

## STREET PARKING

Allow me to take this opportunity to address some misconceptions regarding vehicle parking on the streets. Bylaw Services receives numerous inquiries regarding a variety of street parking situations, of those the following are the most common.

True or false: “The neighbor doesn’t have the right to park his vehicle in front of my residence!” This is false; the neighbor can legally park in front of your residence as well as anyone else that may choose to do so; your driveway is private, however, the streets are public. Although we would like to think we have the rights to that portion of the street fronting our residence or business, we do not and although the practice may seem inappropriate, it is one of life’s frustrations we have to put up with.

True or false: “As long as my vehicle is registered and insured I can park it on the streets as long as I want.” This is false; the Town of Hinton Traffic Bylaw states that “No person shall park a vehicle on the street in one location in excess of 72 hours (three days).” It goes on to say that any vehicle parked in excess of the 72 hour limit is considered abandoned and may therefore be removed, tagged or both. In such cases the word abandoned is a very strong term and as a rule is not the case, it is usually the neglect of a vehicle resulting in what appears to be abandonment. During the operation of our last street clearing program, orders were served on 87 vehicles which appeared to be stored on the streets; the good news is the citizens were quite cooperative in removing them once the order had been served. Of the 87 vehicles receiving notices, 83 were voluntarily removed. The remaining vehicles have proven to be abandoned and had to be removed by enforcement officials.

In a practical application, storing of vehicles on the street has the potential of causing a variety of problems; of these problems, street cleaning and congestion seem to be most predominant. When most families have a minimum of two vehicles and in many cases three, there is a need to be even more conscientious about street parking. Minor adjustments can be made to alleviate some of the problems such as leaving high use vehicles on the street and storing the low use vehicles in your driveway or garage. In all cases try to avoid parking in front of the neighbors property, although it is not illegal it has the potential to initiate neighborhood conflicts. If you are going to use the roadways and streets for parking, be prepared to move the vehicle every 72 hours, which would demonstrate to enforcement officials as well as neighbors that the vehicle is not abandoned or neglected.

In closing, imagine a municipality where no regulations were in place and vehicle owners were free to park as they pleased. You could be assured that within a short time the streets of Hinton would look like sales lots and storage compounds; as well the once friendly neighbors would be introducing a new level of road rage. Complying with the Town of Hinton Traffic Bylaw will help to ensure safe streets for all residents.

For any inquiries regarding parking regulations you may call Bylaw Services at 865-6009 or go on to the Town of Hinton Web Site at [www.hinton.ca](http://www.hinton.ca)