



The TOWNSHIP of
NORTH DUMFRIES

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NEIGHBOURHOOD BYLAW GUIDE

A guide to the most asked about
Township of North Dumfries' Bylaws





NEIGHBOURHOOD BYLAW GUIDE

A guide to the most asked about Township of North Dumfries Bylaws

This guide is a summary of some of the by-laws most frequently raised with the Township, and is for general information purposes only. It is meant to promote awareness of your rights and responsibilities as a neighbourhood resident.

Please note that this guide is not a legal document, nor does it provide complete coverage of all municipal by-laws. This handbook gives a general overview of some of the by-laws that may affect you.

More information on by-laws and other Township information can be viewed online at www.northdumfries.ca or by contacting the Township Municipal Offices at 519-632-8800.



Keep our Township beautiful & safe...

YOUR HOME & PROPERTY

The Township has in place bylaws that apply to areas in and around your home that affect you and your neighbours.

These bylaws were developed to help ensure properties are maintained to a minimum standard to support safe and thriving neighbourhoods.

By maintaining your home and property, you are playing an active leadership role in creating great neighbourhoods and fostering a stronger sense of community and belonging.

- Property Maintenance
 - The Township has municipal by-laws that set standards for maintenance and occupancy that apply to all local properties. Bylaws highlighted in this guide are a few of the most common.
- Zoning and building
 - Prior to starting a new project, you must first determine whether you require a building permit and if your project meets zoning and heritage requirements.





Keep our township beautiful & safe...

FENCES

Fences can help to keep pets and children inside your property and give your back yard some privacy. They can also add visual appeal to your yard. But, if not installed properly, they may cause unsafe conditions such as blocking pedestrian and vehicular traffic views.

The type of property and location of the fence dictate the maximum heights and are outlined below. No person shall erect or permit to be erected;

- a Fence on Township owned land;
- a Fence that exceeds 1.83 metres (6 feet) in Height in a Side Yard or Rear Yard on any Lot classified as a Residential Zone;

- a Fence that exceeds 2.44 metres (8 feet) in Height in a Side Yard or Rear Yard on any Lot designed as an Agricultural Zone or Other Zone;
- a Fence that exceeds 0.75 metres (2 feet, 5 inches) in Height in a Front Yard on any Lot;
- a Fence that exceeds 0.75 metres (2 feet, 5 inches) in Height within 1.5 metres (5 feet) of an Exterior Side Lot Line;
- a Fence that exceeds 0.75 metres (2 feet, 5 inches) in Height in a Driveway Daylight Triangle or in a Corner Daylight Triangle;
- a Fence within 1.0 metre (3 feet 3 inches) of any fire hydrant.





Enjoy your “staycation”...

SWIMMING POOLS

When used safely, swimming pools are a great way to entertain during the summer with friends and family. There are several requirements to follow when installing a pool.

- In North Dumfries, all pools that are capable of holding 30 inches (76.2 cm) of water require a permit prior to installation.
- The new pool may not be filled until an inspection has been done and it has complied with all of the requirements of the Fence By-law.
- Swimming pools must be fenced and be a minimum of 5 feet (152.4 cm) in height.
- Gates must be equipped with a locking device and remain locked when un-attended.
- All fences and gates must be non-climbable.
- The maximum clearance between the bottom of the fence/gate and grade shall be 4 inches (10 cm).
- The maximum size of chain link fencing shall be 1.5 inches (3.8 cm).
- For more information please review the Fence By-law on the Township Website (www.northdumfries.ca) or contact the Building Division at 519-632-8800.





Be A Good Neighbour...

DECKS

A deck is considered an extension of the home for many, and can provide a great space to enjoy the outdoors and spend time with friends, family and neighbours.

A Deck is permitted in any property zoned Residential or Agriculture where a residential building exists. The Deck may be attached to a residential building or detached from the residential building.

- If building a deck that has a surface height greater than 0.6 metres (two feet) above grade at any point or is attached to a building, a building permit is required.

- When building a deck that is under 0.6 metres (two feet) in height and not attached to an existing building or structure, a building permit is not required.
- Compliance with the Township's zoning by-law is required regardless of the permit requirements.
- Contact the Building Division to confirm property line setbacks
- If building a structure on top of the deck, the Building Division should be contacted first.

