



## **MUNICIPAL BYLAWS**

By Beven Bentley, Community Peace Officer

Bylaw Services would like to take this opportunity to introduce a new concept for educating the public with respect to Municipal Bylaws.

In the past, the Town of Hinton, regularly featured a column, in the Parklander, called "Ask the Town". Those columns answered questions regarding problems that existed within the scope of Municipal bylaws by simply quoting the Bylaw provisions. That concept was fine for those people who wished to know if there was a specific law in place, however, in most cases, the reasons for the law were not explained. Thus, the purpose of this as well as future articles will be to better inform the public of why bylaws exist.

The creation and enforcement of bylaws has been in existence since the mid 1800 hundreds. At one time people were inclined to solve their differences in barbaric ways. Subsequently, the implementation and enforcement of bylaws became a necessity in keeping a certain degree of order and harmony wherever groups of people lived in close proximity.

The development of Bylaw Enforcement, from its' early days, has seen drastic changes. With the implementation of enforcement programs, Government regulations and standardizations, municipalities now employ Community Peace Officers whose roles in enforcement have been expanded to better serve the community.

Bylaw Services will be providing future articles to the Parklander that will address various bylaw provisions and issues. It is the intent that these articles will be used as an educational tool to better inform the public.