

The background features a decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping circles in various shades of blue. A thin blue line runs diagonally from the top-left corner towards the center. Another thin blue line runs diagonally from the top-right corner towards the center. A third thin blue line runs diagonally from the bottom-right corner towards the center. The circles are arranged in a way that they appear to be floating or overlapping each other, creating a sense of depth and movement.

The Wood Smoke Activist

June 2010 Newsletter

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

Editor: Shirley Brandie

1/6/2010

The Wood Smoke Activist

WOOD SMOKE ISSUES

Volume 2, Issue 6
June, 2010

Editor: [Shirley Brandie](#)

Fighting Wood Smoke Pollution from the Grassroots to Government Level

Welcome!

I 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.

To be removed from the newsletter, please email to [Shirley](#)

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.”

“Breathing wood smoke is smoking!”



Area Farm Leader Supports Fines on Outdoor Furnaces

Excerpted from: [Norwich Bulletin](#) Article by: JAMES MOSHER

The leader of a New London County farm group is supporting fines on people who misuse outdoor wood-burning furnaces after a lengthy hearing Monday in Hartford. Wayne Budney, president of the New London County Farm Bureau, said financial penalties are necessary to discourage trash burning and other misuse of the furnaces.

“Oh, absolutely, we’re in favor of that (fines),” said Budney, who owns Four Winds Farm in Lebanon. Budney was one of more than 100 people to testify at an all-day hearing before the General Assembly’s Environment Committee. “It was a good session,” he said. “Everybody got to give their views.”

Senate Bill 126

Farm leaders, including Connecticut Farm Bureau Association Executive Director Steven Reviczky, are trying to halt Senate Bill 126, which would ban use of the outdoor furnaces for six months of the year and include wood smoke under the public health nuisance code. Even though the bill would exempt farmers, farm leaders are fighting the measure on grounds of overall economic hardship and an assault on Connecticut’s “environmentally sound,” wood-burning heritage.

Health advocates including North Haven-based Environment and Human Health Inc. say that wood smoke is as dangerous as tobacco smoke and public health needs to be better guarded.

Dr. David Brown, a top former state government toxicologist and a member of EHHI, released a report at the hearing and testified.

Carcinogenic

“Wood smoke is a mixture of particle matter and organic chemicals of different toxicities – including cancer,” Brown said Monday. “Components of wood smoke are similar to cigarette smoke. Both are carcinogenic and respiratory toxins.”

EHHI’s president, Nancy Alderman, also testified Monday. She said Tuesday that outdoor furnaces are “fundamentally different” from indoor wood stoves and fireplaces, especially in the lower temperatures of the outdoor furnace smoke. Nine Connecticut towns have banned the outdoor appliances and a statewide ban is “not asking for something outrageous,” Alderman said. “It was hard to get cigarette smoking out of restaurants,” she said. “It was certainly an economic hardship. One has to decide – what are the risks and what is the role of government.”

**Excerpted from the World Health Organization:
International Agency for the Research of Cancer**

HOUSEHOLD COMBUSTION OF SOLID FUELS

Indoor emissions from household combustion of coal (Group 1)

Indoor emissions from household combustion of biomass fuel (primarily wood) (Group 2A)

<http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Meetings/95-coal-biomass.pdf>

Overall evaluation:

Indoor emissions from household combustion of biomass fuel (primarily wood) are *probably carcino-genic to humans (Group 2A)*.

In reaching this evaluation, the Working Group considered mechanistic and other relevant data. These data include (a) the presence of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and other carcinogenic compounds in wood smoke, (b) evidence of mutagenicity of wood smoke and (c) multiple studies that show cyto-genetic damage in humans who are exposed to wood smoke.

Please read full article at the link above. It is very worthwhile!

Rolf Czeskleba-Dupont of Denmark has written a research report, which was edited last November at a transnational publisher on "Toxic emissions and devaluated CO2-neutrality. Expanded combustion of stem wood violates sustainable development".

Reviewers may order it as an e-book from:

info@vdm-publishing.com

Possible readers are those, who are interested in climate politics without suppressing local pollution themes as e.g. Chlorinated dioxins (PCDD/F) from the combustion of wood. The Danish Ministry of the Environment has, unfortunately, made a junction between these two issues in its 2006 report to the Stockholm Convention. In an appendix, technicians recommended to restrict the use of wood stoves and other small combustion appliances without flue gas cleansing. But they were stopped in this initiative by a statement on climate politics favoring wood combustion as CO2-neutral. However, according to earlier information, wood combustion (as all biomass combustion) emits more CO2 pr. unit of energy released than all fossil fuels. And, according to the most recent country statistics reported to international conventions, 2/3 of all dioxin emissions from Danish sources stem from wood stoves (also 70% of fine particle mass and 91% of PAH). Concerned citizens may be inspired to further information gathering.

