



**PORT COLBORNE**

**Subject: Open Air Burning By-Law Amendment**

**To: Council**

**From: Fire Department**

Report Number: 2026-62

Meeting Date: April 14, 2026

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**Recommendation:**

That Fire Department Report No. 2026-62 be received; and

That the by-law to amend the Open Air Burning By-law, attached hereto as Appendix A, be brought forward for Council's approval.

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**Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to present Council with an amended Open Air Burning By-law for consideration. The proposed amendment addresses operational and safety concerns raised by the community, and ensures the by-law aligns with current best practices for fire prevention and public safety.

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**Background:**

On June 8, 2020, Council enacted By-law 6789/38/20, Being a By-law to Regulate Open Air Burning and Recreational Fires in the City of Port Colborne, which repealed By-law 6280/106/15 and established the current regulatory framework governing open air burning within the municipality.

On July 8, 2025, Council considered concerns regarding increased incidents of open air burning occurring at various hours of the day and night, which had caused disturbances to residents. In response, Council adopted a resolution directing the Fire Chief to investigate these concerns and report back with proposed revisions to the Open Air Burning By-law that would provide clear authority to determine when a fire is outside the scope of the by-law and to take appropriate corrective action as required.

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## Discussion:

While most residents comply with the provisions of the Open Air Burning By-law, there are instances where open air fires create nuisance conditions that negatively impact neighbouring properties. To address these situations more effectively, staff are proposing amendments that would provide the Fire Chief, or designate, with clear authority to determine when an open air fire constitutes a nuisance and to require its extinguishment when appropriate.

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## Strategic Plan Alignment:

The initiative contained within this report supports the following pillars of the strategic plan:

- Welcoming, Livable, Healthy Community
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## Conclusion:

The purpose of this report is to present Council with proposed amendments to the Open Air Burning By-law in response to concerns regarding nuisance conditions caused by certain open air fires. The recommended amendments provide the Fire Chief, or designate, with clear authority to determine when an open air fire constitutes a nuisance and to require its extinguishment when necessary.

Staff recommend that Council approve the amended by-law as attached, as it will strengthen enforcement capabilities and support Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services in effectively managing nuisance-related open air burning incidents.

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## Appendices:

- a. By-law to Amend By-law no. 6789/38/20, Being a By-law to regulate open air burning and recreational fires in the City of Port Colborne and to repeal by-law no. 6280/106/15

Respectfully submitted,

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**Report Approval:**

All reports reviewed and approved by the Department Director and also the City Treasurer when relevant. Final review and approval by the Chief Administrative Officer.