



# Municipal Enforcement Annual Report

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## 2015

Prepared by: Sgt. Derek Radatzke

## INTRODUCTION

2015 was another year of change for Municipal Enforcement, building on changes made in staffing and structure since 2012. Movement to more of a strategic proactive enforcement plan using priorities approved by Council has continued to give a higher level of service to the community and its residents.

**Staffing:** Supervisor Sgt. Derek Radatzke and Peace Officer Josh Hughes have stayed constant in Beaumont since 2012 and 2011 respectively, giving the experience and knowledge of concerns and trends specific to Beaumont over the past few years. Peace Officer Kirsten Stevens, who was initially hired for a summer term in 2013, returned full time for a term position, specializing in a regulatory role such as property cleanliness and other land related issues. Dylan Power, now an auxiliary RCMP Constable, was hired for a summer term working closely with the Parks department on excessive weed issues.

**Statistics:** The number of tickets issued has increased from 1,583 in 2014 to 1,784 in 2015 as a result of increased proactive enforcement. The number of files, through proactive endeavors outlined in the Annual Priorities Plan, has gone up from 1,364 in 2014 to 1,413 in 2015. Global Photo Laser enforcement violations have decreased from 9,895 in 2014, to 8,491 in 2015 showing that the general public is being educated on the rules of the road in regards to speed and intersection safety.

**Events and Projects:** Municipal Enforcement has continued to work on being more active in the community with items such as the positive ticketing campaign with the RCMP and events including Canada Day, Remembrance Day, Town and Country Daze, and the Beaumont Blues and Roots Festival. All these steps continue to create a positive image that will help improve Beaumont, making it a better community to live in and visit. Projects have included creating a new Animal Control Bylaw that gives Officers the tools they need to continue to help keep Beaumont safe.

This document gives further detail as to the items mentioned above and gives a bigger picture of what Municipal Enforcement has accomplished in 2015 and what will continue to be done in the year ahead.

## STRUCTURE

Activities performed by the Municipal Enforcement Services on a daily basis during normal shifts have been compiled into the three categories of Enforcement, Regulatory, and Community. The intention behind this idea is to give each area equal focus providing balanced service delivery in all areas Municipal Enforcement regularly comes in contact with.

The Enforcement priority consists of primarily traffic or parking enforcement roles and other issues pertaining to vehicles. Other responsibilities of this area fall mostly under Provincial Statues and deal with concerns pertaining to alcohol, noise, and issues that would be in line with some of the roles of the RCMP.

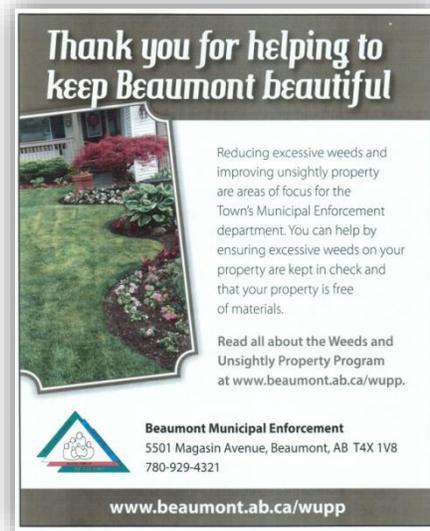
The Regulatory priority focuses on items that primarily pertain to land or properties in Beaumont. This area focuses on unsightly properties, construction debris, weed control, and other complications that would be faced by the Town of Beaumont departments.

The Community priority works on building relationships with the community and improving interactions with the public, in turn creating awareness on local issues. Many of these items involve special events and group work that interact in Beaumont to improve public safety and positive public relations.

Regulatory	Enforcement	Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unsightly properties</li> <li>• Weed control</li> <li>• Construction site cleanliness</li> <li>• Illegal signage</li> <li>• Assisting Planning &amp; Engineering</li> <li>• Snow covered sidewalks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic enforcement</li> <li>• Traffic control</li> <li>• Parking enforcement</li> <li>• Heavy &amp; commercial vehicles</li> <li>• Assisting RCMP</li> <li>• Alcohol and tobacco concerns</li> <li>• Noise issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special events</li> <li>• Positive youth development</li> <li>• Community education</li> <li>• Community events</li> <li>• Working groups and committees</li> <li>• Joint collaborations</li> </ul>

## REGULATORY

**Weed and Unsightly Program:** A large majority of incidents within the regulatory priorities continued to be weed control in respect to residential properties, construction sites, and undeveloped land. From May to September, Municipal Enforcement employed an Officer primarily responsible to proactively patrol areas of concern and take appropriate enforcement action to have issues resolved. Municipal Enforcement created a proactive approach via a program outlining weed enforcement and how Officers will approach concerns ranging from houses with overgrown grass, all the way to multi-acre fields covered in brush. The idea behind this approach is to educate the developers and land owners of their responsibilities to create a more esthetic community. Moving forward, this program will be implemented



by Recreation, Parks & Culture Division, similarly to how larger municipalities include items such as this in an agricultural department.

