

# SCOOP

## Rural Burn Permits and Volunteering with Recreation, Parks and Culture

DATE: February 2020



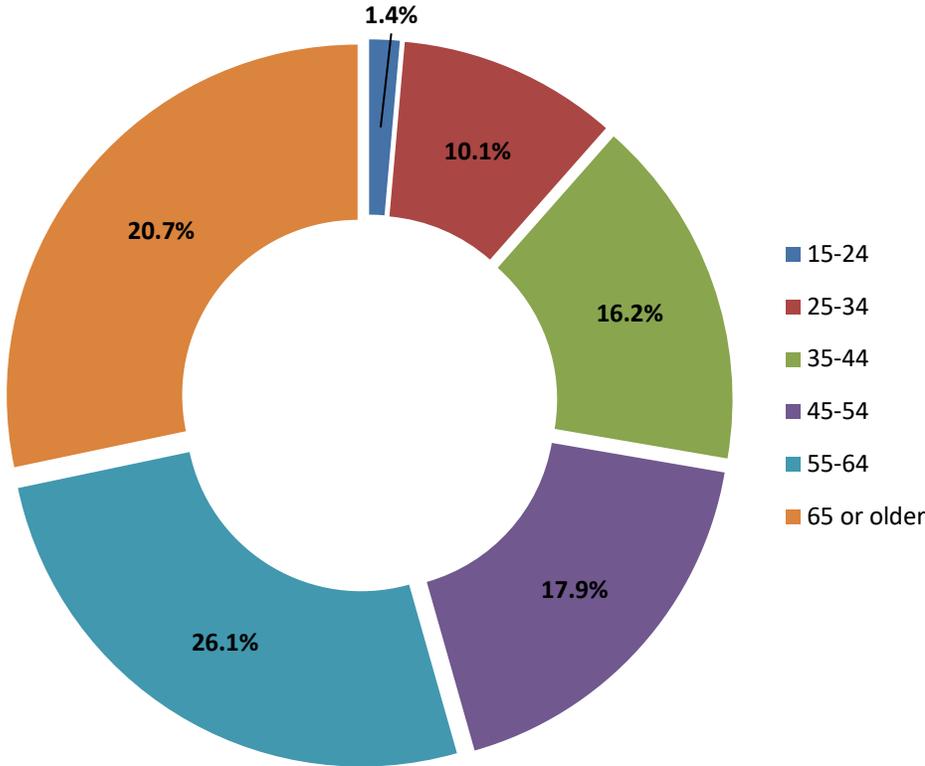
In February 2020, Strathcona County conducted a regular online survey as part of its Strathcona County Online Opinion Panel (SCOOP) initiative. This project consisted of different survey topics with a number of questions asked within each topic area. This survey was exclusive to residents who signed up to be part of SCOOP.

# Survey Highlights

The February mixed-topic survey consisted of questions on rural burn permits and volunteer opportunities with Recreation, Parks and Culture. There were 369 responses to the mixed-topic survey.

## WHO RESPONDED?

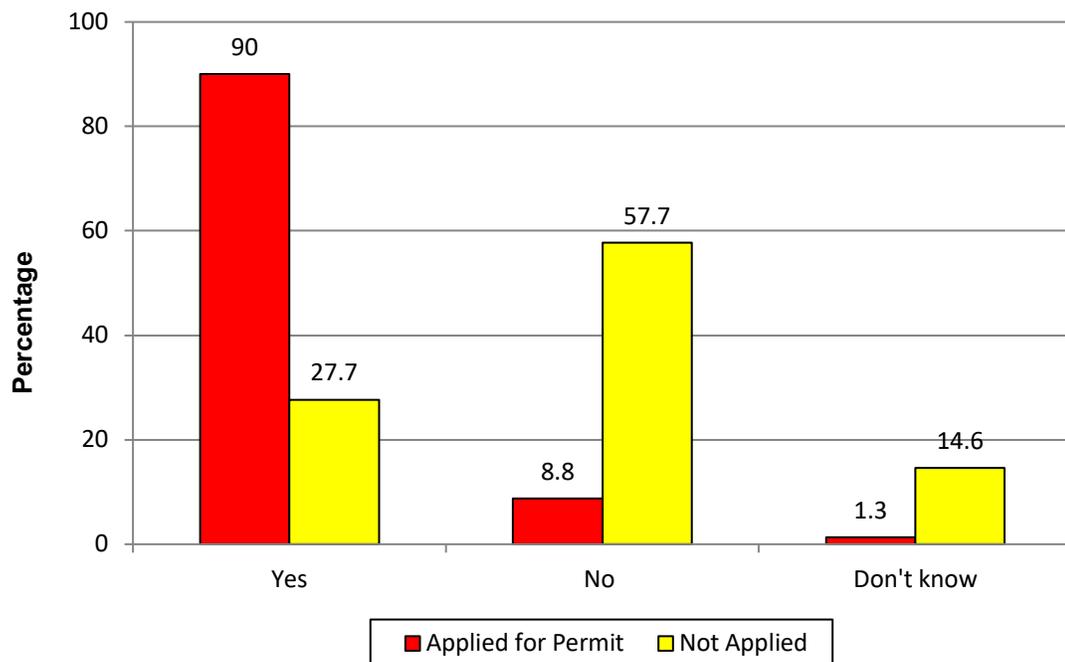
- 64.8% of the participants lived in Sherwood Park, 32% came from rural parts of Strathcona County, and the remaining 3.3% worked in Strathcona County but did not live there.
- The age group breakdown of the survey respondents is shown below.



