

**ACROSS CANADA,
SINCE THE 1991 CENSUS,
RURAL POPULATION
HAS GROWN 5%
ON AVERAGE**

**IN AREA F,
SINCE THE 1991 CENSUS,
POPULATION
HAS GROWN BY 13%.**

**SUDDENLY, YOU'VE GOT
NEIGHBOURS – UPHILL,
DOWNHILL, OR A FEW FEET
AWAY NEXT DOOR.**

**THE NEIGHBOURLY, "RURAL"
LIFESTYLE HAS CHANGED.**

WHAT DO WE VALUE IN OUR RURAL COMMUNITY?

- **Cleaner air**
- **Cleaner streams**
- **A safer environment for
all to enjoy**

**THE #1 GOAL
OF THE
WEST HOWE SOUND
OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN:**

**To minimize visual air,
water and sound pollution
in the West Howe Sound
Plan area.**

- A1 Rubber Apple; 15.06.2007
- A2 Rubber Apple; 15.06.2007

WHAT'S A LITTLE SMOKE?

- “smoke” means the gases, particulate matter, and all other products of combustion emitted into the atmosphere when a substance or material is burned including, without limitation, *smoke*, dust, gas, sparks, ash, soot, cinders, fumes, or other effluvia



Even when
burning 'clean'
waste like
untreated wood
and yard debris,
no kind of
combustion is
entirely safe.

- Dr. Paul Martiquet



**PARTICULATES
CONTAINED IN
WOOD SMOKE:
BC'S #1 HEALTH
THREAT IN
RURAL AREAS**

WHERE THERE'S SMOKE...

Smoke from outdoor burning contains

- **CARBON MONOXIDE**
- **FORMALDEHYDE**
- **NITROGEN DIOXIDE**
- **POLYCYCLIC ORGANIC MATTER AND HYDROCARBONS**
- **MICROSCOPIC PARTICULATES**

A BREATH OF FRESH AIR?

On a calm day, hazardous particles and gases in smoke “hang” in the air, quickly building up harmful levels of

- Particulates
- Carbon monoxide
- Nitrogen oxides
- Dioxins
- Furans
- Benzoapyrene
- Phenanthrene



THESE HARMFUL GASES CAN TRIGGER:

- **Headaches, eye irritation**
- **Respiratory illnesses**
- **Angina**
- **Cancer**

WHO IS AT RISK?

EVERYONE! Especially...

- **People with breathing disorders (asthma, allergies, emphysema etc.)**
- **People with heart conditions**
- **Seniors**
- **Pregnant women**
- **Infants and children**

ARE YOU AT RISK?

NOT IN OUR BACKYARDS!



The smoke from four backyard fires can pump more harmful toxins into the atmosphere in an hour than a well-run municipal incinerator releases in a day

IN NORTH OKANAGAN REGIONAL DISTRICT:

*During March 15th through April 30th inclusive, and November 1st through November 15th inclusive, a person may light, or allow to be lighted, an **open air fire** in the **fire service area** for the burning of **permitted burning material** only, if the **open burning** is*

- on land of 1.0 hectare (2.5 acres) or greater in size;
- the person responsible for the burn has obtained a permit from the *Regional District* and verified that the *Ventilation Index* and *Air Quality Index* are in the “good” range on the day of the proposed burn by calling the *Regional District* office or the toll free information line provided by the Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection;
- the material to be open burned is on the parcel of land from which it originated;

IN NORTH OKANAGAN REGIONAL DISTRICT:

Residents must ensure that every reasonable alternative for reducing, reusing, or recycling has been pursued to minimize the amount of *permitted burning materials* to be open burned,

AND

maintain a separation of at least 5 metres (16.25 feet) between the fire and property lines, bush, standing timber, and all structures.

THE BYLAW ALLOWS

fires for large *permitted burning materials* such as stumps and other materials over 8 inches (200 mm) in diameter that have been dried in accordance with their bylaw may be maintained for a maximum of 72 hours if the fire is substantially smokeless; however, no further *permitted burning materials* shall be added to a fire after 5:00 p.m. of each day of the fire.

WHY WAS THIS BY-LAW ENACTED IN A RURAL AREA?

- **Some rural areas are adjacent to rural townships.**
- **Subdivisions with smaller lot sizes are growing rapidly in rural areas**
- **Rural area population has grown 5% nationally since 1991**
- **Most of this population growth settled in subdivision-style developments and not on large acreages and farmsteads.**

AN ALTERNATIVE TO BURNING:

Most yard waste can be composted, to return vital nutrients to the soil.

Composting instead of burning is

- *Easy*
- *Economical*
- *Environmentally friendly*



ALTERNATIVES TO BURNING:


The Town of Gibsons provides a community drop-off station for yard waste (at Henry Road). There is no charge to receive material from residents from Gibsons, Area E and F, and Roberts Creek.

Who do you know with a truck?

WHERE DOES IT GO FROM THERE?

Currently, all of the green waste from the Gibsons Works Yard is trucked to the Danroth Facility at Hillside for chipping, and then to the pulp mill's cogen facility.

The SCRD is looking at the potential for composting at the SCRD landfill.

A photograph of a person with long blonde hair, wearing a red shirt, blue jeans, and a green backpack, standing on a rocky shore. They are looking out over a large body of water towards a range of mountains under a blue sky with some clouds. The foreground consists of large, grey, jagged rocks.

**Because we care
about the air
we share**

Let's work together for a

- Cleaner
- Healthier
- Stronger

community!