**Development Collaborations:** Construction sites and residential cleanliness are areas that continue to be worked on in collaboration with Development Services, as more properties are being built in our fast growing community. Enforcement action ranges from verbal direction, up to and including construction stop orders and fines. Officers have seen increased compliance from prior years and the number of concerns has reduced with the cooperation of builders, workers, and developers.



**Winter Patrol:** Proactive patrols for snow covered sidewalks have continued, giving residents time to comply before contractors are sent in to clear the safety concern of ice and snow. Many concerns arise with construction sites failing to maintain sidewalks during building, allowing snow to build up and pack onto the walks, making passage difficult.

## ENFORCEMENT

**Traffic and Parking Enforcement:** Peace Officers have been following the Traffic Safety Plan outlining areas of concern within Beaumont where collisions are prevalent and enforcing issues that traditionally are predominant such as speeding or intersection violations. In addition to patrols, Municipal Enforcement, along with the RCMP and other local stakeholders, conducted numerous joint traffic operations, projects, and several large-scale vehicle stops on major roadways within Beaumont. This proactive approach has been successful in finding traffic issues such as document or equipment violations, as well as uncovering more serious items such as impaired drivers, drugs, and wanted persons. Officers have also continued to patrol residential areas looking for parking violations that can cause potentially unsafe conditions. Many concerns relate to abandoned vehicles, sidewalk violations, and obstructing intersection visibility. Officers also focused on heavy vehicle, RV and unattached trailer concerns, as they can narrow residential roads causing safety concerns.



**School Zone Safety:** In collaboration with RCMP, Peace Officers have continued to make increased patrols of all school zones in Beaumont during the high congestion times of before and after school. Officers look for issues of concern ranging from traffic, parking, and pedestrian crossings to ensure that all persons are safe and educated on the rules of the road with respect to such an important part of our community, children.

**Commercial Vehicles:** Municipal Enforcement built upon the enforcement of heavy vehicles by obtaining certification to enforce on commercial vehicles as per the North American Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance. Peace Officer Josh Hughes has obtained all the training necessary working with the Province of Alberta's Commercial Enforcement branch, along with other partners such as the City of Leduc and the City of Edmonton. This increases the overall safety of Beaumont by allowing Officers to inspect and if needed, take trucks out of service that can endanger the community with equipment problems.



## COMMUNITY

**Positive Ticketing Program:** Municipal Enforcement has adopted the Beaumont RCMP's priority of positive youth development and has assisted with the positive



ticketing program. Throughout the summer, Officers participated by handing out positive tickets to youth in the community who demonstrated good behavior and values. Many of the good behaviors that Officers observed were in relation to bicycle safety by doing such things as wearing a helmet and practicing safe crossing at intersections. Monthly awards to recipients of the tickets were

completed by giving a reward and recognition in the Beaumont News, further publicizing safe habits with youth. The annual wrap up party is now planned for summer 2016 to kick off the new ticketing program.

**Operations:** Officers participated in several operations within the community, with the RCMP and Alberta Health Services to help assist with child car seat safety. Seats were inspected by experts in car seat use and any violators were fined. The purpose of these car seat fines is to motivate residents to take an education course, free of charge, hosted by Alberta Health Services. Upon completion of the training course, the accused can have the ticket withdrawn. This process of education over a violation ticket is known as an "Option 4".

**Special Events:** Municipal Enforcement was again honored this year with the privilege of laying a wreath at the local Remembrance Day ceremony and assisting with the traffic control of the march. Officers participated in many events including Canada Day, Beaumont Blues and Roots Festival, and Beaumont Town and Country Daze. Events such as these assist with increased Officer visibility in the community, helping educate the public of the roles and responsibilities of Officers and how they work with Town departments and the RCMP.



## CONTRACTED SERVICES

**Global Traffic Group:** As a component to the overall traffic safety of Beaumont and to assist with two of the major concerns of speed and intersection safety, Global Traffic has continued photo enforcement on behalf of the Town of Beaumont.



Photo Traffic Enforcement has been conducted to deter speeding and reduce motor vehicle collisions within the Town of Beaumont. The criteria approved by the Town of Beaumont Council regarding Photo Traffic Enforcement includes, but is not restricted to, high-risk, high frequency, and high-collision locations. It is also essential that Photo Traffic Enforcement be used in conjunction with existing conventional enforcement and not a replacement for Officer contact via traffic stops.

