

'Smoking' and Special Events in Chatham-Kent

The "Smoke-Free Chatham-Kent" By-law 137-2014, was introduced on September 1, 2014 to "regulate smoking of tobacco or tobacco-like products on lands within the Municipality of Chatham-Kent.."

The by-law specifically addresses smoking in public parks, sporting fields, Municipal properties and beaches. A detailed version of the By-Law can be found here:

www.ckpublichealth.com/smokefree-Chatham-Kent

Outdoor festivals and events, that take place on Municipality of Chatham-Kent properties are now smoke-free

Events that do not take place on Municipal property are not subject to the By-law; however, Chatham-Kent Public Health wants to encourage event organizers of outdoor festivals and events to adopt a smoke-free approach. By making your event smoke-free, it will help to create a healthier environment that is cleaner, safer and accessible to children, adults and families.

"Designated Smoking Areas"

Should organizers of outdoor events wish to create a "Designated Smoking Area" at their special event they need to indicate this on their application when applying for a "Municipality of Chatham-Kent Special Event Permit". Chatham-Kent Public Health Unit staff will follow up with organizers in terms of what is required. This may include the following:

- event signage
- cigarette butt receptacles
- location relative to other event attractions
- how to handle smoking in "non-designated" areas of the event

Duties of Event Organizers of Outdoor Festivals and Events

All holders of special event permits are required to comply with any and all applicable laws including the "Smoke-Free Chatham-Kent" By-law #137-2014. Permit holders should discourage smoking at the event in "non-designated areas" and ensure sufficient and visible no-smoking signage is posted. Some signage is available to event organizers and can be obtained by request through the special events application process.

Enforcement

Municipality of Chatham-Kent by-law enforcement officers and Tobacco Enforcement Officer may enter any public place to ensure compliance with the by-law.

Smoke-Free Event Tips:

- Ensure that your employees and volunteers are educated about the smoke-free regulations.
- Make it clear to the public that your outdoor festival or event is smoke-free through all your event advertising
- Post no-smoking signage in high traffic locations to increase awareness of the regulations.
- Teach employees and volunteers on how to intervene appropriately if someone is smoking at the event. They should know how to inform the person of the regulations and politely ask them to stop or to leave the property to smoke.
- Contact Chatham-Kent Public Health Unit at 519-352-7270 or at ckhealth@chatham-kent.ca for more information