To learn more about building a deck or obtaining a permit, please contact the Building Division:

- 519-632-8800
- building@northdumfries.ca





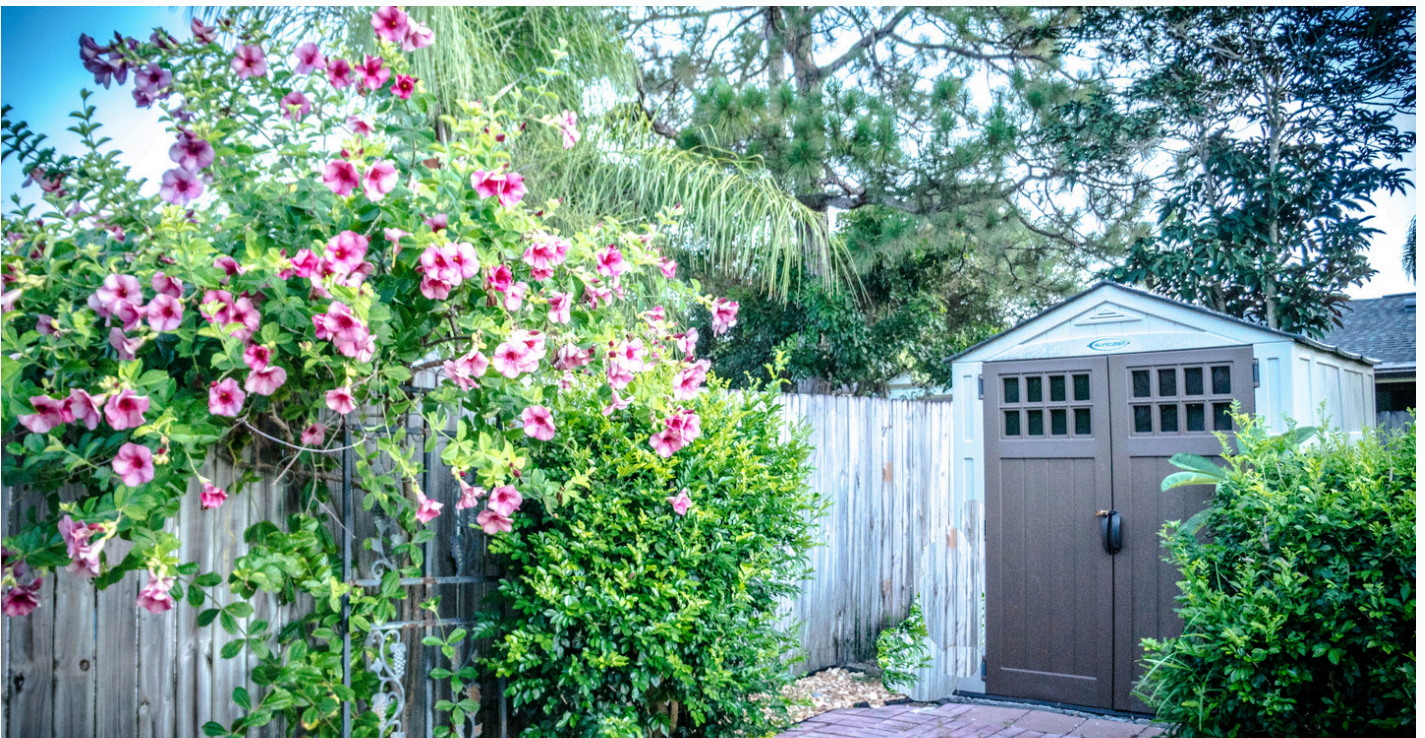
Be A Good Neighbour...

SHEDS/ACCESSORY BUILDINGS

Sheds are a great addition to your property to allow for extra storage space for your equipment or other household belongings.

There are several requirements when building a shed or accessory building.

- Storage sheds under 15 square metres (161.5 sq. ft.) do not require a building permit.
- Accessory structures over 10 square metres (108 sq. ft.) or any sized structure that contains plumbing requires a building permit.
- All sheds/accessory buildings require a setback from property lines.
- All sheds/accessory buildings count towards maximum lot coverage which varies from zone to zone.
- There are maximum heights for all sheds/accessory buildings according to each zone.
- For more information please contact the Building Department at 519-632-8800 or e-mail at building@northdumfries.ca





Be Fire Safe...

FIRE PITS

Recreational fires can be a fun way of gathering with friends, family and neighbours. Although they are permitted in North Dumfries, there are a few simple rules to follow to ensure everyone's safety.

- Only burn clean, dry firewood. Things like yard waste, painted or treated wood and plastic are prohibited.
- Burning may occur between the hours of 8:00am and midnight.
- The fire must be supervised at all times and fully extinguished if vacated.
- There must be a means to extinguish the fire close by at all times.
- Fires may not be any larger than 1 metre(3feet) in any direction and the flames may not be higher than 1 metre(3 feet).
- The fire pit/appliance must be a minimum of 5 metres from property lines, the house, all accessory buildings trees and vegetation at all times.
- No person shall allow the fire to become a nuisance to neighbours. (i.e.. excessive smoke)
- The fire Chief may call a ban at any time. Burning shall not occur on smoggy or high wind days.





