MEDIA RELEASE

June 7, 2023

Port Colborne issues open-air fire ban for all areas of the city

PORT COLBORNE, ON – Due to extremely dry conditions and poor air quality caused by forest/wildfires in areas of Ontario, Port Colborne's Fire Chief Scott Lawson, has issued a total open-air fire ban for all areas of Port Colborne, effective June 8, 2023 at 8 a.m.

The fire ban includes a prohibition on any type of open-air fire such as campfires, outdoor fireplaces, fire pits, sky lanterns, chimineas, cooking fires, etc.

The fire ban applies to all rural and urban areas of the City, including campgrounds such as Sun Retreats Sherkston Shores.

Environment Canada has issued a Special Air Quality Statement for Niagara due to high levels of air pollution caused by smoke plumes from forest fires in Quebec and northeastern Ontario. Poor air quality is expected to persist into the weekend.

Wildfire smoke can be harmful to everyone's health, even at low concentrations. Residents should continue to take actions to protect their health and reduce exposure to smoke.

People with lung disease (such as asthma) or heart disease, older adults, children, pregnant people, and people who work outdoors are at higher risk of experiencing health effects caused by wildfire smoke.

Stop outdoor activities and contact your health care provider if you or someone in your care experiences shortness of breath, wheezing (including asthma attacks), severe cough, dizziness, or chest pains. Stay inside if you are feeling unwell and experiencing symptoms.

For more details, please visit www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/air-quality-health-index/wildfire-smoke.html

The City of Port Colborne's Fire & Emergency Services Department will continue to monitor these conditions daily and will share updates on our social media channels and website as they become available.

- 30 -

MEDIA CONTACT
Jasmine Peazel-Graham
Manager of Corporate Communications
City of Port Colborne

905– 835– 2900 x 307

jasmine.peazel-graham@portcolborne.ca