

## SPID Yard Waste Questionnaire Responses

Total responses: 48

1. Have you experienced an issue with yard waste burning and resulting smoke in your neighborhood?

Yes	No	Nil response
33	13	2

If yes, have you spoken to your neighbours about the issue?

Yes	No	Nil response
16	14	4

2. How do you dispose of your yard waste?

Garbage pickup	Landfill	Chipped/composted	Burning
13	25	25	28

If burning, how often do you burn in a year?

1-2 times	3-4 times	More than 4 times
13	10	5

Do you check the burning index? [Note: the questionnaire layout was slight askew so there may be a degree of error on these responses, however they were more for education.]

Yes	No	Nil response
13	9	1

Do you use a blower to increase flame and make the fire hotter?

Yes	No
11	13

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### 3. Would you use a cost effective chipping option?

Yes	No	Maybe	Nil response
34	6	4	4

#### Comments:

Frequency and cost of chipping option are important (2 comments)

When purchasing a home in any neighbourhood you need to check out the customs of THAT neighbourhood before you buy and then try to change it!

I do not favour more burning restrictions but would favour more education about when and how to burn.

I would love to see a chipping option.

Thanks for initiating this. Much appreciated

Cost effective chipping or landfill options would be ideal but if residents were to take account of prevailing winds burning would not necessarily be a major issue.

I want to be able to burn. Please do not stop.

It is unfortunate there is a charge to dispose of branches. All organic matter should be accepted free of charge to discourage illegal dumping.

Had not heard of ventilation index before.

We don't want to lose our right to campfire evenings in our yard.

This info (venting index and use of blower) is new to us. Will use it now we know. Good to know. Perhaps a mailout would be useful for others who are also uninformed.

We have burned debris in the past but it takes quite long and causes certain amount of smoke drift. We have found it so much easier to load up and take debris to Cumberland (on a day we need to go into Courtenay). And the disposal fees at Cumberland are quite reasonable.

Good idea posting venting index. Do not want to lose opportunity to burn.

Thanks for asking - I really love my rural backyard burning - my hope is education and common sense can address any issues. I am 100% against any burning ban.

Burning is an important component of life on Ships Point. It is a forested community and burning in spring and fall keeps people from dumping yard waste in the woods and prevents an accumulation of branches creating unsightly fire hazards.

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Increasing and ongoing education about venting indices and simple blower systems (leaf blowers/shop vac would be of use. The Fanny Bay flyer would be an excellent place to do this as well as the SPID website.

Community forums online are sometimes divisive, allowing people to rant without engaging in constructive dialogue with the neighbors. This weakens the community.

Chipping facilities at a reasonable rate would be of interest. Cost is an issue for many residents.

On our property we have several wood burning devices so most of the wood and branches are cut up for fuel and dried for a year or more. Leaves and small branches are put in our shredder and used as mulch compost. When we have a big job, such as tree removal, we will save the big pieces and have the contractor mulch up the branches.

Onsite burning is a valuable asset for property owners

Winter 2016 especially bad for tree branches and damage. I have been waiting for weeks for Courtenay contractor to come to my home and chip considerable pile of branches. Still not shown up. I want and need resulting chips. Our local chipper/pruning contractor doesn't return calls!!

Burning should be totally banned. There is no good reason to have to pollute the air.

Have talked to burners but they refuse to stop.

Hadn't heard of venting index. Useful information.

Tried blower to heat up fire but it did not work well.

Chipper would be awesome

I am new to community. Would like alternative to burning.

I think everyone in the community should fill out this form. It should be mandatory. The people who don't attend these meetings (AGM) are usually the ones who don't care and are the ones who do not burn responsibly.

In other communities there is a yard waste pick-up once a month. No burning is ever allowed. The resident must tie branches in 3' bundles and place at curbside.

Burning permits should be charged a few dollars and only one permit per day. If a permit is issued the issuing officer should supervise the burning site and also check the venting table (which should be posted at all times). Strict fines should be enforced for offender.

It is part of the Canadian constitution that every citizen is entitled to fresh air.

Ships Point has a bad reputation for burning. I have considered moving. People burn wet wood on the beach and the smoke rises into residences from below. Sometimes smoulders all day. Impossible to hang clothes to dry or open windows. ☹

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I believe fresh clean air is the number 1 priority. Most cities now ban yard waste burning as it is in Canada's constitution to everyone being entitled to fresh air. The city where we previously lived put out a time table as to when they would pick up yard waste. Leaves and mulch etc would go in brown paper bags, branches to be tied in bundles. This worked very well, it took a little work a few times a year but our properties looked good and there was no smoke. Wouldn't it be neat if we could get something like the above organized for here? The best place in the world!

The smoke seems like items other than leaves/branches etc.

I have breathing problems when there is smoke in the air from neighbouring properties. I can't sit outside or dry my laundry, have to close my windows. We moved to this community to enjoy fresh air but have to leave the burning area and go elsewhere to be able to breathe freely. It's well known that open burning releases carcinogenic substances that affect one's lungs and heart. If individuals were encouraged to consider what effects their actions have on themselves and others, maybe they would think twice before lighting those wood piles. We'd be very happy to pay for a pick-up or chipping service. Or perhaps the expense could be put into the local taxes. Please apply proactive and progressive thinking to this problem and make this lovely Ships Point place a clean air region. Thank you!

I would like to see a commercial/municipal pick-up service for garden/yard waste. The frequent burning of yard waste makes it difficult to enjoy time outdoors, as breathing becomes unpleasant, even difficult, and it affects my eyes.

I would prefer there to be no burning as it affects my asthma, but if it continues to be allowed, more education is needed for safer burning. I've seen people pour gasoline to light piles that they burn right next to the beach, burn construction/demolition debris (with old paint and who knows what other chemicals that are released), and leave fires burning unattended overnight (sometimes still with flames the next morning, not just smouldering). This is really disturbing.

Prefer not to have an extra expense.