Be A Good Neighbour...

FIREWORKS

Fireworks are considered by many to be a great way to celebrate the holidays, and by carefully following a few guidelines, they can be enjoyed safely without causing a significant disturbance to neighbours.

- In North Dumfries, family fireworks are only permitted without a permit the day before, day of and day after Victoria Day and Canada Day.
- Any fireworks display is to be finished by no later than 10:15 PM.
- Residents can set off fireworks on private property, but they are not permitted on public property (such as roads and parks).
- Areas containing dead undergrowth or dry grass are to be avoided due to their likelihood of sparking.
- Firecrackers are not permitted in the Township of North Dumfries.
- The Canadian National Fireworks Association has safety tips for individual fireworks use.
- For fireworks displays, other than Victoria Day and Canada Day, a Permit can be obtained through the Fire Department :
 - mail@northdumfries.ca
 - (519) 632-8800
- For more information please visit the Fireworks By law on the Township Website



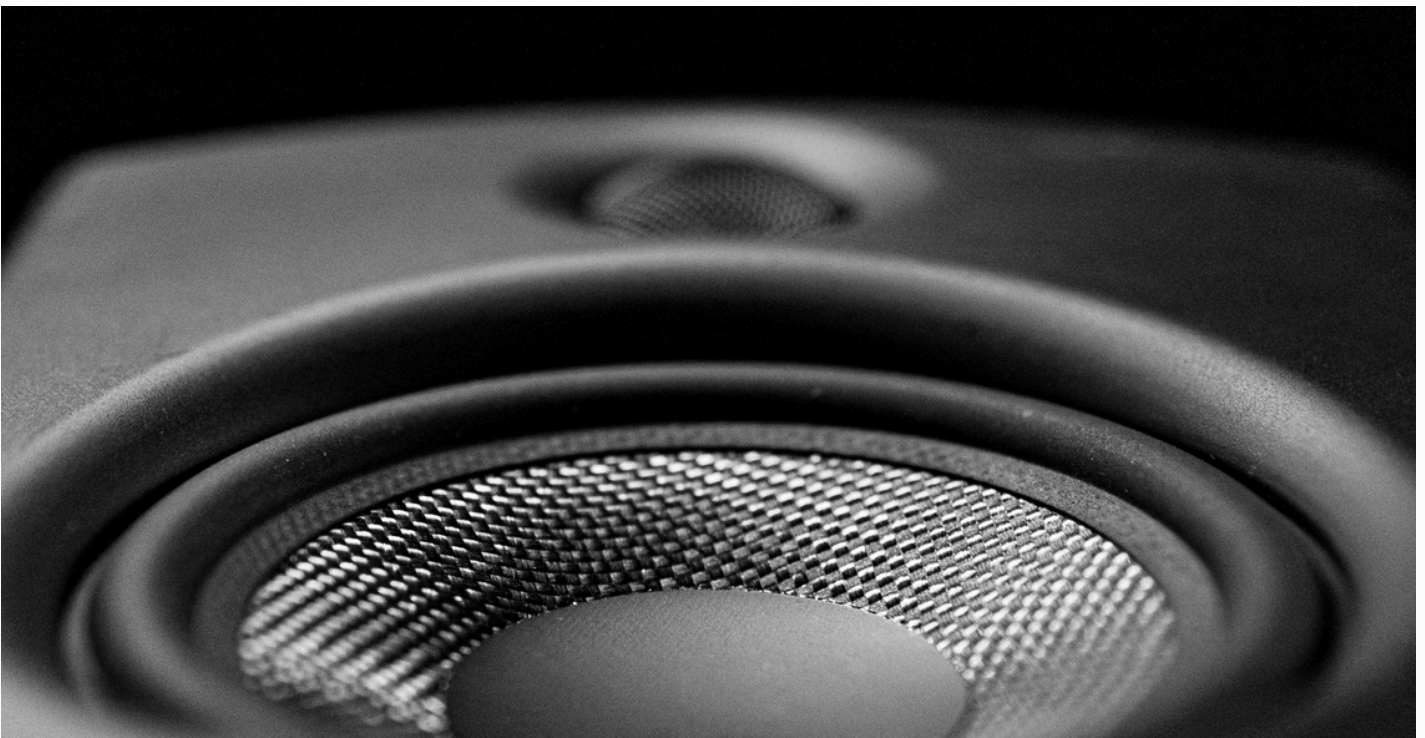


Be A Respectful Neighbour...

