

FIRE & BY-LAW SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT**OCTOBER, 2020****DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW & STATISTICS****By-Law**

JULY – For the month of July 2020 the majority of all By-law complaints received were related to Long Grass and Weeds and Property Standards issues.

Complaints received about cannabis odour totaled 2 for the month. No greenhouse light complaints received. An investigation into a possible violation of the Towns Cannabis Interim Control By-law resulted in a charge filed with the Provincial Courts against a company in Pelham.

By-Law started having an increase of community calls regarding new COVID restrictions and mandatory face coverings.

AUGUST - For the month of August 2020 the majority of all By-law complaints received were related to Long Grass and Weeds and Property Standards issues.

Complaints received about cannabis odour totaled 5 repeat complaints and 1 new complaint for the month. No greenhouse light complaints received.

SEPTEMBER - As of the end of September 2020 Y-T-D the By-law Department has surpassed the total number of citizen complaints received for all of 2019.

The By-law Department also began random cannabis odor testing in September at the property lines of the known Industrial Cannabis Growing Facilities in Pelham. These pro-active tests were in addition to the re-active tests completed based on citizen complaints. No violations of the Towns Industrial Odorous Control By-law were recorded for the month.

School crossing guards have started back, due to COVID Town increased health and safety training, restrictions and safety markings installed at all crosswalks.

Fire Prevention

JULY - July has once again been an interesting month with the many changes due to Covid. Closer to the end of month, Pelham received enough rainfall for the Fire Chief to lift the burn ban. The Fire Department monitors this daily and will provide an update if the weather requires us to reinstate the burning ban again.

Fire prevention has continued with distribution of PPE and cleaning supplies throughout the town buildings, heading into the month of August we have a very healthy supply of PPE and cleaning supplies to help protect the town staff.

With residents staying home and enjoying their own backyards, fire dept. has had an increase of inquiries and inspections for installing a new fire pits.

Province-wide there has been an increase in kitchen fires. Kitchen fires remain the leading type of fires with unattended cooking the leading cause. The OFM contributes this increase to the increase of people working from home.

AUGUST - August has seen a rise in outdoor burning permits with more people staying at home this summer. Fire dept. has also seen a decrease of burning complaints this year compared to last.

With COVID restrictions lifting more, people are starting to have larger gatherings and are travelling within province.

Fire prevention is still distributing and monitoring inventory of PPE and cleaning supplies; heading into September Fire dept. still maintains healthy supplies of both which includes enough PPE upcoming Town election.

SEPTEMBER – As per province go ahead schools back, children either have returned to school or are completing classes virtually online. Ontario Fire Marshals have implemented plan on how the schools are to conduct Fire alarm drills with current restrictions.

Emergency Management

The Town of Pelham remains in a declared state of emergency and the EOC is in partial activation.

The emergency control group meets virtually Monday & Thursday @ 0900.

Suppression

The fire department continues to respond to all types of incidents with the exception of some modified medical responses. The modified medical responses are to:

1. Reduce risk to firefighters to relating to COVID-19
2. To preserve personal protective equipment as the equipment inventories are low.

All fire equipment is cleaned after each use and at least once per week if no responses occur. Fire dept. resources have not been compromised at this time and the Town continues to respond with full compliment.

PROJECTS

CONSTITUENT CONCERNS & ISSUES ARISING

Ongoing COVID-19 pandemic

PERSONNEL

Pelham Fire Department conducted volunteer recruitment for all three stations. Currently in process of oral interviews, start date for new recruits is November 1, 2020.

Pelham Crossing guards started back at their posts, hired new guards for 2020/21 season. Placed COVID safety measures and training for guards at crossings

In the past few months station one has lost two of its retired members, retired Fire Fighter Bruce Stayzer and retired Captain Joe Chiavaroli, members of all three stations attended restricted services due to the Pandemic.

Station one has accepted a co-op student; the student will be working with fire prevention and administration.

GRANTS, CONTRACTS, RFPs & AGREEMENTS

MEETINGS

SLT (senior leadership team), EOC (emergency operations centre), MEG (municipal emergency group), REOC (regional emergency operations centre), MAC (medical assist committee), DC (district chiefs), JHSC (joint health & safety committee), regional chiefs, mayor, council, cannabis control committee