

BYLAW ENFORCEMENT

As part of our ongoing review of how we provide services and use our resources, we have also made some changes to bylaw enforcement. We have reduced the hours of our bylaw officer slightly, while Administration has taken on more responsibility for bylaw enforcement and compliance matters.

The change in hours has been minimal with a reduction of one hour per visit, and we are monitoring how that adjustment works in practice.

This is not something we are considering final. We are gauging whether the current approach is sufficient or whether further changes may be needed in the future. As with many of our services, we want to look at the actual need, the workload and results before making further decisions. We will continue to monitor the current bylaw enforcement model and make adjustments if needed to ensure we are using our resources responsibly while still providing effective enforcement and service to our residents.

Education is Part of Enforcement

One of the things we have learned through dealing with bylaw matters is that most bylaw issues are not the result of people intentionally trying to disregard the rules.

Often, it simply comes down to a lack of awareness or understanding of what the bylaw requires.

That is why education is such an important part of bylaw enforcement. In many cases, once people understand what is expected of them, they are usually quick to make the necessary corrections.

That is why our approach is to use education as the first step whenever appropriate – and is often the most effective step.

As you know, bylaws are in place to help maintain safety, order & the quality of life we all value. Our enforcement officer continues to respond to complaints the office receives & conducts regular patrols to ensure compliance during his contracted times with the Village. Enforcement isn't just about penalties – it's about maintaining standards & fairness for everyone. We all benefit when bylaws are respected & consistently applied.

We do rely on residents to report bylaw infractions. This is vital, as we can't monitor everything at all times. Your reports help us respond more effectively & keep our community safe, clean & respectful for everyone. If you notice a bylaw being violated, please report it directly to the office. Timely reporting helps enforcement respond effectively.

In addition to public reporting, our own staff & public works crew have been keeping a closer eye on community compliance. While out in the field, they're now actively observing & reporting any bylaw concerns they come across. This additional oversight has helped us address issues more proactively.

It's also important to know when to involve the RCMP. If you witness a crime in progress, dangerous driving, trespassing, vandalism or any situation that could pose an immediate risk to safety, call the RCMP. These types of things fall outside of municipal enforcement & as mentioned above we contract & pay for the RCMP's service – so don't hesitate to use that resource.

Ultimately, our goal isn't to catch people doing something wrong. Our goal is compliance. If we can educate someone, resolve an issue and have them understand the rules going forward, that is a successful outcome.