

Topic: 2013 Interim Report Gravel Enforcement Program

**Introduction:**

Parkland County Enforcement Services is pleased to provide Council with this report on the 2013 season activities associated to the Gravel Enforcement Program.

**Facts (Background Information):**

In 2005 Parkland County Council directed Administration to create the position of Gravel Point Officer, (GPO). This officer's role is "one stop" shopping for gravel related issues. The Gravel Point Officer liaises with the public, gravel industry and internal partners, (i.e. Public Works, Planning & Development). He investigates complaints related to the Development Permits, Haul Agreements, (such as noise, dust control, hours of operation). This officer performs traffic enforcement duties; both commercial vehicle, passenger plated, safety inspections etc. The Gravel Point Officer responds to non-gravel related complaints on an "as needed" basis.

There are 47 active gravel Development Permits in the County, plus an additional 18 applications for new pits throughout the County. Plus there are gravel pits located in Leduc, Brazeau and Lac Ste Anne Counties whose truck traffic impact Parkland County.

Enforcement Services in general has seen an increase in demand for service:

- January – August 30, 2012 we saw 2, 949 incident types recorded
- January – August 31, 2013 there were 3,382 incident types recorded an increase of over 400 incident types.

In particular gravel related complaints:

- January – August 2012 – 95 gravel related complaints
- January – August 2013 – 190 Gravel related complaints, a 100% increase

June 25, 2013 Council directed Administration to second the CPO1 Municipal Officers from Bylaw Services to enhance the Gravel Enforcement Program. Council also authorized the hiring of 2 one year term CPO2 positions to back fill the vacancies left by this secondment. Council also directed Administration to enter into an Enhanced Policing Agreement with the RCMP Spruce Grove/Stony Plain Detachment to provide additional gravel truck enforcement.

**Analysis:**

#### First Quarter 2013 (January – March):

- The Gravel Point Officer, (GPO), was overwhelmed with the volume of complaints from the public
- Often the public would call the GPO's cell phone leaving complaints, if on Days Off or vacation, etc initial follow up with the complainant often was a week or more later
- When the GPO was not working and a gravel complaint was received (person called the Community & Protective Services office at 968-8400) another officer would respond to their concern
- Other officers did not have the same knowledge of the rules, Haul Agreements or even the players, often resulting in mixed messages to all parties
- Delayed response/investigation sometimes meant even when an infraction had occurred it was felt not the best practice to impose an administrative penalty due to the time delay
- The creditability of Parkland County came into question
- All parties involved were dissatisfied:
  - o Industry
  - o Residents
  - o Internal partners
  - o Council and
  - o Officers

#### Second Quarter of 2013, (April – June):

- The GPO hours of work were changed to Monday to Friday basically 0800 – 1615 hours.
- This puts the GPO "on the street" when most needed and allows better access to Planning & Development, Public Works and Management
- Complainants are advised in writing of the investigative outcome by the Operations Supervisor Enforcement Services
- Copies of the letters are forwarded to all internal partners; Chief Administrative Officer, Manager of Public Works, Manager Planning & Development, Planning Officer, Manager Community & Protective
- This procedure effectively put an end to the practice by some residents who appeared to be "shopping for the answer they wanted"
- Senior Administration's support for this change has improved officer morale and bolstered staffs confidence in decision making
- In May, Planning & Development, hosted a meeting involving gravel industry representative, internal partners and external partners; Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Branch, (RCMP were unable to attend). The purpose of the meeting was information sharing and improved communications.

#### Gravel Trucks checked by Parkland County Peace Officers:

##### April – 4 Truck Sheets

- 3 speeding

- 1 equipment violation
- 2 warnings

#### May- 23 Truck Sheets

- 8 speeding
- 4 equipment violations
- 1 fail to produce permits
- 1 fail to wear seat belt
- 1 distracted driving
- 2 loose loads
- 2 overloads
- Stop sign violation
- 1 truck/driver suspension
- 8 warnings

#### June- 12 Truck Sheets

- 2 speeding
- 1 no seat belt
- 2 stop sign violations
- 1 truck/driver suspension
- 2 fail to produce permits
- 1 equipment violations
- 2 warnings

On June 25, 2013 Council approved the secondment of the two Municipal CPO1s to enhance the GPO and the hiring of two one year term CPO2 positions to back fill their positions in Bylaw. Council also directed Administration to enter into an Enhanced Policing Agreement with the RCMP Spruce Grove/Stony Plain Detachment to provide additional enforcement.

#### Third Quarter 2013 (July – September):

Parkland County Enforcement Services worked with the RCMP Spruce Grove/Stony Plain Detachment, Alberta Justice & Solicitor General to implement the Enhanced Policing Agreement.