Environmental, energy and climate policies need fresh reflections. In order to evaluate toxics reduction policies the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is mandatory. Denmark's function as lead country for dioxin research in the context of the OSPAR Convention is contrasted with a climate policy whose goals of CO2-reduction were made operational by green-wash. Arguments are given for the devaluation of CO2- neutrality in case of burning wood. Alternative practices as storing C in high quality wood products and/or leaving wood in the forest are recommended.

A counter-productive effect of dioxin formation in the cooling phase of wood burning appliances has been registered akin to de-novo-synthesis in municipal solid waste incinerators. Researchers, regulators and the public are, however, still preoccupied by notions of oven design and operation parameters, assuming that dioxin behaves on line with other toxic pollutants from incomplete combustion. Evidence is given that this is not the case.

Societal-historical problems of lacking consistency in dioxin research are contrasted with more sustainable approaches.

This is obligatory reading for concerned citizens.



Here is a site that I have joined and hope that you will too.

It's a place where both pro-wood burners and anti-wood burners can meet, talk and collaborate to try to find a solution to the wood smoke issue. This is a great opportunity to be able to hear both sides of the issue and input your own thoughts

I think you will find that it's a place where you are free to tell the burners why you feel the way you do and share your stories of how wood smoke has changed your lives forever.

You may also find that all wood burners are not of the mentality as those you are dealing with at present. And, most importantly, they might be able to help all of you find solutions to your problem. Simply ask them what they would do if they were in your position and get their input. Perhaps uploading your photos (remember to keep them small) will do much in showing others what we have all been through so that they understand why we feel as we do.

Please join!

[Click here](#)

The impact of wood smoke on children, neighborhoods

By David Pepper Excerpted from: [Napa Valley Register](#)

Though the recent freezing weather may seem like the worst time to call a wood-burning ban, the scientific evidence documenting the harm caused by wood smoke pollution justifies such restrictions.

As a physician, I know all too well the health impacts caused by toxic smoke. Breathing these particles can literally shorten life and send our most vulnerable residents to the emergency room. Wood smoke contains harmful microscopic particles that, when inhaled, enter directly into the lung and bloodstream. Once there, they damage cells, exacerbate asthma and cause lung and heart disease. For asthmatic children, breathing wood smoke can lead to immediate harm, including asthma attacks and respiratory distress.

A recent study by the California Air Resources Board reported that wood smoke can cause a 10 percent increase of hospital admissions for respiratory problems among children, who are at most risk since their lungs are still developing. Exposure to wood smoke may also reduce lung function and reduce the blood's ability to clot properly.

And it doesn't take much; one fireplace or wood-burning stove can produce levels of smoke in a neighborhood that exceed federal air quality standards and affect all the neighbors. According to the California Air Resources Board, up to 70 percent of smoke from chimneys can re-enter neighboring residences, exposing neighbors to toxic smoke. While we have effectively banned tobacco smoke from most indoor places, there is no way to avoid an equally damaging smoke right at home. Unfortunately, without a stronger wood-burning regulation, community health suffers.

It is important to note that the current regulation allows an exemption for wood burning when no other source of heat is available.

While some may not see it this way, in actuality it is the wood smoke, not the wood burning regulation, that is invasive. There are an estimated 935,000 residents in the Bay Area who suffer from asthma, including 200,000 children and an additional 300,000 who struggle to breathe from emphysema, lung cancer and other respiratory illnesses. When these people have to breathe wood smoke pollution, they struggle even more.

The American Lung Association routinely receives calls from citizens all around the Bay Area who simply cannot get away from clouds of pollution in their own neighborhoods. Many have young children with asthma who need medical treatment due to this exposure. Some of these families have sold their houses and moved to areas with less wood smoke pollution.

Are these health impacts really worth the ambiance of a fire? Fireplaces are inefficient heaters, often taking out more warm air than they produce. Cleaner burning alternatives are available to enjoy the warmth and glow without the smoke, including gas, electric and pellet stoves, which are now designed to look just like their wood-burning brethren.

The American Lung Association repeatedly has given failing grades for air quality to several counties in the Bay Area due to high levels of particle pollution, of which wood smoke is a primary source. We know we can do better. Indeed, air districts such as Sacramento that have adopted wood-burning prohibitions have experienced a reduction in these harmful particles.

Hopefully, after understanding the harm caused by wood smoke pollution, local residents will think twice before lighting their fireplaces and wood stoves. Many already have. By choosing to hold off and use cleaner alternatives to heat our homes, we make it easier for our smallest and most vulnerable residents to breathe.

We're trying to make our neighborhoods healthier and prevent disease. Won't you help us?

(Pepper is a family practice physician and American Lung Association volunteer who teaches family medicine at the UC Davis-affiliated Family Practice Residency in Martinez.)



