



Municipal Enforcement Year in Review 2016

Prepared by Sgt. Derek Radatzke

INTRODUCTION

Municipal Enforcement has continued to follow the three tiered approach to daily community involvement of Regulatory, Enforcement and Community that has been structured since 2012. Strategic proactive education and enforcement has continued to be the goal, in order to have a positive interaction within the community.

- **Staffing:** Supervisor Sgt. Derek Radatzke and Peace Officer Josh Hughes have stayed constant in Beaumont, 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, left in the spring for a job opportunity with the County of Wetaskiwin. Dylan Power, previously the weed inspector in summer 2015, came on as a Peace Officer, focusing on property related issues.
- **Statistics:** The number of tickets issued has decreased from 1,784 in 2015 to 1,269 in 2016 as a result of increased proactive education and warnings over ticketing. The number of files, through continued proactive endeavors and realignment of job functions, has decreased from 1,413 in 2015 to 982 in 2016. Global Photo Laser enforcement violations have decreased from 8,491 in 2015, to 7,924 in 2016 showing that the general public is being educated on the rules of the road in regards to speed and intersection safety.
- **Community Involvement:** Municipal Enforcement has been active in the community by continued participation in numerous events such as public open house barbeques, Town events like Blue and Roots Festival, the SADD dodgeball tournament and ceremonies such as Remembrance Day. Municipal Enforcement has also coordinated with Beaumont RCMP to be more visible in the community, such as bike patrol in order to interact with the public in ways not traditionally seen before. These activities have given the public an opportunity to interact with Officers in a non-enforcement fashion in hopes of obtaining more positive interactions and understanding of what Municipal Enforcement is.

This document gives further detail as to the items mentioned above and gives a bigger picture of what Municipal Enforcement has accomplished in 2016 and what will continue to be done in the year ahead.

STRUCTURE

Activities performed by the Municipal Enforcement branch on a daily basis during normal shifts have been compiled into the three (3) 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, 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"> • Unsightly properties • Construction site cleanliness • Illegal signage • Assisting Planning & Engineering • Snow covered sidewalks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic enforcement • Parking enforcement • Heavy & commercial vehicles • Assisting RCMP • Alcohol and tobacco concerns • Noise issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special events • Positive youth development • Community education • Community events • Working groups and committees • Joint collaborations

REGULATORY

- **Unsightly Properties:** Construction site cleanliness is an area that continues to be worked on in collaboration with the Development Department. Officers will make patrols, or follow up on complaints received of construction debris and make contact with the construction workers and/or developers in hopes of gaining compliance. If Officers are unable to get compliance, the Development department is contacted to assist with a construction site stop order, ceasing work on that site until it is cleaned. With respect to residential properties, Officers will give a written order to the owner to complete the work needed to bring the property back into standards. Failure to do so results in the property being cleaned by a third party contractor to the cost of the property owner.
- **Sidewalks:** Snow covered sidewalks is one of the most common concerns raised due to our winter climate. These issues can present significant safety concerns to pedestrians, so Officers patrol for these in an attempt to reduce issues before they arise. Similar to unsightly properties, property owners are issued a notice and if they fail to comply, a contractor will remove the snow and ice at the property owner's expense. A similar process is used with mud tracking at construction sites during warmer weather where mud may cause similar problems.
- **Development Collaboration:** Many Municipal Enforcement regulatory operations are in collaboration with the Development Department in the form of land use or business. Municipal Enforcement assisted with numerous inspections, investigations and the service of documents for Development in relation to violations arising from their perspective specialties, where a uniformed Peace Officer can assist.
- **Parks Collaboration:** For 2016, the Parks Services has assumed the role of weed control, with the weed inspector falling under the supervision of the Parks and Facilities Supervisor. As this was a transition year, Municipal Enforcement worked closely with the weed inspector, mentoring and assisting with the application of the Weed and Unsightly Property program that was implemented by Municipal Enforcement in 2014.

