

## FRCA Firewood Restrictions

In an effort to protect local forests from insect pests only firewood from the County of Huron will be permitted into Falls Reserve Conservation Area. Firewood from outside the County of Huron may not be brought into the park. Wood from regulated or quarantined areas is strictly prohibited from entering Falls Reserve. Ash species wood with the bark still on it will also be prohibited. Park staff may ask where your firewood has come from and may request that it is turned over for immediate disposal.

This initiative is being undertaken to reduce the risk to local forests from invasive tree pests such as the Emerald Ash Borer, Asian Long-Horned Beetle and Sirex Woodwasp. The movement of firewood poses an extreme threat to the health and sustainability of our forests by potentially bringing tree pests into our local area. Firewood can carry small but harmful hitchhikers hidden in the bark or wood. Dormant insects or eggs can be moved in firewood to areas that were previously not infested with these pests. The damage caused by invasive species can expand exponentially when they get rides from campers - even if the distance is only a few kilometres.

We strongly prefer that campers purchase their firewood from the park office instead of bringing firewood from other locations. The firewood for sale at FRCA is provided by a supplier that guarantees the wood is regulated under the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and is from non-contaminated sources.

Anyone found inside the park with firewood from an infected or regulated area will be required to dispose of the wood immediately and may be reported to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

“We recognize that this policy will cause some inconvenience to park users this year,” reports Jason Moir, FRCA Superintendent. “It’s a necessary step to help protect the health of our watershed forests. Staff at the Falls Reserve are working to inform visitors about the new policy and why it has been implemented.”

More information on forest pest concerns is available at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's website (<http://www.inspection.gc.ca>).

### How You Can Help

- **Do not** move or transport firewood from other counties.
- **Do buy** firewood from the campground you are visiting.