Maine Wood to Energy Task Force report, 2008, describes this as smoke from woodstoves. Similar photo of Masterton, NZ, 2008 seen on Google/woodsmoke.



Yet another city engulfed in wood smoke. When does it end?

10 Tips for Cleaner Air

Your health depends on clean air!

Excerpted from the [American Lung Association](#)

Here are 10 easy things you can do for cleaner air:

1. Drive one less day per week, and bike or walk as often as possible.

Cut down on driving. Try out the bus or light rail if you have one in your area. Using public transportation, walking and biking are all great ways to clean the air and get healthier through exercise. Harmful motor vehicle and other transportation emissions account for more than half of all pollution on a statewide basis.

2. Conserve energy.

Turn off lights when you leave a room and only run your dishwasher when full. Replace your light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs. Only use the air conditioning or heater when necessary or automatically set the thermostat to go off when you don't need it. Visit the Flex Your Power website to learn more at: <http://www.fypower.org/>

3. Ride a bike!

Biking - even just a few times a week - is not only great exercise, it's a great way to decrease air pollution! Research your cities bike routes and commit to replacing your car with your bike 1-2 times a week. Here are a few tips to help you stay safe on your bike:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/bike/safety.html>

4. Reduce the amount of time you idle your car.

Idling for only 30 seconds uses up more fuel than restarting the engine. If you expect to idle for more than 30 seconds, turn off the engine and then restart (except in traffic, of course). Instead of idling in bank or restaurant drive-through lines, park your car and go inside. You will save fuel and prevent pollution! <http://www.consumerenergycenter.org/myths/idling.html>

5. Use a natural or propane gas grill for outdoor grilling.

This summer, cut down on outdoor grill use or use a propane or natural gas grill. The smoke a traditional barbeque grill creates adds to air pollution. If you do use a barbecue, use a metal chimney or electric probe instead of lighter fluid.

6. When washing clothes, wash in cold water.

A whopping 90 percent of the energy used by a washing machine goes to just heating the water. Washing clothes in warm or cold water will save you money and reduce your carbon dioxide emissions by 72 pounds in just one month!

7. Avoid burning wood.

Avoid use of wood burning in indoor and outdoor fireplaces. Just like tobacco smoke, wood smoke pollution is harmful to your health. Wood burning comprises 33 percent of particle pollution during the winter in some areas. Cleaner burning alternatives such as natural gas and electric fireplaces are available for the glow without the smoke!

8. If buying a car, consider a cleaner and more efficient electric or hybrid-electric car or a very low emission vehicle.

Every day, Californians drive 825 million miles - emitting 5.4 million tons of pollutants daily. Choosing a cleaner car has never been easier. Every new car in California now has an [Environmental Performance Label](#) showing how clean the car is for both smog and greenhouse gases. State and federal tax credits and rebates exist to encourage cleaner car purchases. From electric cars and hybrids to very low emission gas vehicles, cleaner technologies are available now. See driveclean.ca.gov for more details.

9. Purchase energy efficient appliances.

Did you know you could earn money while helping clean California's air? When you replace your old, energy draining appliances (refrigerators, washers and air conditioners) for new Energy Star products you will receive a government rebate! Visit www.cash4appliances.org for more information.

10. Donate to the American Lung Association.

Visit www.lungusa.org/california for more information.

Forest Industries pollution in Tasmania

By Clive Stott Web site: <http://www.cleanairtas.com/index.htm>

Our deliberately initiated health diseases from planned burn smoke do not magically improve on the days forestry decide not to burn!
The lifetime of PM 2.5 particle pollution is from days to weeks and their travel distance ranges from 100 to greater than 1000 kilometers (NRDC, 2000)

Could you live like I am forced to? When you read about the [harmful effects of smoke](#) you more than likely will at sometime in your life.

Maximum daily/hourly doses of Symbicort, Singulair, Intal Forte, Foradile, Alvesco, Atrovent, Ventolin, Prednisolone, Clexane, Warfarin, Panadine Forte, Endone, Oxygen.

Hospitalised with Chronic Airflow limitation – in other words can't breathe. Painful procedure to take arterial blood to monitor blood gasses. Insert cannula into other arm for 'normal' bloods. X-Ray, pain in chest, distress.

Sat in chair unable to breathe, locked away in "home detention" for weeks breathing smoke trying to recuperate. Health Department says to stay indoors but according to a builder friend it is all but impossible to air tight a home, and I know this from my engineering background, so I was still inhaling smoke that had reached unity indoors, i.e., unity = 1, or as bad indoors as outdoors.

Asthma exacerbation continued. Hospitalized second time. Cannula. Ultrasound, clots in leg and DVT. Nuclear scans, clots travelled to lungs. Introduced injections and blood thinning pills, pain relief.

Hospitalized again 3rd time for pain relief of clots in the leg. Put on max panadine forte and Endone. Leg is all swollen, can barely walk even when on max meds because of pain.

