



GARBAGE

By Beven Bentley, Bylaw Enforcement

It was my intent to continue with addressing restricted parking issues as I had alluded to in my last article. However, there are times when my job dictates that I should address more pressing issues or what some may refer to as **hot items**. It so happens that the **hot item** at the present time is “**garbage**”. As of late, there have been numerous concerns regarding the processing of garbage within the Town of Hinton.

Did you know that the average Canadian household disposes of 1.5 lbs. of garbage per day? That would be approximately 540 lbs, per year, which does not include non- household garbage items. If we were to include the non-household items, that number would double and it would mean an average of 1,080 lbs of garbage per year, per household. That may seem high; however you may want to be sitting while I give you the next statistic. If you were to take the number of annual tons of household garbage generated by the Town of Hinton and divide that by the number of residences, you would find that Hinton generates approximately 3.75 lbs of garbage per day, more than double the amount of the average Canadian household, not something to boast about. It would appear that Hintonites may have poor recycling habits or maybe we tend to waste more than the average Canadian or perhaps it is a combination of both.

Not only do we generate more garbage per household, than the average Canadian, but the manner in which we dispose of our garbage is at times, questionable. We have all witnessed overfilled containers with lids straight up in the air and garbage strewn about as well as Ravens picking through the garbage and spreading it on the roadways. The main problem regarding garbage containers is **overfilling**. As well we have additional problems such as depositing of illegal items and human interference which is when persons rummage through the garbage looking for usable and or valuable items.

In order to address the issue of garbage disposal, Bylaw Services contacted those who are directly involved with garbage collection, that being the Town’s Sanitation Crew. They have informed us of the following **do’s and do not’s** when it comes to disposing of garbage and or placing of bins.

Do not place your container backwards; **Do not** park your vehicle too close to the container; **Do not** be late in placing the container on the street; **Do not** place the container sideways, (parallel to the sidewalk); **Do not** place the container on an uneven portion of the roadway; **Do not** place hazardous waste in containers; **Do not** overfill containers; **Do not** place the container in your driveway and expect it to be picked up and **Do not** place garbage outside of the containers and expect that to be picked up.

Do place garbage in plastic garbage bags before placing them in garbage containers; **Do** fill the container to the point that the lids are able to fully close; **Do** become “wind wise” and place the lids down so they will be kept shut by the wind; **Do** place the bin with the yellow sticker facing the street; **Do** place the container with the lifting bar to the street side and place the wheels of the container to the street side if your container does not have the yellow sticker; **Do** place the container at a 90 degree angle to the sidewalk.

The Town of Hinton Garbage Bylaw addresses three main offenses regarding garbage collection. One is the placement of garbage, second is the type of garbage and third is the disturbance of placed garbage. Any person identified placing illegal garbage or disturbing placed garbage is liable and can be charged. The fine for such an offense ranges from \$50.00 to \$100.00. Any person identified placing garbage outside of the containers is actually littering and under the Litter Act the fines are much higher than those of the Municipal Bylaw.

“Littering begets Littering”, Statistics say that the number one cause of littering is “The presence of other Litter”.

Bylaw Services would encourage you to call our office at 865-6009 or the Public Works Department at 865-2634 for any inquiries regarding regulations surrounding garbage collection.