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# Burn permit changes coming

Making the fire department's burn permits renewable on the date of issue – not on an annual calendar date – will make it faster and easier for staff to issue the permits and for citizens applying for the \$20 permit to conduct open air burns, including backyard fire pits and chimineas. There is no fee charged to farmers who have the right to open air burning.

Town councillors recently also approved plans to end the practice of requiring farm owners and

homeowners to have a site visit by fire department staff for burn permit applications.

Deputy-Chief of Fire Prevention and Public Education, Harry Olivieri said the Ontario Fire Code prohibits all open air burning unless it involves cooking on a small barbecue or grill. Applying for a new permit involves filling out an application online or at any of the Town's fire stations, prompting a safety inspection by staff.

"The system is working well with great co-operation from citizens, although a few need to get the message," Deputy-Chief Olivieri said on Monday, adding repeat offenders could be charged under the Ontario Fire Code and have to pay fire department response costs, but that has not happened in the past two years.

The Town has issued 1,438 burn permits so far this year.

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**THE WHEELS ON THE BUS:** Rookie bus riders eagerly arrived on time for the School Bus safety orientation hosted by Tyler Transport on Saturday morning at Acton High School. School bus driver Kelli Callaghan treated the graduates to a ride around town following the in-class session. – Denise Paulsen photo

**WHAT'S INSIDE**



Acton Trustee Gerry Ockenden is elected chair of the Halton District School Board. Check out our Drive Safe, back to school features on pages 6 and 7.



**Who is she?**  
Police offer a reward to help identify a body dumped west of Rockwood five years ago.  
See page 10



Acton gears up for the annual Terry Fox Run.  
See page 18

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