Awake at night, every night for months now. Usually only get 2 hours sleep because of pain and medication side effects.

Respiratory specialist attendance.

Follow up nuclear scans and x-Ray requiring cannula.

4th admittance to Accident and Emergency, sudden onset short of breath, lung pain, X-Ray, cannula, bloods.

Cardiac specialist for echo cardiogram to see if clots have damaged my heart
Further respiratory specialist visits, various GP visits, pathology visits for blood, vascular specialist visit to sort out leg pain/clots, and so on scheduled for down the track. [This is coming out of your health budget!](#)

22/4/2010 - Further harm



**I woke from three hours sleep with blood coming freely out of the tissue in my lips, tongue, inside my cheeks, and inside my throat.
The close-up picture of my wiped mouth clearly shows the process.**

I have been on blood thinners since the smoke from the 2008 planned burn season when I suffered severe asthma, clots, below the knee DVT, and PE's in both lungs. Since then I have had trouble regulating my blood thinners whilst the elevated smoke levels go up and down, and as a result of the smoke I am also forced at times to take corticosteroids, antibiotics, and pain killers concurrently.

It is known that having to take these drugs together can result in heightened blood thinning but I have no choice. It is also known that fine particle pollution (smoke) causes blood thickening, but these highs and lows do not counteract each other; hence the problems stabilising blood readings.

I believe we have been exposed to criminal levels of particulate pollution from the failed Forest Practices Authority's Co-ordinated Smoke Management Smoke Strategy (CSMS) trials that aim to put as much smoke as they can into the atmosphere for people to breathe, and my photos clearly show the outcome.

Had these bleeds occurred in my eye, brain or gut, which was a real possibility, then the outcome would have been catastrophic. This could still happen.

Winning Small Claims Court Action

Québec court Small claims division Salaberry-de-Valleyfield

Date : April 21, 2010

1. The plaintiffs claim \$7000 in damages and interest of the respondent, their neighbor, who would have abused their right to use a wood stove which caused the plaintiffs a prejudice.
2. The respondent contests the claim for motives described below.

The facts :

3. The facts retained by predominance of the proof are as following :
4. In 2003 and 2004, the parties are neighbors on 102nd St. in Notre Dame de Ile-Perrot...
5. At this time, the plaintiffs complained to the respondent and asked that they stop using their wood stove because of the smoke that inconvenienced the plaintiffs.
6. In 2006, the situation has not been resolved. Giulia has developed breathing problems and makes a complaint to the municipality.
7. The inspector visits the respondent's home and concludes that the emissions from the respondent's chimney does not constitute a nuisance according to municipal bylaws...
8. At this time, fireman Michael B. is also asked to verify if the wood stove and the chimney of the respondents are in conformity with the bylaws. He discovers that there is a small section missing in the outside chimney. The respondents add the missing section.
9. In 2006, the respondents stopped using their wood stove on June 11 and begin again 26 August. At this time, the plaintiff sent a demand letter to the respondents asking that they stop using their woodstove in an abusive fashion because it causes her many inconveniences (headaches, nausea, smoke in the house, etc.) as well as to the rest of her family.

10. The respondent responds by letter saying that they have the right to use their wood stove adding that other neighbors also use their wood stoves.
11. In December 2006, the plaintiff began legal proceedings against the respondent. Legal procedures began in January 2010 claiming \$7000 in damages and interests for the time period of 2006 to 2009 inclusively.
12. Except during the months of July and August of each year, the respondents say that they use their wood stove from four o'clock to the next morning. They also heat through electricity, but use their wood stove to reduce their heating costs.
13. In 2008, the plaintiff consults allergy and asthma specialist. In a letter dated June 3, 2008, he states that Ms. D'Alesio suffers from moderate allergies to cats and to dust, making her more sensitive to the smoke from the wood stove.

Pertinent legal articles:

(The judge used the following articles from the Québec Civil Code : 6,7, 976, 1375, 1457. The translation of these sections of the Civil Code should be available on the Internet.)

Discussion:

24. The respondent is therefore responsible for the prejudice caused to the plaintiffs.
25. Given the elements described above, the court concludes that an amount of \$3200 is adequate to indemnify the plaintiffs in terms of damages and interest.

BOZO of the Month



This month's Bozo is *Brantford*, Ontario Canada

<http://www.brantford.ca/discover/Pages/default.aspx>

Here is how Brantford describes itself:

The City of Brantford welcomes you to our corner of southern Ontario. We invite you to enjoy our hometown hospitality and the natural beauty of our landscape and waterways - all of which make our city a choice destination!

Not quite how a resident described it when she emailed to me! She is being doused in wood smoke from a neighbor's continual burning and there is nothing she can do. Complaints to the town council were useless as the appliance met code. It is one thing for an appliance to meet code but another as to how it is being used. When someone burns and causes such distress to their neighbor's, one has to wonder if the sitting council has any idea how dangerous this smoke is. Why does the burner have more rights than those that want to breathe clean air in their own homes?

