

Mohawk/McMaster Proactive Program April 2011

Municipal Law Enforcement (MLE) in partnership with Public Works (PW) and Hamilton Police Services (HPS) continues to work on initiatives for our Proactive Program in your neighbourhood. Our goal is to ensure property owners and occupants are aware of the By-Laws so they can avoid unnecessary expenses such as tickets and Fee for Inspections costs associated with by-law violations. The following is a brief summary of the enforcement strategies for the April 2011 and includes information on Waste Management Services including disposal of bulk items.

Enforcement of By-laws

The April Proactive program will have both reactive and proactive enforcement of the following;

- Property Standards By-Law # 10-221 (MLE only)
- Sign By-Laws By-Law #10-197 (MLE only)
- Solid Waste Management #09-067 (MLE only)
- Yard Waste and Maintenance By-Law #10-118 (MLE and HPS for litter violations)
- Noise Violations # 03-020) (HPS and MLE)
- Public Nuisance By-Law #09-110 (HPS and MLE)
- Liquor License Act : Section 31(2) Open container or consumption of liquor in a public place (HPS only)

Courtesy Letter

A courtesy letter will be mailed to property owners or occupants of addresses in Wards 1 and 8 where violations were determined within the past year advising them of their responsibilities to comply with City of Hamilton By-Laws and consequences for By-law violations.

Noise Enforcement

Officers have been directed to take a **Zero Tolerance** approach to noise enforcement. The following measures will be taken;

- Ticket(s) issued to occupant(s) for first and second violations
- Fee for Inspection costs applied to property taxes for second and subsequent violations determined by a MLE Officer.
- Part III Summons (court appearance required) to occupant(s) and/or property owner(s) for 3rd violations

Progressive enforcement will continue based on the efforts from the September 2010 Proactive program. If there is a noise problem, contact Hamilton Police Services at 905 546-4925.

Hamilton Police Service

The Command Officers of Division 10 (Central) have again endorsed and are committed to a strict "ZERO TOLERANCE" policy in response to unruly

behaviour. Officers have been instructed to lay appropriate charges for all noise/litter violations, public nuisances, liquor, and criminal offence. Past experience has shown that during exam weeks in April calls for service escalate substantially. The key is consistency and presence during this time of the school year. An Operational Plan has been written and will be implemented during April 8 - April 30, 2011 in coordination with Municipal Law Enforcement. .

Solid Waste Management

Large bulk items can be taken to one of the Community Recycling Centres, open Monday to Saturday - 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at;

- 27 Olympic Drive in Dundas.
- 37 Kilbride Road on the Hamilton mountain.
- 460 Kenora Avenue in east Hamilton.

Bulk item pick up can also be arranged by calling (905) 546-CITY (2489) at least one week before your regular waste collection day for pick up between:

- July 18 - September 10, 2011
- December 5, 2011 - January 6, 2012
- January 23 - March 30, 2012

It is important to recycle, reduce garbage and ensure we are down to the one container limit that came into effect on April 5, 2010.

For more information: www.hamilton.ca/waste.

Other News

Student Summer Pilot Program

Four summer students have been hired again to assist in public education and enforcement of the Yard Waste and Maintenance By-Law, which addresses such issues as long grass and weeds, garbage and debris, dog feces and graffiti. These students are assisting MLE Officers throughout the City investigating complaints and will issue an "Order to Comply" when properties are in violation. Students attempt to speak to and educate occupants on the by-laws and an information pamphlet is left at each property investigated. Most property owners/occupants comply once they are aware of the problem or receive an Order however If there continues to be a violation the file is assigned to a MLE Officer who will take the necessary measures to bring the property into compliance. Students will also issue Orders when they are out working in the field and witness a violation, which is called a proactive investigation.

Project Compliance

Project Compliance Officers (PCO) continue to proactively enforce the Property Standards and Yard Maintenance By-laws. To date PCO's have investigated 65

properties in Ward 1 and have responded appropriately to resolve by-law violations. Another proactive blitz is scheduled for the 2nd week of April.

Snow Off Sidewalks (SOS)

For a second consecutive year, PW and MLE have combined efforts and resources in an expanded educational initiative, which included support from external stakeholders such as Canada Post, McMaster University and Mohawk College. The following were new initiatives for 2011;

- Canada Post in partnership with the City of Hamilton determined that the delivery of “SOS - Snow Off Sidewalks” ad-cards to approximately 203,000 properties (at no cost to the City) was extremely important initiative regarding the safety of their employees and the residents of the City.

The following email was received from a Ward 1 resident with comments on the awareness campaign, *“I do not know who was responsible for having the postcard sized notices regarding 'Snow On Sidewalks' rules delivered to households around here. The results are astonishing. We moved here in 1972. This is the first year that it has been possible to walk the length of the street, especially the north side after a snowfall on shoveled sidewalks. Previously there were some neighbours who it was lucky if their snow got shoveled once all winter.*

- Through the McMaster and Community Stakeholder Action Plan a proactive communication network strategy was launched that delivered the unified SOS message reaching students, landlords, faculty and the community. The McMaster and Community Stakeholder Action Plan group consists of members from the following: McMaster University, McMaster Student Union, Anslie Woods-Westdale Community Association (AWWCA), Hamilton Police Services, City of Hamilton Municipal Law Enforcement Section, Councillor McHattie’s office, and the Hamilton and District Apartment Association
- 80 Organic Waste Collection vehicles used throughout the City had SOS posters installed on both sides.