



Request for Decision

Title	Bylaw 1375/16, Burning Bylaw
Proposed Motion	That Council give first reading to Bylaw 1375/16.
Administrative Recommendation	Administration recommends that the Burning Bylaw, Bylaw 1375/16 receive first reading as presented.
Previous Council Direction	Motion 398/13 – September 10, 2013: That County Council provides third reading for amendments to Bylaw 1309/13 – Amendment to Burning Bylaw Burning Bylaw 1272/13. Motion 337/12 – October 9, 2012: That County Council gives third reading to Bylaw 1272/12.
Report	<u>Background Information</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Since the last amendments Protective Service staff has applied the burning bylaw with success through issuing of permits, enforcement of permit conditions as well as implementation of fire restrictions and fire bans.• Permit season is currently between April 1 and October 31 annually.• Enforcement and safety concerns continue to arise during the months of November through to the end of March. These concerns have been heightened over the past couple of years due to the lack of moisture and ongoing high winds throughout our area.• Not having year-round permitting makes it almost impossible to track where burning is occurring. It also makes enforcement of burning rules and prohibitions very difficult as most rules are tied to an issued permit and the conditions therein.• There have also been concerns brought forth by the general public and Council regarding burning such as open fires on municipal lands or those lands designated as natural areas.• Council received a presentation on June 28, 2016, at the Committee of the Whole meeting. Protective Services Staff went through the proposed amendments. Council was advised the changes being proposed are meant to enhance safe practices, allow for additional monitoring and knowledge of burning occurring within the County year around. Further amendments being suggested will also afford staff the opportunity to enhance fire prevention initiatives with the goal of preventing wild fire and grass fires held over from winter burns.

- Council provided feedback and staff noted a few items which are reflected within the proposed amendments being presented:

Sections

- 2.1 ii, changed 900 to 1,200 millimetres;
- 2.1 k, added /burn barrel;
- 3.1 changed colour of “nil fee” to plain black
- 3.5, changed word “burn” to “fire” permit;
- 5.4 added as per comments received from Council;
- Schedule A – updated Section number to proper numbers; and
- Added note to Schedule “A” addressing subsequent offences.

- The proposed bylaw has been reviewed in conjunction with Legislative Services and RMRF legal counsel.

External Communication

- If first reading is approved, a communication plan developed in conjunction with the Communications Department will be executed to achieve public education and to advise stakeholders of the changes.
- Once comments are collected and considered, additional amendments, changes may be brought forth.
- Second and third readings are currently scheduled to be brought to Council on October 11, 2016. If the Bylaw and its proposed amendments are passed public notice of the new bylaw and new requirements for residents will be communicated with the assistance of the Communications Department through local newspapers, website, Twitter and as well by Protective Services staff.

Relevant Policy/Legislation/Practices:

- *Municipal Government Act* RSA 2000 c.M-26
- *Forest and Prairie Protection Act* RSA 2000 c.F-19

Implication of Administrative Recommendation

Strategic Alignment:




Strong Local Governance and Regional Leadership – The update of the Burning Bylaw is consistent with legislation, master plans, policies and procedures. Bylaw reviews and updates are a normal process in municipal governance.

Organizational:

Having up-to-date and current bylaws ensures duties and responsibilities of staff are being conducted properly and all legislative requirements are being met. Protective Services Staff, mainly administrative staff, fire guardians, will see what is deemed a manageable increase in the issuing of fire permits.

Financial:

Low impact. There will be some advertising costs in relation to the bylaw’s implementation. Enforcement and related fire prevention initiatives will be

	absorbed into regular duties.
Alternatives Considered	Council could decide not to accept and not provide first reading to this bylaw. Should this be the decision enforcement of the current burning bylaw will continue and permit season will remain in effect from April 1 – October 31 annually.
Implications of Alternatives	<p><u>Strategic Alignment:</u></p> <p>Strong Local Governance and Regional Leadership –Not updating the Burning Bylaw may be inconsistent Council’s desire to review and update bylaws, master plans, policies and procedures. Bylaw reviews and updates are a normal process in municipal governance.</p> <p><u>Organizational:</u></p> <p>Since 2010 various burning bylaw amendments have been made allowing Protective Services to take a stronger stance on unpermitted burning and failure to follow conditions of burn permits, not only through education but also enforcement. Failure to accept and approve the proposed amendments may indicate that Council has changed its view and resolve regarding burning, permitting within the County.</p> <p><u>Financial:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil
Follow up Action	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communications department will promote a public education campaign using the communications tool box. (i.e. Local newspaper, website, social media and road signage) to inform stakeholders of the changes to the bylaw. (Communications September 2016) 2. Compile related documentation for second and third readings for October 11, 2016, Council Meeting. (Protective Services, September 29)
Attachment(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Black-lined Bylaw 1375/16 2. Bylaw 1375/16 3. Bylaws 1309/13 and 1272/12
Report Reviewed by:	 P. Mahoney, Fire Chief/Manager of Protective Services  Ian McKay, P. Eng. GM Municipal Services  Peter Tarnawsky, County Commissioner – CAO

Strategic Alignment Checklist

Vision: Sturgeon County: a diverse, active community that pioneers opportunities and promotes initiative while embracing rural lifestyles.

Mission: Provide quality, cost effective services and infrastructure to meet the diverse needs of the Sturgeon County community, while improving competitiveness and sustainability.

Focus Areas	Not consistent	N/A	Consistent
Strong Local Governance and Regional Leadership			
<i>We promote consistent and accountable leadership through collaborative and transparent processes (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Consistent with neighborhood role (see MDP), master plans,, policies</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Considers fiscal stability and sustainability</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Has a positive impact on regional and sub-regional cooperation</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Respect the Natural Environment			
<i>We acknowledge the importance of a healthy environment and will minimize and monitor our impact on ecosystems (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Compliance with Provincial and Federal regulations and/or legislation</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ensure effective environmental risk management</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Identity & Spirit			
<i>We will build upon our strengths, where together we will create an inclusive, caring community (Strategic Plan, (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Promotes and/or enhances residents' identification with Sturgeon County</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Enhances service provision through community partnerships</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Supports Sturgeon County's cultural history</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Planned Growth and Prosperity			
<i>We encourage varied and integrated enterprises that enhance our strong economic base, while balancing the needs of the community and natural environment. (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Does the proposal align with the Integrated Regional Growth Strategy (map/policies) pg. 26 MDP</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Considers cumulative costs and long-term funding implications</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Targets growth around current or planned infrastructure</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maintain and Enhance Strong Communities			
<i>We are committed to a safe, secure community, where our residents are respected and provided with access to opportunities. (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Positive impact on residents' quality of life</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Supports and promotes volunteer efforts</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provides programs and services that are accessible to all residents</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Operational Excellence			
<i>We have the organizational capability to deliver consistent and defined levels of service to all stakeholders in a professional, efficient, and cost effective manner</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Staff have the knowledge, skills and capability to perform their jobs</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Streamlines operational processes and policies</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Promotes engagement and professional interaction with stakeholders</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Considers a cost-structure which allows Sturgeon County to remain competitive within a regional, national and global context</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>