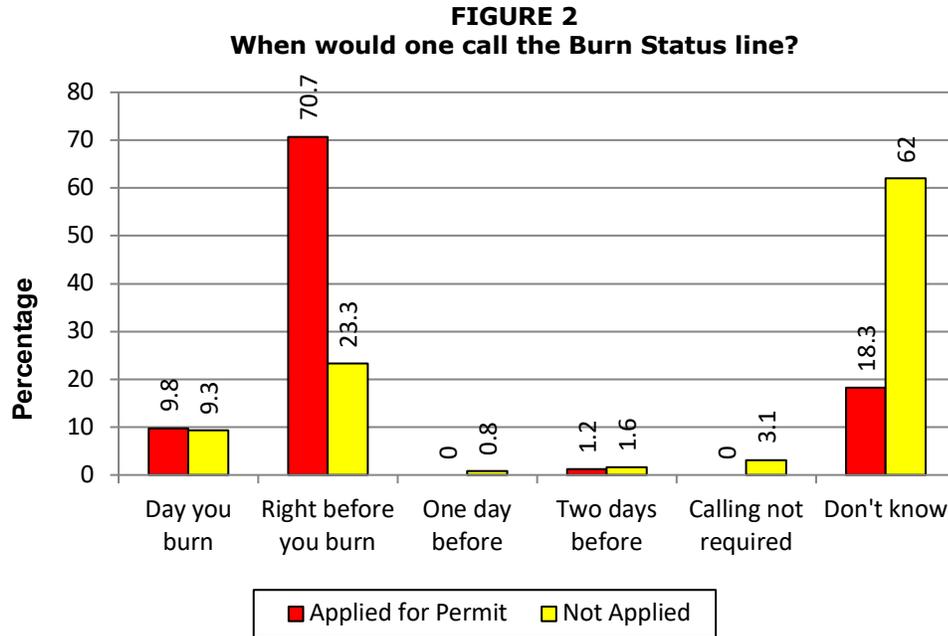
## Rural Burn Permits

- A series of questions were asked about rural burn permits. Overall, 37.1% had applied for a permit; of these people, 61.9% applied for the permit online, 32.1% did it in-person, while the remaining 6% couldn't remember how they applied for it
- Of the 62.9% people who had not applied for a permit, the majority did not require one, either because they did not have a firepit or because they lived in Sherwood Park. A small number of people had a firepit, but it had a screen around it, so they thought that would be sufficient. A small number of people didn't realize that a fire permit was necessary.
- All respondents, regardless of whether or not they had applied for a fire permit, were asked a series of questions pertaining to their knowledge of fire permits. With respect to when a permit expired, it can be seen in Figure 1 that those who had applied for a fire permit knew that it expired one year later compared to those who had not applied for a permit.

**FIGURE 1**  
**Knowledge of Fire Permit Expiry**



- All respondents were asked when one would call the Burn Status line before having a fire. The results are shown in Figure 2. Right before one burned was the most common answer among those who had applied for a permit, while among those who had not applied for a permit, most of these people did not know.



## Volunteering with Recreation, Parks and Culture

- 65.2% were aware that Recreation, Parks and Culture had opportunities for people to volunteer for events that they put on. With respect to knowing if the events required approximately 400 people volunteering each year, 29.5% were aware of this, while 70.5% were not.
- Everyone was asked whether volunteers were needed for specific events:
  - 92.7% knew volunteers were used for Canada Day events;
  - 87.1% knew volunteers were used for New Year’s Eve events; and
  - 66.1% knew volunteers were used for the Celebration of Lights event.
  - Everyone was asked whether volunteers were needed for specific events:
- 46.8% of the February mixed topic SCOOP respondents would consider volunteering with Recreation, Parks and Culture in the future.

## What’s Next?

The SCOOP Mixed Topic Surveys usually run monthly and cover a variety of topics. Our next Mixed Topic Survey will be online in March 2020.