How awful to think that they cannot come up with a bylaw to stop this kind of thing. I bet they would if they were in this woman's shoes! But, they are not. So, they quote the old "there is no bylaw". So, make one and prove you do care about your residents!

Brown Adipose Tissue

Excerpted from:

http://www.vivo.colostate.edu/hbooks/pathphys/misc_topics/brownfat.html

Everyone is familiar with white adipose or fat tissue, which provides insulation and, by storing triglyceride, serves as an energy depot. Many mammals also have brown adipose tissue, which also stores triglyceride, but has the **unique ability to generate heat**.

Brown adipose tissue is sometimes mistaken for a type of gland, which it resembles more than white adipose tissue. It varies in color from dark red to tan, reflecting lipid content. Its lipid reserves are depleted when the animal is exposed to a cold environment, and the color darkens. In contrast to white fat, brown fat is richly vascularized and has numerous unmyelinated nerves which provide sympathetic stimulation to the adipocytes.

Cell Biology and Function

Brown fat is of particular importance in neonates, small mammals in cold environments, and animals that hibernate, because it has the ability to dissipate stored energy as heat.

In contrast to other cells, including white adipocytes, brown adipocytes express **mitochondrial uncoupling protein 1** (UCP1), which gives the cell's mitochondria an ability to uncouple oxidative phosphorylation and utilize substrates to generate heat rather than ATP.

Exposure to cold leads to sympathetic stimulation of brown adipocyte via norepinephrine binding to [beta- adrenergic receptors](#). As in white fat, sympathetic stimulation promotes hydrolysis of triglyceride, with release of fatty acids and glycerol. However, within brown adipocytes, most fatty acids are immediately oxidized in mitochondria and, because of the uncoupling protein, a large amount of heat is produced. This process is part of what is called **non-shivering thermogenesis**.

The heat produced in brown fat can actually be imaged using a thermal (infrared) camera. If one takes such a picture of an unswaddled infant sleeping at room temperature, "hot spots" can be seen in the skin overlying brown fat deposits in the neck and interscapular area.

Brown fat thermogenesis also seems to be of considerable importance to animals coming out of hibernation, allowing them to rewarm.

Finally, it seems that brown fat plays a non-trivial role in [control of body weight](#), and that mitochondrial uncoupling proteins may be one of many factors involved in development of obesity. An interesting demonstration of this is found in a report in which transgenic mice with genetic ablation of brown fat developed obesity in the absence of overeating.

Editorial comment: External heat appears to be a luxury for modern society and unnecessary for basic health. Children do not need all that heat, having lots of brown fat.

Do the Crime, Do the Time

PGAQ #114 by Vic Steblin, May 8, 2009
2570 Laurier Crescent, Prince George, BC, 250-564-1123,
vsteblin@sd57.bc.ca

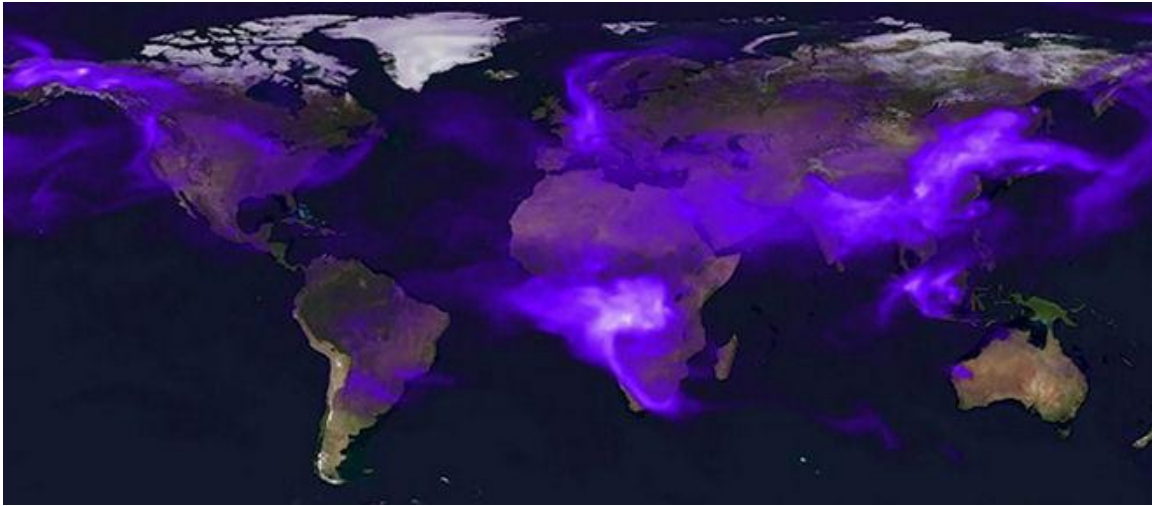
The Prince George Free Press newspaper recently presented a letter from Edward Mazur called “Do the crime, do the time”, in regards to driving habits. BC’s solicitor general and public safety officer, John Van Dongen, resigned because of too many speeding tickets. The letter also points out that Premier Gordon Campbell did not resign over his drunk driving conviction in Hawaii.

