



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**TO:** Members of the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Rob Anderson, Recreation Coordinator

**MEETING DATE:** February 23, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Report APRAC10-006  
Amendments To The Smoking By-Law

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## **PURPOSE**

A report to request input from the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee regarding amendments to By-Law 07-126 (the Smoking By-Law), respecting smoking in certain public spaces in the City of Peterborough.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approve the recommendations outlined in Report APRAC10-006 dated February 23, 2010, of the Recreation Coordinator, as follows:

- a) That the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee receives report APRAC10-006 for information; and
- b) That the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee provides input to Staff regarding amendments to By-Law 07-126 (the Smoking By-Law).

## **BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no budget or financial implications as a result of approving the recommendations in Report APRAC10-006.

## **BACKGROUND**

On March 23, 2009, City Council approved the recommendations of report CSD09-007 and passed By-Law 09-034, which amended By-Law 07-126 (the Smoking By-Law). The amendment prohibited the smoking or holding of any lighted tobacco product within the spectator areas of Del Cray Park, East City Bowl and Riverside Park. This was identified as the first phase of introducing smoke-free parks.

### **Public Education**

City Staff and Staff of the Peterborough County City Health Unit (PCCHU) worked together to ensure the general public and regular users of the parks were made aware of the Smoking By-Law amendments. The PCCHU provided training for two City staff (Special Events Monitors), who attended scheduled events occurring in the parks where the Smoking By-Law is applicable. They were responsible for providing by-law awareness and education to park users. The Special Event monitors kept a log of their interactions with the public. The PCCHU created a summary and analysis of the Special Events Monitors' documentation, specific to the Smoking By-Law. (See Appendix "A")

### **Key findings of the Special Event Monitors:**

- Every Smoker approached was compliant, either immediately or after some discussion
- Staff were asked by smokers where smoking was allowed
- Usage of the smoking area increased early in the season
- Non-smokers would direct staff to people who were smoking in no-smoking areas
- The comfort level of non-smokers varied in regard to asking smokers to move from the no smoking area to a smoking area
- Public awareness can be improved by ensuring signs remain visible even when crowds are heavy and when sunlight decreases
- An adequate supply of cigarette butt disposal units is required in smoking areas

### **Public Opinion Poll**

The PCCHU created a brief smoke-free outdoor opinion poll to assess the level of public support for expanding current smoking by-laws to additional park spaces. The poll was administered from late June to mid-September. Individuals were given the option of completing the poll in person with the Special Events Monitors/PCCHU staff, or by visiting the PCCHU website to complete the poll online. The PCCHU summarized their findings in their Smoke-Free Outdoor Opinion Poll Final Report. (See Appendix "B")

Key Findings of the Opinion Poll:

- 580 people completed the poll (330 were City residents, 132 from the County, and 118 from elsewhere)
- Almost 63% were parents, guardians or caregivers of a child aged 12 years or younger.
- 39% of respondents either smoke or live with someone who does
- 90% of respondents support making public playgrounds smoke free
- 77 – 80% of respondents are supportive of by-laws that would make beaches, sports fields/spectator areas, and public gathering places smoke free
- 68% of respondents are supportive of a by-law making public parks completely smoke free.
- 199 people provided comments. The majority of the comments were supportive of outdoor smoke free by-laws, emphasizing the need to protect children
- Smokers should be accommodated by creating designated smoking areas
- Concerns with curtailment of individual rights, regarding the use of a legal substance
- Comments that were critical regarding the assessment of risk related to second-hand smoke being a health priority

The poll demonstrates strong support for amending the Smoking By-Law to include other park spaces within the City of Peterborough. The highest level of support is for playgrounds, beaches and sport fields/spectator areas.

**PCCHU Recommendations**

On December 9, 2009, the PCCHU presented a report titled “Phase II City of Peterborough Smoke-free By-Law Development” to the Board of Health. (See Appendix C). The report recommends amending the Smoking By-Law to expand the smoking prohibitions to all City Parks in a staged approach, starting with prohibitions in park spaces with the greatest public support. The Board of Health supported the recommendation.

The PCCHU presented their findings and recommendations to City Staff on January 25, 2010. City Staff are supportive of recommending to Council that the Smoking By-Law be amended as per PCCHU’s recommendation. However, City Staff is seeking input from the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee to help formulate the recommendations to Council. Staff would be supportive of creating one amending By-Law that would identify the details and dates for a strategic plan to be implemented over a specific time period.

Submitted by,

Rob Anderson  
Recreation Coordinator

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Attachments:

Appendix A – Summary and Analysis of Special Events Monitor Documentation

Appendix B - Smoke-Free Outdoor Opinion Poll Final Report

Appendix C – PCCHU Staff Report to the Board of Health - Dated Dec 9, 2009