

May 14, 2020

To: Municipality of West Elgin

Cc: Jeff Yurek - Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

From: Robert King - [REDACTED]

Re: Port Glasgow Trailer Park

Our time at the Port Glasgow, 2003 to the present.

I would like to suggest some changes to the Rules of the park regarding Campfires, Meat Smokers and Drug Use (Smoking Pot) and the reasoning behind these changes.

1. Camp fires should be banned until after 6 pm.

Last year with new neighbours it was made worse by camp fires that are started around 7:00 am daily and smoulder well into the evening. In past years camp fires were not permitted until early evening. Now it appears that a campfire is an entertainment device to occupy the time of young children. This is a daily occurrence. More smoke, more fun, parents don't care. Fire left unattended for hours at a time.

Wood smoke contains poisonous gases and airborne particulates so small that they can penetrate around windows and doors.

Whether wood or charcoal (derived from wood), barbecue smoke must therefore be considered a lung irritant just like any other smoke.

Wood smoke can be identified as a cause of asthma & cancer as well as aggravating many other lung conditions.

2. Meat Smokers

Meat Smokers and tripods (slow cooking of meat) be banned from the park because of the greasy plume of smoke drifting through the neighbourhood all day long irritating our throat and lungs.

We have abandoned our deck on many occasions to go inside to escape the effects of greasy smoky fire. Even inside with the windows and doors closed we can still smell the smoke. On several occasions we have packed up and left for home along with other park residents in our neighbourhood.

When meat is grilled, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH's) are released and these are the same PAH's that can be found in cigarette smoke (thought to be one of the carcinogens).

3. Recreational Drug Use

Use of Recreational Drugs be done inside a trailer, not on their deck, not under the picnic shelter or the dance hall or at the beach.

Behind us a resident on a daily basis has a "Pot" (Recreational Drug Use) party on his deck that gathers more people as time goes on. This also is not permitted and residents openly smoke this stuff even in the presence of children. Smoking Pot in Canada is only permitted inside a residence, not on their deck for the neighbourhood to enjoy.

On March 4, the Municipal Office sent out a "Welcome back" letter to all the residents. The paragraph at the bottom of the letter states the Burning By-law that applies to the Trailer Park. The By-Law states that Campfires must be 4 meters away from any building. In looking at the fire pits, At PGTP, the vast majority of them most are quite a bit closer to buildings than 4 meters. Those who have fire pits that do not follow the By-Law should have to remove the fire pit immediately.

In Ontario there have been fires in campgrounds in the past that led to serious fires destroying several trailers prior to the arrival of the Fire Fighters.

There is a large Community Fire Pit located away from the main campgrounds. It is located on the rear (west side) of the ball field. I have noticed that very few people use this fire pit, when in fact that is what they should use. It is away from the trailers and not likely affects any residents because all the trailers are a long distance away from the Community Fire Pit.

Also sent out with the invoice for the annual fee this year was "Schedule B" to the 2020 Updated Lease Agreement: Revised Rules and Regulations for Port Glasgow Trailer Park. These were sent out on "Yellow Pages". The rear page has a section titled "Use of Alcohol, Tobacco and Cannabis"

Section 39 Revised; "Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages is permitted only within a trailer or upon the assigned site at PGTP. I am sorry to say that people are drinking at the Dance Hall, at the Pavilion, and on the beach.

Section 42 - New: Provincial and Federal Laws regarding the use of cannabis still apply within PGTP. Lessees, occupants, guests and invitees are only permitted to use cannabis within any trailer on any assigned site:

A nearby neighbour has mid afternoon "Pot" parties on his deck for anyone interested in joining. Other neighbours get if from their own decks whether they want it or not.

There is NO enforcement of any of the Rules at PGTP. Weekends are especially 'Anything Goes'.

I would also like to state that with the Pandemic that has engulfed the world, it is a respiratory virus and when you enter the campgrounds, it is hard to believe that park residents have no consideration for anyone but themselves. Whether it is day long campfires or daylong meat smokers operating with smoke drifting across the area of the trailers all day long. This is disgusting! For months, worldwide, residents were asked to "Go Home and Stay Home" to avoid spreading this virus. We all faced a lockdown. Every country in the world had shut down their industry etc. The air has cleared up worldwide and now that the Park opens for the season, what do we get? No Fresh Air, This is not right!

Regards,
Robert King