The letter ends with “If you kill someone with a gun you can get around 25 years in jail. If you kill a family while you are impaired you will likely get no more than two years in jail. It doesn’t seem right.”

Now consider the results of wood smoke. As far as I can see, nobody gets any time at all for filling the air with wood smoke. Our government actually encourages the use of wood as a way of reducing the fossil fuel carbon dioxide from natural gas, although the particulate from wood smoke is many times that of natural gas.

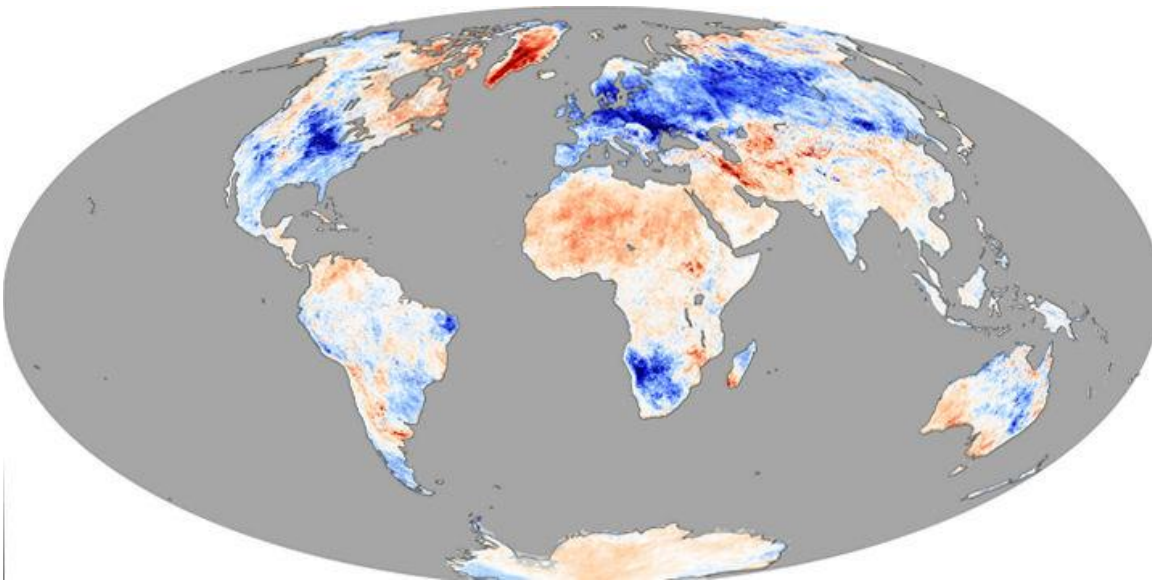
“Do the crime, do the time” is ignored for wood smoke although the end result to overall health may be many times worse than drunk driving.

Vic Steblin vsteblin@sd57.bc.ca
BSc Honours Math, MA Math Education from UBC
Currently teaching math in a secondary school in Prince George, B.C.



Black carbon, organic carbon (soot)

<http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2010/03/geoengineering-gallery/2/>



Blue is cold, red is hot

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=43235>

A picture is worth a thousand words when it comes to global warming!

**** Best viewed at 200% ****

■ ENVIRONMENT: City council is considering taking a closer look at outdoor wood boilers

At the boiling point

RICHARD BEALES
Expositor Staff

When Susan Cornell moved to her Grand River Avenue home two years ago, she had never heard of outdoor wood boilers.

Now, she's urging city council to ban their use, claiming that the wood smoke from a unit operating at the house next door has been undermining her respiratory health on a chronic basis.

"I have made numerous visits to seek medical help," the 61-year-old retired school principal said during a recent visit to her home. "On two occasions I had to go to the emergency room for respiratory issues."

"I have bronchial asthma. So what happens with this problem, with my situation, when I am exposed to that smoke... I get very wheezy. My lungs ache and I get very congested and start coughing. Once, I had to be ventilated four times to get me breathing."

“It definitely is a factor with some people. As with any smoke, it can irritate the airways of someone with a lung condition.”