Photo Enforcement has aligned with the Traffic Safety Plan increasing enforcement on areas of concern. In 2015, Global Traffic issued 8,491 tickets, compared to 9,895 in 2014, which is a 14% decrease. Of those tickets, 7,448 were in relation to speed and 1,043 were for stops signs and red light violations. Of these, approximately 75% were ticketed to non-residents. The reduction is believed to be a result of increased compliance by drivers understanding the laws within Beaumont.

**Animal Control:** Animal control was a joint collaboration between Municipal Enforcement and the contracted work of Brandy Wachter. Peace Officers conduct a majority of the investigations ranging from dog barking to animal bites, whereas Wachter's role was picking up lost and found animals and transporting them safely to Black Gold Kennels.

Wachter has done an excellent job in reducing the number of animal complaints over the last year through a combination of education and enforcement that has been well received by the community.

Wachter helps administer a Facebook page named "Town of Beaumont Animal Control" with almost 1,000 members that is a valuable tool to help reunite owners with their lost or found pets and get out information to the public.



## INVESTIGATIONS

Municipal Enforcement documented a total of 1,413 files in 2015, increasing from 1,364 in 2014. A major contributor to the slowed increase in the investigations over the past few years has been the ongoing proactive enforcement and education by Municipal Enforcement that has seen increased compliance in some key problem areas of the past (Animal Control).

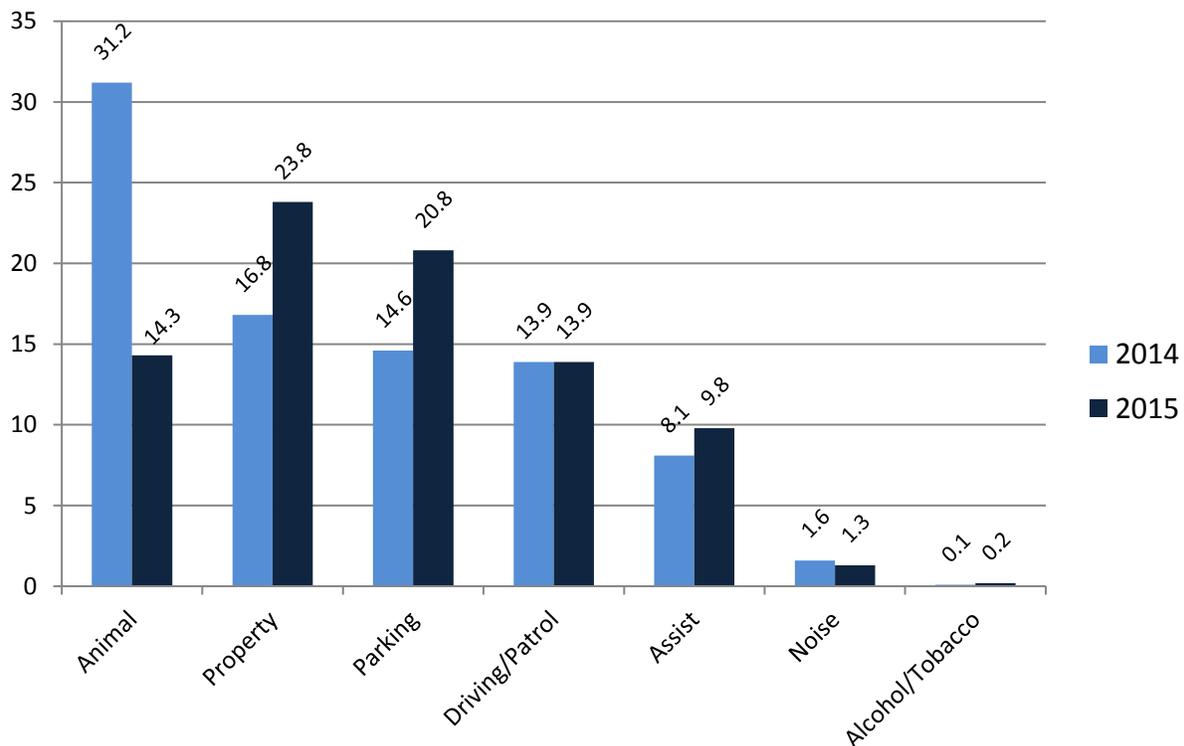
The most reported and enforced incidents for 2015 pertain to private property violations. In this category weeds (226), snow covered sidewalks (94) and property cleanliness (54) rank highest among complaints generated.

Other common incidents pertain to parking violations. In this category abandoned vehicles (184) ranks highest.

Animal investigations have dropped significantly due to a new approach to repeat violators, along with improved call screening process by support staff and officers.

Below is a total breakdown of investigations by category per 1,000 residents from 2014 compared to 2015.

