
	<p>WELLAND FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES</p> <p>Headquarters Offices 636 King Street Welland, Ontario L3B 3L1 Phone: 905-735-9922 Fax: 905-732-2818 www.welland.ca</p>	<p>Chief: Denys Prevost, P.Eng., CFO, CFSA, CFEI Deputy: Brian Kennedy, CFEI</p> <p> http://welland.safecommunities.ca/</p>
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August 16, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WELLAND FIRE CHIEF LIFTS BAN ON OPEN-AIR FIRES

Welland, ON – Today, Welland’s Fire Chief, Denys Prevost, has **LIFTED** the BAN ON OPEN-AIR FIRES that had applied in the City. The lifting of the ban signals the return to more normal application of the provisions in the City’s By-Law 2011-85; *Regulating the Setting of Open-Air Fires*. Citizens may now resume enjoying recreational fires that comply with the by-law and with fire safe practices.

The ban had been in place since July 6th and was imposed due to the extremely dry conditions that had been seen through the month of June. The weather has remained hot and dry throughout the month of July and into the first half of August. However, in the past week conditions have improved significantly with periodic rains and heavy dews, and consequently there is more moisture in the ground and in plants. The increase in moisture has reduced the *Forest Fire Danger Rating* to more normal levels.

Although the risk of fire is reduced, and the Ban has been lifted, residents are cautioned that conditions may still exist in their own area that required extra vigilance in preventing fires. The By-Law specifically places the onus on persons setting fires to ensure fire safety.

For more information on open-air fire regulations in Welland please reference the Open-Air Fires By-Law (<http://www.welland.ca/ByLaws/bylaw2011-85.pdf>).

Residents are also reminded that despite the lifting of the fire ban it is still not legal to purchase or to set-off consumer fireworks in the City after Canada Day. Substantial **fines** and **costs** may be levied against persons who violate the open-air fires or the fireworks by-laws.

If you require more specific information regarding the fire safety in Welland please contact Fire & Emergency Services Department at 905-735-9922, or e-mail fire@welland.ca

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