NOISE

Limiting excessive noise and being considerate of others will help to build positive relationships with your neighbours.

- Excessive noise that is likely to disturb anyone, at any time of the day, is not permitted in the Township of North Dumfries. This includes but is not limited to: yelling, loud music or amplified sounds, radio, television, or any unusual noise.
- There are some exceptions to this bylaw, such as construction noise which is permitted Monday to Saturday from 7am to 7pm.
- For noise from Aggregate Pits, please contact the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry at 1-800-387-7011 or email NRISC@ontario.ca.
- Exemptions to the Noise By-law may be considered by Council.
- For all other noise complaints or to inquire about the noise exemption process, please contact the By-law department at 519-632-8800 or bylaw@northdumfries.ca and the next available officer will respond to your inquiry.





Keep Your Neighbourhood Clean...

CLEAN YARDS

Maintaining a clean yard is an integral part of keeping North Dumfries beautiful and enjoyable for everyone.

- Help keep your property tidy and North Dumfries looking great by removing all waste material, litter, domestic waste, appliances, furniture, discarded and unlicensed vehicles, tires, brick, unused material, etc. from the outside of your property.
- Outdoor storage of building materials is not permitted unless there is active construction on the property.
- If you are looking for outdoor storage options, contact your local hardware store for storage solutions.
- There are also several off site private storage facilities within the Township.





Be A Good Neighbour...

GRASS & WEEDS

Keeping your property neat and tidy will help improve your neighbourhood's appearance, making the area more welcoming and showing pride of ownership.

- In North Dumfries, all lawn areas shall be maintained at a maximum of 20cm (8 inches).
- Keeping your lawn healthy is the best way to prevent weeds. Regular fertilization, aeration, top dressing and over-seeding are great ways to maintaining a healthy lawn.

Naturalized areas are permitted in North Dumfries provided that they are:

- maintained at a maximum height of 0.9 metres (3feet) and are not located in a daylighting triangle of an intersecting road or driveway daylight triangles.
- free from noxious weeds as defined in the Weed Control Act
- For more information please visit the Clean Yards By law on the Township Website (www.northdumfries.ca)





Keep sightlines clear...

HEDGES & TREES

Hedges and trees can add curb appeal to your home and make your property look great. There are a few things to be aware of when considering planting and maintaining so to avoid dangers to traffic and pedestrians.

- Hedges need to remain at 0.9m (3 feet) within driveway and corner daylight triangles and clear from overhanging the sidewalk.
- Tree branches should not impede the sidewalk or visibility for drivers.
- No one shall plant a tree on a roadside boulevard without the permission of the Township.
- Most trees on boulevards are property of the Township and residents are not permitted to trim or remove them.





Keep our Township beautiful...

HOUSEHOLD WASTE

Ensuring household garbage containers are kept neat and tidy improves the appearance of our neighbourhoods.

- The Region of Waterloo's waste management bylaw requires that garbage, recycling and green bins be set out for pickup after 7:00 PM, the night before your scheduled pick up date.
- Any garbage that is not picked up, as well as all garbage, recycling and compost containers, must be returned to your property by 7:00 PM on collection day.

- Although garbage containers are not required to have lids when placed at the curb, garbage containers must have lids when stored on the property.

For more information about the Region of Waterloo's waste management program, please visit the Region's webpage dedicated to Waste Management :

- <https://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/waste-management.aspx>





Keep traffic flowing...

PARKING

Parking on Township roads is a privilege and no resident owns the roadway in front of their house. In order to keep traffic flowing and street maintained, there are some parking rules you need to be aware of.

- There is no overnight parking permitted from Dec. 1 to March 31 from 2:30am to 6:00 am on all Township roads.
- Exemptions can be granted for overnight parking but you need to call in at least 24 hours in advance. To view the exemptions, please refer to the <https://www.northdumfries.ca/en/township-services/parking-restrictions.aspx>
- A snow event/emergency cancels all exemptions and vehicles must park off the road.
- There is a 3 hour limit on Township roads at all other times. This is enforced on a complaint basis.
- Parking is also prohibited;
 - on or overhanging the sidewalk
 - within 3m of a fire hydrant
 - within 9m of an intersection
 - obstructing traffic
 - on the grass area of a property
 - where signs are posted identifying no parking, no stopping or time limits
 - in a school zone where no stopping signs are posted
 - vehicles over 4.6 metric tonnes on any street





Be A Good Owner...