Investigations per 1,000 residents (2014 vs. 2015)



## VIOLATIONS

Municipal Enforcement issued a total of 1,784 tickets in 2015, increasing from 1,583 in 2014. This increase has been a result in increased proactive patrols along with joint traffic operations with the RCMP and other local partners in hopes of making roads safer.

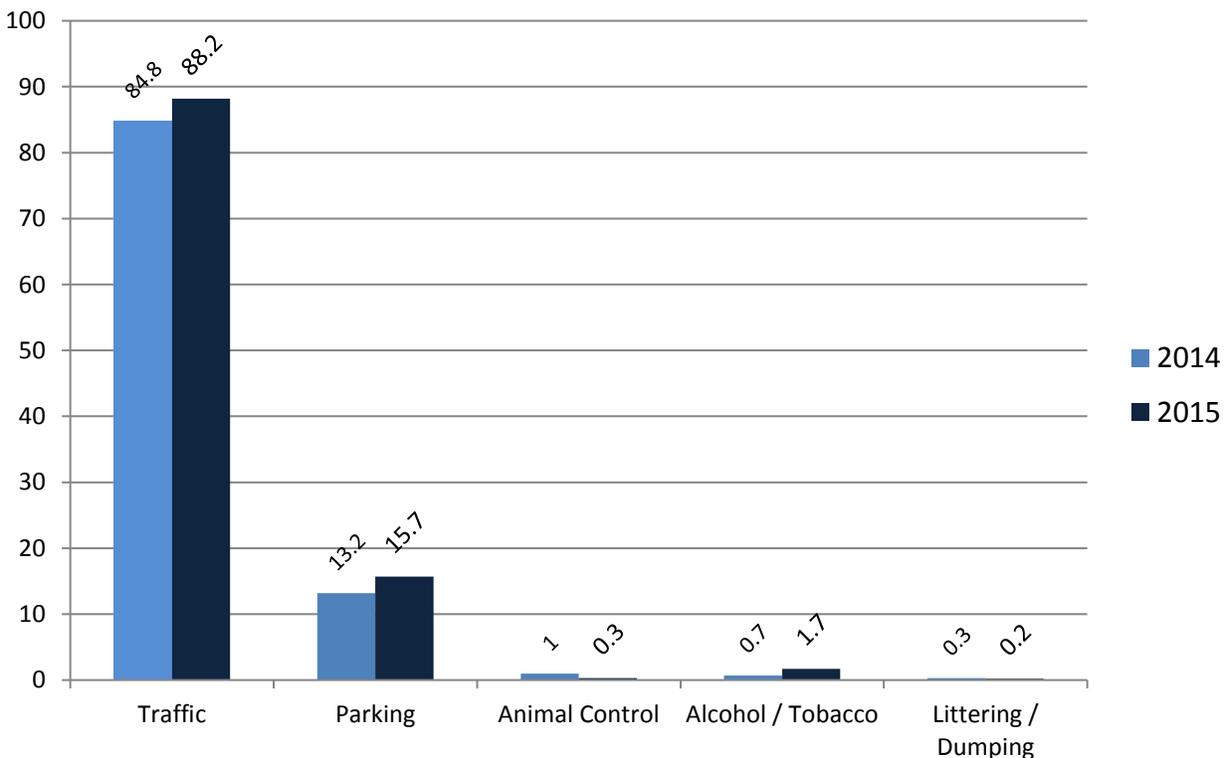
The majority of tickets issued were a result of proactive traffic stops. Major violations falling under this category include speeding (350), documents (287) and seatbelts (244).

Parking violations ranked higher in tickets issued. Items in this category include infractions involving license plates (123), sidewalks (35) and fire hydrants (28).

Fifty-eight (58) were distracted drivers, i.e., electronic held devices.

Below is a total breakdown of violations issued by category per 1,000 residents from 2014 compared to 2015.

Violations issued per 1,000 residents (2014 vs. 2015)



## SUMMARY

- Municipal Enforcement has continued to work on a balanced service delivery breaking down the responsibilities into the categories of Regulatory, Enforcement, and Community.
- Increased patrols in areas of concern has changed the traditional enforcement practice of reactionary to a more strategic proactive approach addressing concerns before they become a major issue.
- Regulatory issues of common concern were in relation to weeds and cleanliness. Proactive plans to address weeds and unsightly properties were created for more efficient service and reduced the number of resident complaints.
- Enforcement issues of common concern were moving traffic such as speeding, documents, and seatbelts, along with parking concerns such as license plate issues and sidewalks. Increased patrols and joint initiatives were conducted to address these issues.
- Community interactions with events and planning have continued to help educate and increase positive interactions.
- Investigations have increased to 1,413, up from 1,364 in 2014.
- Violations issued increased to 1,784, up from 1,583 in 2014.

