

In Our Community





Bylaw staff too busy to enforce smoke ban

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a bylaw in place unless you can enforce it," Dave Cash, CAO for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville told The Sun-Tribune.

In December 2009, the town created a policy in which smokers had to light up five metres away from any entrance or exit of town-owned buildings.

In May 2006, the Smoke-Free Ontario Act prohibited smoking in all enclosed workplaces, enclosed public places, within nine metres of a hospital entrance or exit and on elementary and secondary school grounds.

In January 2009, the Act was amended to include a smoking ban in vehicles with children under 16 years of age in them.

The region cited not only the damage caused by second-hand smoke to young children in particular as a reason for the request, but also its negative impact on overall air quality.

"Stanford University researchers (in a 2007 study) found that second-hand tobacco smoke could be detected at downwind positions three to four metres from a single, active cigarette," according to the Feb. 17 report by the region's community and health services committee.

Smoking in outdoor public spaces, according to the committee, is also linked to environmental contamination.

"Since chemicals caught in cigarette filters leach into the earth and groundwater, contamination persists even after butts are removed from streets and beaches," according to the report.

In York Region, two municipalities have already implemented tougher no-smoking rules.

Georgina prohibits the use of tobacco on Civic Centre soccer pitches, while Newmarket has designated Sunnyhill Park, which is next to Southlake Regional Health Centre, smoke-free, in support of the hospital's smoke-free policy.



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