Chris Haromy, a certified respiratory educator with the Lung Association, on smoke from outdoor wood boilers

When council meets Monday, it will consider passing a resolution by Coun. Jennifer Kinneman that would require city officials from the building department, the environmental department, the fire department, the legal department and the Brant County Health Unit to review an Envi-



BRIAN THOMPSON The Expositor

Susan Cornell stands on the rear deck of her Grand River Avenue home, about 20 feet from her neighbour's wood-burning boiler and smoke stack. She blames smoke from the boiler for hampering her respiratory health.

effects of wood smoke and outdoor boilers. They will be asked to provide council with their analysis, including a model bylaw.

Cornell has been monitoring the boiler's activity daily since last year.

"I'm recording direction, the amount of smoke and what my physical symptoms are as a result - and believe me, it's a direct correlation," she said. "And days that are good, I say they're good."

Since January 2009, she told the committee, she had documented 124 days of boiler activity, including "66 bad smoke days."

Problems such as those

described by Cornell are recognized by health authorities, including the Ontario Lung Association.

"It definitely is a factor with some people," said Chris Haromy, a certified respiratory educator with the Lung Association. "As with any smoke, it can irritate the airways of someone with a lung condition."

Cornell is one such person. A cigarette smoker since her teens, her lung function has become compromised over the years. She is still addicted, she confessed, and smokes five cigarettes a day.

Smoking affects her respiration to some degree, she

acknowledged. But it's not the major reason for her distress, said Cornell, adding that it is only the wood smoke which affects her health to such severe levels. The boiler operates throughout the fall and winter. When neighbours Kevin and Joanne Norris shut it off in the spring, Cornell's symptoms disappear.

"They know I smoke outside," Cornell said, "because they can see me. I never smoke in the house."

"Once that (boiler) stops burning I'm fine, whether I smoke five cigarettes a day or not."

Cornell is also a potter, who

produces work in her ground-floor studio. There is a potential for respiratory hazards there, too, she acknowledged, but said they aren't an issue in her case.

I was quite surprised to find there were no bylaws to address this."

Coun. Jennifer Kinneman

"I use all the safety equipment," she said, including an "industrial-sized air purifier right in my workplace."

She also wears a facemask with proper ventilators.

"And I keep the studio clean

— I do not do any glaze firings in this house. Only bisque firing."

Wood smoke produces "12 times as much wood fine particulate as certified wood stoves," said Cornell, quoting studies in her delegation to the committee.

"It's a big issue for some people," Haromy said. "It gets in their home and it can also get outside."

So how do they deal with it? "You can start with explaining to the neighbours," he said, "but that doesn't always work. And then you have to go to the level of local government."

see ENVIRONMENT| Page A3

Editorial

June... school will soon be out and family time together begins. So many things to do and see while we have the summer months to share with our children and grandchildren!

Many parents are hoping that the wood burning is finished until cold weather sets in again. Not always!

Beware... campfires, a thing we enjoyed as children, are beginning. We didn't know then what we know now about wood smoke. Wood smoke is very toxic and especially hazardous to young lungs. Also, many campfires are filled with assorted other things on top of plain wood. Breathing this in has sent many youngsters to the emergency room!

Open burning is banned now in many municipalities. Please check your bylaws and, if open burning is not allowed, do not hesitate to call in a complaint and have the fire put out.

Smoke from outdoor fires does enter your home. The particles are so tiny that they easily get into your home even if your windows are closed.

Another issue is the OWBs that some people are using to heat their pools with. Incredible as it sounds, some people think nothing of saving themselves a few pennies at a great cost to your health and enjoyment of your own property.

Again, call and lay a complaint. It may not get stopped as easily as an open fire but, with enough people complaining about OWBs, the faster these monsters will be laid to rest.

When our municipalities realize that we are determined to take back what is rightfully ours .. clean air to breathe .. we will reach our goal.

Burning is an option, breathing is not!

Shirley

LETTERS

(Names are omitted unless permission is given .. please send me your story)

Victim's letter to the EPA

I am a citizen who got cancer and had a heart valve put into my heart due to my neighbors CONSTANT, CONTINUOUS 24 HOUR A DAY SEVEN DAYS A WEEK blowing of smoke from their outdoor wood boiler into our home. Our daughter has GRAND MAL SEIZURES every single time the smoke gets in her room. We have both been treated numerous times for CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING. Our state has tested this boiler and determined it to be well ABOVE THE LIMIT where they would issue air quality alerts. It is 800 FEET FROM OUR HOME!!!!

I CANNOT BELIEVE YOU ARE CONSIDERING ALLOWING THESE THINGS TO EXIST!!!

I CANNOT BELIEVE YOU ARE ACTUALLY ASKING THE MANUFACTURERS FOR THEIR INPUT!!!

WHAT ABOUT ALL OF US OUT THERE SUFFERING AND DYING FROM THESE BOILERS?

You are the ENVIRONMENTAL Protection Agency and you ALLOW these things to exist!!!!!!

Please, in this day and age you are advocating wood burning???????