ENFORCEMENT

- **Traffic and Parking Enforcement:** Peace Officers have continued to follow both the Beaumont and Alberta Traffic Safety Plans that outlines areas of concern and thus increased focus. Municipal Enforcement, along with the RCMP and other local stakeholders, also conducted numerous joint traffic operations, projects, and several large-scale vehicle stops on major roadways within Beaumont in order to educate drivers on the rules of the road. This proactive approach has been successful in finding document or equipment violations, as well as uncovering more serious items such as impaired drivers, alcohol, drugs, and 26 wanted persons. Peace 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 obstructions, and intersection visibility. Officers also focused on heavy vehicle, RV and unattached trailer concerns, as they can narrow residential roads and can cause safety concerns.
- **School Zone Safety:** In collaboration with RCMP, Peace Officers have continued to make daily scheduled patrols of all school zones in Beaumont during the high congestion times of before and after school. Peace and Police 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. These patrols have allowed Officers to interact with the public in a positive manner as well as with parents, teachers, and students and allows for questions to be asked.
- **Commercial and Heavy Vehicles:** Peace Officers conducted 68 inspections in 2016 of commercially licensed vehicles, finding 406 defects at a 93% failure rate. These vehicles were able to be taken off the road until they can be fixed as a huge portion of these defects were a result of unsecure goods that could potentially fall from these vehicles and seriously injure other users of the road. Peace Officer has also continued use of the Heavy Vehicle Bylaw by issuing permits to local residents that use these vehicles as their livelihood. In addition to this, patrols for vehicles using Beaumont as a shortcut have be enforced and educated in order to protect residents and infrastructure.

COMMUNITY

- **Events and Ceremonies:** Municipal Enforcement participated in various events within the community to promote positive public relations. Several open house meet and greets with the public occurred throughout the year, giving the public the opportunity to interact with Municipal Enforcement, RCMP, Fire and other various Town departments in a relaxed and friendly setting. In collaboration with the RCMP and Fire Services, Municipal Enforcement participated in the annual Students Against Destructive Decision (SADD) dodgeball tournament, raising funds and awareness for SADD. The Protective Services' team finished the tournament in third place! Municipal Enforcement organized the traffic control for the annual Beaumont Town & Country Daze parade, as well as took part of the events including the Fairgrounds and Blues and Roots Festival with RCMP, namely foot and bike patrols of the events. Municipal Enforcement was also given the privileged opportunity to coordinate the traffic control for the Remembrance Day March and then lay a wreath at the ceremony.
- **Positive Ticketing Program:** Municipal Enforcement has continued to play a role in the application of Beaumont's positive ticketing program with the RCMP. Officers year round participated by handing out over 700 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. These positive tickets include a reward for good behavior that is supplied by one of our local businesses that wish to reward our youth for doing the right thing!
- **Public Communication:** Municipal Enforcement and the RCMP have continued to ensure that operations are done in a collaborative manner as to show the unity of the safety in the community. Many joint initiatives including summer bike patrol and traffic operations have included both departments interacting with the community to educate on the roles conducted by each in the community with safety in mind. Advertising with local media for various areas of focus on topics such as pet licensing, abandoned vehicles, snow routes, unsightly properties and snow covered sidewalks has continued through 2016 in hopes of educating the public on ways to improve the safety of our community and reduce complaints. Moving forward, Municipal Enforcement and the RCMP will continue to improve communications within the community by being more transparent and informative of our activities.

CONTRACTED SERVICES

- **Global Traffic Group:** Global Traffic Group has been contracted to deter speeding and reduce motor vehicle collisions within the Town of Beaumont via photo enforcement. The criteria for enforced locations regarding includes, but is not restricted to, high-risk, high frequency, and high-collision locations. Locations based on that criteria are chosen by the RCMP detachment Commander to monitored and enforce potential problem areas. It is essential that photo enforcement be used in conjunction with existing conventional enforcement and not a replacement for Peace and Police Officer contact via traffic stops.

Global Traffic Group aligns with the current town Traffic Safety Plan by increasing on listed areas of concern. In 2016, Global Traffic issued 7,924 tickets, compared to 8,491 in 2015. Of those tickets, 6,251 were in relation to speeding and 1,673 stop signs and red light offences. Approximately 62% of violators observed are non-Beaumont residents. The reduction in numbers is believed to be a result of increased compliance by drivers understanding the laws within Beaumont as the levels of enforcement has stayed consistent over the last several years.

- **Animal Control:** Animal control is a collaboration between Municipal Enforcement and the contracted work of Beaumont resident, Brandy Wachter, since late 2014. Municipal Enforcement investigates animal complaints including, but not limited to, barking and bites, whereas Wachter's role is the picking up of lost and found animals and transporting them home, or to BlackGold Kennels for the owner to retrieve. Wachter also assists with park patrols by educating pet owners the rules regarding leashes, licensing and clean up.

Wachter has done an excellent job in reducing the number of animal complaints over the last two (2) years through a combination of education and enforcement that has been well received by the community. Numbers for impounded animals has decreased significantly since 2014 by educating owners on the responsibility of making sure their pets do not run at large. In 2016, twenty-five (25) dogs and thirty-eight (38) cats were transported to our pound, with twenty-six (26) of those animals being adopted to new homes after being unclaimed by an owner.

