

April 25, 2012

Air quality check-up: City of Campbell River panel presentation offers chance to win

Have you ever been hot and bothered about wood smoke in Campbell River? Wondered what rules apply and how it could affect your health if someone nearby is burning garbage in a woodstove? Or how Campbell River's air quality stacks up against other communities in the province?

Join the City of Campbell River's panel of experts for a discussion on air quality and wood smoke pollution in Campbell River. Speakers include:

Charmaine Enns—Medical Health Officer, North Island

Earle Plain—Air Quality Meteorologist, Ministry of Environment

Seth Hildebrand—Fire Inspector, City of Campbell River

Wood stove retailers, real estate agents and insurance company representatives are encouraged to attend to provide their perspective and learn more about this important neighbourhood concern.

The evening will also include a review of air quality monitoring results from neighbourhood testing throughout Campbell River. As part of the Provincial Woodstove Exchange Program, the City had a mobile nephelometer on loan from the University of Victoria's Spatial Sciences Laboratory over the winters of 2010 and 2011.

"While our overall air quality is generally good, wood smoke pollution in some neighbourhoods spiked above the provincial ambient air quality objective for fine particulate matter. The woodstove exchange program is just one example of the City's ongoing efforts to improve air quality," says Councillor Larry Samson.

Fine particulate matter is a concern because these particles are easily inhaled deep into the lungs where they can lead to respiratory problems.

"If there is visible smoke coming out of a chimney, then fine particulate matter is being released," says Ron Neufeld, the City's general manager of operations. *"From an outdoor air quality perspective, these fine particles and ground level ozone pose the greatest risk to human health."*

This winter marks the third year the City of Campbell River has participated in the provincial woodstove exchange program with the help of local participating retailers. More than 100 old smokey woodstoves have been exchanged for certified, clean burning appliances.

When: May 3, 2012 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Location: Thulin Room, Maritime Heritage Centre

Cost: FREE

And a chance to win door prizes and draws just for showing up!

Pre-register with Amanda Taylor at the City of Campbell River at 250-286-5721 or via email:

amanda.taylor@campbellriver.ca

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Contact: Terri Martin, Environment Coordinator

250-286-5711