PETS

All dog's must be licensed in the Township of North Dumfries. They are available for purchase at the Township Municipal Offices, Ayr Animal Hospital or on-line. All license applications must show proof of current rabies vaccination.

- Pet owners must clean up all feces left by their pets and not allow it to accumulate in their yard.
- Dogs are not permitted to be at large.
- When off of an owner's property, dogs must remain leashed on a maximum 6 foot leash.

- There are two leash free areas at the NDCC, 2958 Greenfield Rd, Ayr
- Exotic animals are regulated by By-law 3281-21. This allows a limited number of exotic pets to be kept in residential areas but with regulations. To review a list of exotic pets, check the [Exotic Animals By-law](#) or search for Exotic Animals at www.northdumfries.ca
- No poisonous, venomous or endangered animals may be kept within Township limits.





Farming in North Dumfries...

LIVESTOCK

Livestock, in North Dumfries, are regulated by the Exotic Animal By-law, 3281-21. Only properties that are zoned as Agricultural (Z1) and exceed a lot area of 4 hectares (9.88 acres) may be used for commercial livestock husbandry purposes.

This includes but is not limited to;

- Cattle
- Horses
- Chickens
- Sheep
- Goats
- Ducks
- Swans
- Pigs

Domestic animals such as dogs, cats, rabbits, gerbils, hamsters are permitted in residential areas.

Some facilities and licensed people are permitted to keep other kinds of animals in special circumstances.

People who have a registered service animals are also permitted in all zones to be used to assist in day to day living needs.

For further regulations regarding the keeping of livestock, please contact OMAFRA at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ministry-agriculture-food-and-rural-affairs>





Enjoy some fresh air...

PUBLIC PARKS

Public parks in North Dumfries are great places for people to come together and enjoy the outdoors. There are many areas that are managed by the Township along with several others that the GRCA look after.

- The parks are open from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily
- This is your community. Respect each other.
- All dogs must be on a leash at all times.
- Pet waste must be removed from all areas immediately.

- No motorized vehicles permitted within the park.
- Respect the environment.
- Please do not litter. Garbage cans are provided.

For a full list of parks, trails and conservation areas throughout the Township, visit the North Dumfries website at www.northdumfries.ca or follow the link below.





Winter safety...

SNOW & ICE

Residents in Ayr are not required to shovel their sidewalks. The Township contracts snow removal from all Township owned sidewalks (over 30 kilometers).

Please be mindful, however when clearing your driveway to ensure that everyone remains safe.

- Do not shovel snow onto the roadway. This can cause a build up in areas and make it dangerous for the safe passage of vehicles and pedestrians.
- If a fire hydrant near your property is buried by drifts or snow banks please dig it out.

- We understand your frustration when you clear your driveway and then a snowplow comes by and leaves a pile of snow - a windrow. Unfortunately it is impossible to clear snow from the roads without leaving one.
- Please be patient. When plowing operations begin, the operators are following routes that have been designed to minimize duplication and maximize efficiency. The length of time to complete a route varies.





Be A Good Neighbour...

HOME-BASED BUSINESS

Working from home may be the ideal situation for some. When considering a home-based business, it's important to know what is or isn't permitted according to the zoning of your property.

Specific types of businesses are permitted in a residential zone as a home-based business.

For more information regarding your home-based business or how to get your permit, please call the Township Office at (519)632-8800 or email planning@northdumfries.ca.





Promote your business...

SIGNS

Signs are used to promote businesses, share information and help people find what they are looking for. If they are not managed in a consistent fashion, they can also be confusing, create clutter and diminish the visual appeal of the Township.

- All permanent and portable signs require a permit.
- Signs are not permitted on Township property. This includes the boulevard.

The following types of signs require a sign permit issued by Building Services:

- Billboard Sign
- Canopy Sign
- Fascia/Wall Mounted Sign
- Ground Sign
- Projecting Sign
- Pylon Sign
- Roof Sign
- Subdivision Sign





NEIGHBOURHOOD BYLAW GUIDE

OTHER CONTACTS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

ALL EMERGENCIES: 911

WATERLOO REGIONAL POLICE
NON-EMERGENCY
519-570-9777

FIRE DISPATCH
519-741-2582

REGION OF WATERLOO CORPORATE CONTACT CENTER
519-575-4400

KWSP HUMANE SOCIETY
519-745-5615

MNR TIPS LINE FOR CONSERVATION OFFICER
1-877-847-7667

GRANDBRIDGE ENERGY (HYDRO)
1-877-871-2215

ENBRIDGE GAS
1-877-362-7434

ONTARIO ONE CALL/CALL BEFORE YOU DIG
1-800-400-2255