Wachter also helps the Town joint administer a Facebook page named "Town of Beaumont Animal Control" with over 1,100 members. This page is a valuable tool to help reunite owners with their lost or found pets and get out information to the public that may otherwise be missed.

INVESTIGATIONS

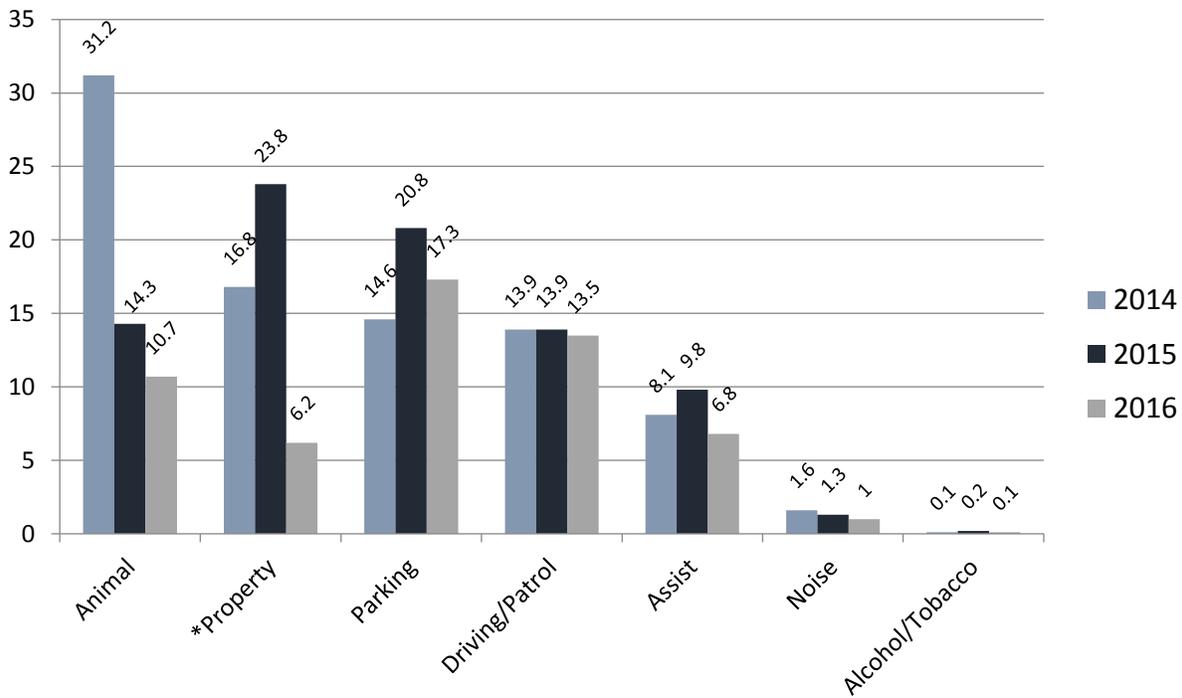
Municipal Enforcement documented a total of 982 files in 2016, decreasing from 1,413 in 2015. A major contributor to the decrease in the number of investigations has been the realignment of weed control in Beaumont. In 2016, the Parks’ department took over weed control, as it aligned closer with parks and open space maintenance and thus weed investigations are no longer reported by Municipal Enforcement (226 weed files in 2015). Ongoing education is another reason for decreased files in some key problem areas of the past, such as in the animal control section with impounded animal numbers declining.

The most reported and enforced incidents for 2016 pertain to parking violations. In this category, abandoned vehicles (139), blocked sidewalks/driveways (46), expired plates (26) and unattached trailers (22) rank highest among complaints generated.

Other common reports pertain to proactive driving and patrol files. In this category, vehicle regulatory issues (85) and Commercial Vehicle Inspections (58) rank highest.

Below is a total breakdown of investigations by category per 1,000 residents from 2014 to 2016. Please note the 2014-2015 property numbers include weed control.