Parkland County provided the RCMP with:

- o Map books showing the locations of the gravel pits, Haul Agreements, Enforcement Services trucks sheet, (to track the ASGA numbers. Copy attached)
- o The Enforcement Operations Supervisor Enforcement worked with the RCMP Spruce Grove/Stony Plain Detachment Operations NCO to develop the MOU and the Action Plan
- o (Copies attached)

- Parkland County Enforcement Services will investigate complaints; impose the Administrative penalties, etc.
- The RCMP will check gravel trucks, record the ASGA numbers on the Enforcement Services Truck Sheets
- The GPO worked with Constable Espetveidt introducing him to the “players” and raise awareness to what County issues are
- Throughout July & August the dates Enforcement Services requested the RCMP to provide patrols, coincided with staffing shortage due to vacation.
- Parkland County requested the following dates:
  - July – 10, 11, 20 & 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - August - 17, 18, 19 & 29<sup>th</sup>.
- The RCMP Spruce Grove/Stony Plain were able to provide a constable on:
  - July 30<sup>th</sup>:
    - 11 trucks checked
    - 2 violation tickets issued
    - 1 warning
    - Enforcement Services was able to issue a one day suspension to a driver via this documentation
  - August 23<sup>rd</sup>:
    - 10 trucks checked
    - 3 violation tickets issued
    - 4 warnings
  - August 29<sup>th</sup>:
    - 5 trucks checked
    - 0 violation tickets issued
    - 3 warnings

The total results from the RCMP:

- 26 trucks checked
- 5 violation tickets issued
- 8 warnings
- Enforcement Services suspend a driver for one day as a result of documentation submitted by the RCMP

It should be noted the RCMP Spruce Grove/Stony Plain Detachment have had staffing shortages throughout the summer months due to operational requirements in southern Alberta, transfers, vacation and maintaining minimal staffing levels on the Watches on a daily basis.

The two seconded Municipal Enforcement Officers have provided added visibility and have reduced response times to gravel complaints, plus they continue to work the normal shift rotation. For example:

- August 29 a complaint about road conditions was receive from a resident, investigation was completed
- August 30 suspension notice served on the gravel company
- August 31 the one-day suspension was imposed

Gravel Trucks checked by Parkland County Peace Officers:

July- 37 Truck Sheets

- 8 speeding
- 3 equipment violations
- 2 fail to produce permits
- 3 loose loads
- 1 fail to wear seat belt
- 2 overloads
- 4 fail to display license plate
- 4 warnings

August- 26 Truck Sheets

- 5 speeding
- 1 equipment violation
- 1 seatbelt
- 1 unregistered m/v
- 1 operating a m/v without o/p license
- 1 stop sign
- 1 failing to display license plate
- 3 fail to produce
- 5 warnings

September- 2 Truck Sheets (as of September 6, 2013)

- 1 speeding

Traffic enforcement by Parkland County Peace Officers on three digital highways 2012 – versus 2013 (January to August):

Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) – 2012 - #74 trucks inspected

- 27 (38%) Out of Service
- 22 (31%) Passed
- 22 (31%) Required Attention.

CVSA – 2013 - #76 trucks were inspected

- 31 (40%) Out of Service
- 31 (40%) Passed
- 16 (20%) Required Attention

Violation tickets issued:

- June 1 to August 31, 2012 – 159
- June 1 – August 31, 2013 - 194

Over 120 gravel trucks have been checked for various reasons by Peace Officers during the Third Quarter.

Rge Rd 43 and 51 are no longer experiencing the same issues as back in the spring. Road maintenance is being proactively addressed by industry. Some examples of the gravel industry making improvements are:

- o Industry self imposed suspensions 2012 - 1
- o Same period this year 5

Complaints from the public are responded to, investigations completed and the appropriate follow up actions taken in a more timely fashion. All internal partners are being kept informed. Gravel extraction is ongoing from 4 gravel pits on Rge Rd 51 with another 8 potentially being developed. August 9 – 18, 2013, Engineering gathered traffic data on Rge Rd 51; during this period there was an average of 800 gravel trucks per day. Engineering is currently gathering similar data from Rge Rd 43

Although Council approved the secondment of the two Municipal CPO1 positions on June 25, 2013, their full impact has not yet been realized. There was one vacancy, which was filled on July the 8<sup>th</sup>. Being new to Parkland County this officer will be several months before his full impact is made, (training, Peace Officer appointment, etc). Throughout the summer, the other Municipal Officer has been required to maintain a focus in Bylaw, to assist Enforcement Services providing a minimal level of service in this area.

The recruiting process is now complete and these new staff, plus the vacant FTE CPO2 position all started the week of September 3, 2013. These new officers are a welcome addition, it should be noted, and it will be November before they are operationally independent, (Field Training, etc).

#### Fourth Quarter (October – December):

- The GPO will continue to be the one stop shopping
- The two seconded Municipal Officers will enhance the GPO and further enhance our Gravel Enforcement Program,
- This will also free up the other CPO1s allowing them to be more pro-active in traffic enforcement on the Provincial Highways within the County and on local roads, (i.e. the intersection of Highway 627 & 770 – between September 6 – 10, Enforcement Services have issued 45 violation tickets were issued for stop sign violations, illegal passing, etc),
- Their full impact will not be realized until closer to the end of the Fourth Quarter and into 2014,
- Bylaw will be up to strength, maintaining or enhancing their service levels to the County
- The RCMP Spruce Grove/Stony Plain Detachment will continue to meet the Enhanced Policing Agreement

**Alternatives:**

1. Not accept this report for information.
2. Request more detailed information.

**Conclusion/Summary:**

Administration supports Council accepting this report as information.

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