinogenic potential 1 or 2, bold = carcinogenic potential 3-5. Woodsmoke results are for burning eucalypt firewood in mainly correctly-operated Australian wood heaters, (Tables 8 & 9, J. Gras' study[2]), except lead (from Larson & Koenig[4]).

Woodsmoke Pollution

Linda Baker Beaudin Air Is Precious

No respite from Woodsmoke Pollution has sadly become the norm for millions of Canadians in our Nation. After suffering through a long winter with the air permeated with the deadly cancer causing chemicals found in Woodsmoke, once more we now begin our sojourn into Spring with the daily assaults from all outdoor open air burning, only to return again to Woodsmoke in the Fall and Winter months. The endless cycle is repetitious and destructive. Millions suffer, become ill and die from Woodsmoke.

Woodburning fire pits, fire rings, chimeneas, outdoor fire places, beach burns, Woodfuelled BBQs, Woodsmokers, and all Woodburning devices will destroy the quality of air, harm the lungs and health of millions in urban areas. Woodburning devices will be lit day after day, night after night and urban residents will be left to close windows, stay inside, and not enjoy the freedom of their property and be made very ill from the toxic emissions found in Woodsmoke.

Cities and leaders that continue to allow, condone and enable Woodburning are placing their residents at great risk of developing Woodsmoke –related diseases. Municipal leaders should hang their head in shame for not taking pro-active action to ban all Woodsmoke in our residential neighbourhoods. Their lack of action is deplorable!

Province wide bans must be adopted to end this toxic Woodsmoke pollution that afflicts millions making them ill, suffer and die from breathing toxic Woodsmoke emissions. Regulations must be implemented to phase out the use of Woodburning fire places, Woodburning stoves, pellet stoves and OWBs. Cities must make Woodsmoke Pollution a Public Health Issue, just as Tobacco smoking is a Public health issue. Woodsmoke is even worse for our health than tobacco smoke.

A caring, dedicated activist who fought for the rights of millions to see Tobacco smoking banned in planes, schools, work places, restaurants, hospitals and many other venues and won, wisely summed up the toll that Woodsmoke Pollution is doing to our life, our health and our environment by stating:

“Apathy, unwillingness, laziness, myopic, biased...oh, so many words to describe why people do not act even if they know we are killing ourselves and our environmentwith tobacco smoke...and worse...Woodsmoke!!!! The truth of these profound words, ring out like church bells that toll in the darkest of hours warning of us our fate.

What will you do to break this deadly cycle of Woodsmoke in our urban communities?

Will you take action, stand up, speak out and demand that change be made to prohibit all Woodburning or will you remain apathetic to the horrors of Woodsmoke as it pollutes the lungs of your children and yourself...and slowly kills all of us??

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

The zoning regulations from the town of Tolland, CT

An excellent example of how a town banned Outdoor Wood Furnaces (OWFs), also known as Outdoor Wood Boilers (OWBs).

This provides an example to a Planning and Zoning Commission on how to ban OWFs in their town.

ZONING REGULATIONS TOWN OF TOLLAND

Chapter 170 page 96

CODE of the TOWN OF TOLLAND STATE OF CONNECTICUT
Zoning Regulations Rev. July 20, 2009

ARTICLE XIV

Accessory Uses and Structures

Section 170-84. General Requirements.

Accessory uses and structures shall be subject to the following conditions:

A. Establishment of accessory uses.

1. Accessory buildings, structures and uses shall be located on the same lot as the principal building, structure or use to which they are accessory.
2. Accessory buildings, structures and uses shall not be located on a lot without the prior establishment of a permitted principal use, nor shall any new lot be created that has an accessory building, structure or use without a principal use.

B. Prohibited Accessory Uses and Structures.

The Commission feels that, by their very nature, the following uses and structures cannot be regulated in such a fashion as to protect the Health, Safety and Welfare of the general public and are prohibited in all zones.

Outdoor Wood Burning Furnaces, as defined by P.A. 05-227

Support & Talent!

Thanks to the superb talent of **Tom Neilson**, a touring folk musician for this inspiring video of resistance to the building of a Biomass Plant.

Playful political satire by award winning folk musician whose songs present historical and contemporary themes; documents social history with best elements of research & comedy; has 6 songs used in environment documentaries re: nukes, incinerators, mountaintop removal, water privatization.



<http://earthday.sonicbids.com/BandDetails.aspx?b=28241&bn=Tom+Neilson>

Wood smoke, what's your poison?



Don't miss this great video by Darryl Johnson at:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDBywVl_dz8

Editorial

June ... Hopefully, some of you are free of wood smoke now that the weather has warmed somewhat. But, I hope that you realize that it is just a small break before the nightmare begins again.

As much as I hate to say this, having read letters sent to some who had emailed to various government agencies, there likely will be no help from them. They appear to feel that because some areas need to rely solely on wood burning they are not prepared to make a commitment to residential air quality that would protect us all.

Therefore it is up to your municipalities to create the bylaws needed to spare you from neighborhood wood smoke. The best way to go about this is to gather names on a petition and take as many of these people as you can to a council meeting to present your problem and ask for help. Be sure to have dated photos with you showing the smoke surrounding your house. Having articles that define the health hazard of wood smoke will be a benefit, also.

It is truly devastating to know that the people you think will protect you and your family are distancing themselves from the issue and basically ignoring the way you are forced to live. I think letters describing your distress should still be sent to every agency you can think of but focus your goal to live smoke-free towards your municipalities.

Shirley

BOZO of the Month



In my opinion

Perhaps this should be renamed to Bozos.

I refer to any municipality that turns their backs to those that are suffering in their own homes and properties due to wood smoke invasion.

Most everyone I have had contact with has tried unsuccessfully to get help. Most are ready to throw their hands in the air and move to somewhere where they can be free of the smoke.

Is this what municipalities want to be known for? Lack of care and respect for their residents? Allowing people to burn whenever and whatever they want no matter how sick the recipients of the smoke get? Having people forced from their own home by the smoke?

Give me a break!

If you are having problems that are being ignored let the world know where you live and why you cannot get help.

Send me your letters and I will publish them.

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@sympatico.ca

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><u>Wood Burner Smoke</u> Editor's Site</p>	
	 <p><u>cleanairtas.com</u></p>	 <p><u>Freedom of Air</u></p>
	<p>TAKE BACK THE AIR</p>	
		

If your health has been affected by exposure to chromated copper arsenate (CCA) pressure treated wood, please visit: <http://noccawood.ca>

<http://www.canadiancleanairalliance.ca>

<http://www.alap.qc.ca>

<http://takebacktheair.com>

<http://www.cleanairtas.com>

<http://woodburnersmoke.net>

<http://freedomofair.webs.com>

http://www.gulfportinflorida.com/toxic_waste/smoker_in_gulfport_fl.html

<http://coalitionagainstwoodburning.com>

<http://rawsep.spaces.live.com>

<http://rodfarmer40.blogspot.com>

<http://breathehealthyair.blogspot.com>

"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:

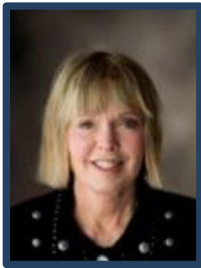
Shirley Brandie



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 that 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@sympatico.ca to be added to the mailing list.