Investigations per 1,000 residents (2014 - 2016)



**2014 property files without weeds (11.3), *2015 property files without weeds (10.4)*

VIOLATIONS

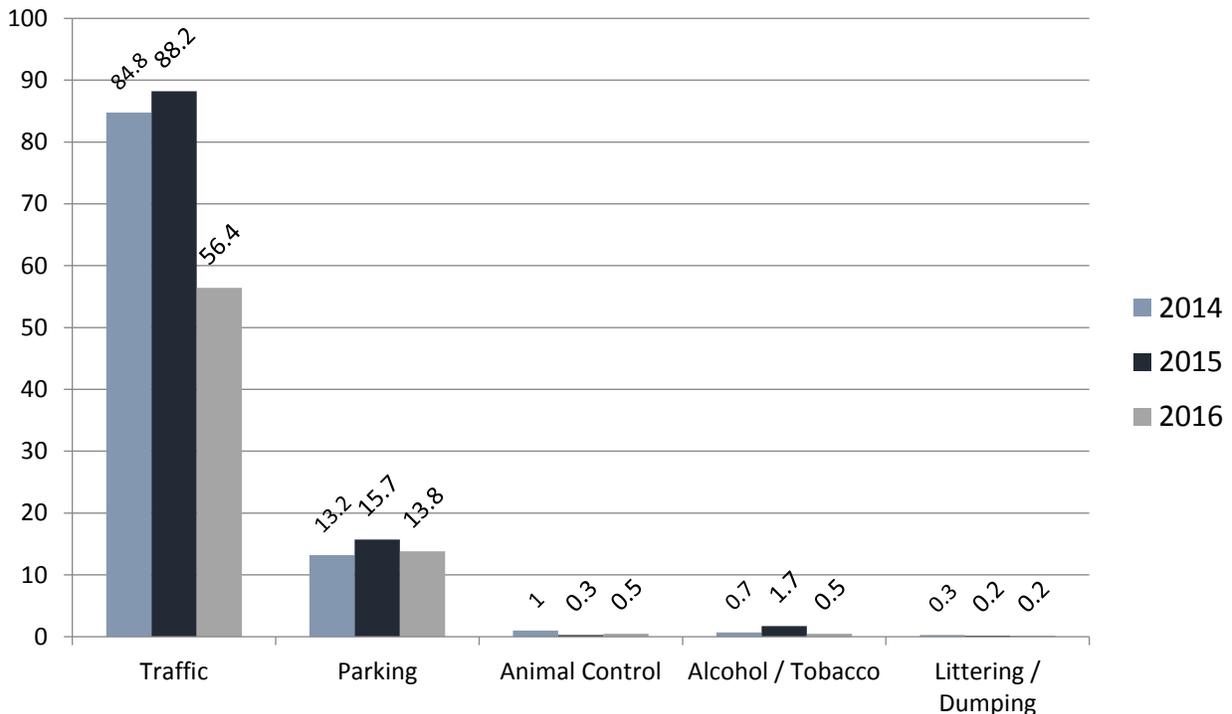
Municipal Enforcement issued a total of 1,269 tickets in 2016, decreasing from 1,784 in 2015. This decrease has been a result in increased educational warnings in those areas where the violation is not an immediate threat to public safety and could better benefit from providing information to the driver.

The majority of violation tickets issued were a result of proactive traffic stops. Major violations falling under this category include speeding (244), seatbelts (154) and distracted driving (82).

Parking violations is another that ranks higher in tickets issued. Items in this category include expired/improper/absent license plates (200), blocked sidewalks (33) and obstructed fire hydrants (19).

Below is a total breakdown of violations issued by category per 1,000 residents from 2014 to 2016.

Violations issued per 1,000 residents (2014 - 2016)



SUMMARY

- Municipal Enforcement has continued to work on a balanced service delivery, breaking down the responsibilities into the categories of Regulatory, Enforcement, and Community.
- Proactive patrols in areas of concern have 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 property cleanliness. Weed control, along with the weed inspector position, moved to the Parks' Services, resulting in a decrease in files created.
- Enforcement issues of common concern were moving traffic such as speeding, seatbelts, and distracted driving, along with parking concerns such as license plate issues, sidewalks, and fire hydrants. Increased patrols and joint initiatives with the RCMP and other partners were conducted to address these issues.
- Community interactions with events and planning have continued to help educate and increase positive interactions. Further plans for communication will continue to show Municipal Enforcement's roles in the community.
- Photo Enforcement numbers have decreased to 7,924 in 2016, from 8,491 in 2015. This is a result of increased compliance during the same levels of enforcement.
- Animal control has seen a decline in the numbers of loose animals as a result of the hard work of contracted Officer, Brandy Wachter.
- Investigations have decreased to 982, down from 1,413 in 2015. Again, the major reason for this was the movement of weed control to the Parks' department.
- Violations issued decreased to 1269, down from 1,784 in 2015 as a result of increased warnings in non-safety related areas.