



# STAFF REPORT

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council

**From:** Brad Haines – By-law & Property Standards Enforcement Officer

**Meeting Date:** April 22, 2025

**Report Number:** 2025-064

**Subject:** By-law Enforcement Status Update – March 2025

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## Recommendation

**THAT** Council receives Report – By-Law Enforcement Status Update – March 2025, for information purposes.

## Executive Summary

### Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the current status of the By-law Enforcement Department, enforcement/prosecution activities, upcoming training, equipment use and upcoming / ongoing projects.

### Key Findings

This report will focus on:

- Parking Enforcement and Statistics
- South West Dufferin Police Board
- Recent Complaints & Inquiries
- Other By-law Enforcement related business
- Town of Grand Valley By-law Enforcement Policy and Procedure Manual

## **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications to this report.

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## **Report**

### **Background**

To provide Council with an update of the By-law and Property Standards Enforcement activities for the month of March 2025.

### **Discussion**

#### **Parking Enforcement**

By-law Enforcement has continued with proactive parking patrols, patrolling multiple times per shift, issuing parking infractions proactively, in addition to reactive patrols upon receiving any complaints from the public. Ongoing coordination with Public Works and other Town staff, has ensured prompt response to both proactive and reactive enforcement. By-law Enforcement has continued to receive parking inquiries and addressing them as received and providing public education when warranted. An ongoing effort of sporadic early morning / overnight parking has continued to help clear the roads for Public Works winter operations.

#### **Stats - Parking Enforcement –March 2025:**

- Total Infraction notices issued = 29 (0 by O.P.P, 20 by M.L.E.O B. Haines)
- Total Notices paid = 13
- Impending Conviction Notices sent = 14
- Sent for Conviction to POA-Caledon = 7
- Vehicles Towed = 0

#### **Recent Complaints and Inquiries**

By-law Enforcement received a complaint from a resident regarding off-leash dogs and trespassing on the vacant property behind Luther Road. In coordination with Thomasfield, new No Trespassing signs have been posted in the area, to provide clarity that the area is private property, as it appears many residents in Town believe it is public property. Additional signage and increased patrols by By-law Enforcement and Canine Control will assist in mitigating future complaints.

With the warmer weather upon us and spring clean ups getting underway, By-law Enforcement recently received a complaint regarding an accumulation of broken furniture and household

items placed at the end of a driveway. Section 4 of the Town of Grand Valley's Clean Yards By-law 2013-19 states:

*'4. Discarded Appliances and Curbside Collection - No Person shall place or cause or permit a discarded appliance, refuse, domestic waste or litter to remain on Private Property or on public Property for curbside collection for more than 24 hours prior to pick-up, and all appliances shall have the hinges and latches, or lid or doors of the unit removed or properly secured to prevent entry. Any appliance, refuse, domestic waste or litter not picked-up shall be removed within 24 hours of the scheduled pick-up time'.*

During By-law's investigation, the property owner initially tried to pass blame to the previous tenants and provide their contact information. The property owner was advised they are liable for the clean-up and any costs that would be associated with it, whether they completed the removal or the Town. An Order for clean-up was issued, the property owners did not comply with the Order and a removal company was hired by the Town to complete the clean-up to bring the property into compliance. The property owner has been provided with an invoice for clean-up expenses and if not paid within 15 days the expense will be added to the property's tax roll, in accordance with the Clean Yards By-Law.

#### **South West Dufferin Police Board**

With the recent appointment of the newest member of the South West Dufferin Police Service Board, Tom Stuckey accepted the position. A welcome package was sent, to ensure all the appropriate online training and background checks are completed in time for the upcoming May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting.

The By-Law governing the proceedings of the Board has been updated and is nearly completed. The Orangeville Detachment Board's By-Law was used as a template, while some minor adjustments were made to fit our Boards needs.

#### **Other By-law Enforcement Related business**

The Town Clerk and By-law Enforcement were asked to attend a virtual hearing with the Normal Farm Practices Protection Board regarding the Town's Canine Control By-law, alleging that the current by-law hinders their farming operation as it's written. Very similar to a court of law, both sides provided their evidence, their witnesses and were able to cross examine each other witnesses to help prove their stance on the situation. The current canine control by-law provides exemptions for livestock guardian dogs (LGD) for licensing fees and dogs at large as LGD often chase predators away from the livestock / property they are protecting. The complainant felt as if a Dangerous Dog Designation was an additional exemption that should be given, while the

stance of the Municipality was that public safety is a higher priority and the designations should remain as written. The municipality was advised upon completion of the hearing that a decision will be made and communicated with 90 days (by June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025) of the hearing.

### **Town of Grand Valley By-law Enforcement Policy and Procedure Manual**

At the March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025 council meeting, it was discussed among council members both the positives and negatives of having a complaint-based By-law Enforcement program. The policy was first introduced in 2021 and amended in in 2022, before the current By-law Enforcement Officer was on staff. Currently By-law Enforcement is only pro-actively looking for parking violations and violations that pose an immediate threat to public safety, while all other violations (such as property standards, clean yards, canine control, zoning etc) are all complaint based and must be sent to the town in writing.

Given the size of the current by-law enforcement department (one employee) the complaint-based program made sense. It also often helps avoid receiving frivolous complaints, as once some residents hear they must submit a written complaint, the complaint is no longer of importance to them.

As requested by Council, a copy of the By-law Enforcement Policy & Procedure Manual has been included as attachment 1 to this report.

### **Financial Impact**

There are no financial implications to this report.

### **Consultations**

None.

### **Attachments**

Attachment 1 - Town of Grand Valley By-law Enforcement Policy & Procedure Manual

### **This report was submitted by**

Brad Haines – By-law & Property Standards Enforcement Officer  
[bhaines@townofgrandvalley.ca](mailto:bhaines@townofgrandvalley.ca).

### **This report was approved by**

Meghan Townsend  
Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk  
519-928-5652 extension 222