Why are you allowing these MONSTERS to continue to harm innocent people???? We live up wind 800 feet from this monster and it covers our home with smoke damage (see the pictures.) I have before and after pictures, with the after pictures taken just months after this thing was installed. YOU ARE ALLOWING THIS???? All of your "recommendations" are ridiculous. SMOKE TRAVELS MORE THAN 800 feet to get to my house. And it gives us carbon monoxide poisoning. Our house is the white house behind the offending home in the picture. Our windows face this monster. We are directly above it. Do you realize how HIGH a smoke stack would have to be to get it over our home????

Our state health department said it would cause cancer, breathing problems, seizures and heart problems **AND IT DID!!!!!!**

How can you protect these monsters who manufacture this and ignore us innocent people FORCED BY OUR GOVERNMENT TO ENDURE THIS HEINOUS ACT PURPETRATED ON OUR HEALTH???????

PLEASE call me and explain why I have to continue to breathe this air. I cannot sell my house, I cannot breathe, I have to watch my daughter suffer. I had to endure surgery and radiation. I was perfectly healthy before this burner started pouring smoke into my house!!!!!!!!!!!!

HOW CAN YOU DO THIS TO US???????

You are supposed to PROTECT us!!!!!!

Sherry Schultz

Teaming Up With Others: Strength In Numbers

Like tobacco smoke, wood smoke can be banned or regulated in cities or states. Our national elected officials also need to hear from us. Please contact any of the names below--you do not have to live in their area to build our network. Nor do you have to leave your name if you prefer not to. But we all need to build a network for strength in numbers.

Here is a partial list of contacts who are working on wood smoke issues from various states and regions. Please [click here](#) to email me if you are willing to have your email address or other information published in this newsletter monthly to connect with others.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>State/Province</u>
Shirley	s.brandie@sympatico.ca Web site: http://WoodBurnerSmoke.net http://www.canadiancleanairalliance.ca	Ontario, Canada
Victoria Valentine	stopwoodsmoke@woodsmokefreeny.com Web site: http://www.woodsmokefreeny.com	New York, U.S.A.
Julie Mellum	info@takebacktheair.com Web site: http://www.takebacktheair.com	Minneapolis U.S.A.
Vic Steblin	vsteblyn@sd57.bc.ca	Prince George, British Columbia, Canada Short Letters about Air Quality are listed in OPINION section of www.pachapg.ca
Vicki Morell	vmorell@telus.net Website: http://www.canadiancleanairalliance.ca "A breath of fresh air - for all generations"	Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada 604-322-6744

Julie Burgo	Jbamonteburgo@gmail.com	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania USA
Ernest Grolimund	egrolimund@msn.com	19 Johnson Hts., Waterville, Maine USA 04901 207-861-5765
Giulia D'Alesio	giulia.dalesio@hotmail.com	Notre-Dame-De-L'ile Perrot Quebec, Canada Phone and fax (514) 425-5288
Janet Irvine	janetirvine@shaw.ca	Nanaimo, B.C. Canada
Linda Beaudin	airisprecious@gmail.com	Cornwall, Ontario Canada
Nathalie Doiron	Nathalie_doiron@hotmail.com	Quebec, Canada
Cathy Baiton	cleanairmattersinalberta@gmail.com	Alberta, Canada

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.

NEW TO CANADA

Canadian Clean Air Alliance

A totally new Canadian site that deals with wood smoke pollution.
Open to all countries!

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."

"Breathing wood smoke is smoking!"



We are looking to include every province in Canada.
Please email to [Shirley](#) to start a provincial page for your province.

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 listed, send an email to: s.brandie@sympatico.ca

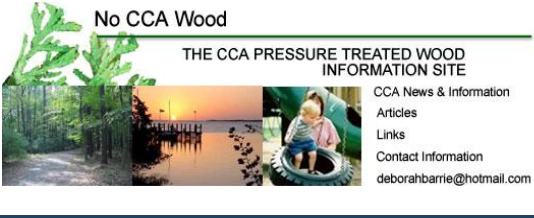


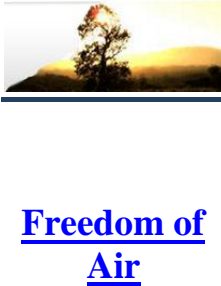



LINKS & MORE

[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](#)

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

		<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Wood Burner Smoke</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Editor's Site</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> **Please visit us here!**

<http://www.alap.qc.ca> Quebec Association for clean air -French & English

<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://www.woodsmokefreeny.com/>
Please take a minute to sign the petition there.

<http://rawsep.spaces.live.com> Residents against wood smoke emission particulates

<http://rodfarmer40.blogspot.com> A blog dedicated to shaming the Launceston City Council and Tasmanian State Government to start enforcing wood smoke legislation in Launceston.

"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 Editor:



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>

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 pass this issue on to others in need of help. Send an email to s.brandie@sympatico.ca to be added to the mailing list.