

# Town of Riverview

## COUNCIL REPORT FORM

Presented to: MAYOR & COUNCIL

Department: Engineering & Works

Date: May 23, 2023

Subject: Overnight Winter Parking Alert System



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### **BACKGROUND**

Councilor Johnson requested that we bring forward information on the overnight parking procedures utilized by the City of Moncton and provide Council with a report containing the department's recommendation.

The concept of winter overnight parking alerts was first introduced in Halifax and more recently implemented in Moncton during the 2022-2023 winter season. As such, I have listed some key highlights of both Municipalities' process.

### **HALIFAX**

The municipal overnight winter parking ban is in effect every year from December 15 to March 31. It will be enforced only during declared weather events and ongoing clearing operations. When enforced, the parking ban is in effect from 1 a.m. until 6 a.m. throughout the Regional Centre of the municipality.

During the overnight winter parking ban, vehicles cannot be parked on the street and must be parked off-street. If a vehicle is left on the street or is hanging out of a driveway into the sidewalk while the ban is being enforced, it could be ticketed and/or towed at the owner's expense.



Make sure you know when the overnight winter parking ban is being enforced. Residents can sign up for alerts on hfxALERT to receive phone, text, or email notifications.

Regardless of the status of an overnight winter parking ban, or whether you have received a notification, vehicles can be towed any time during the day or night, any day of the year, if they are interfering with snow-clearing operations, as per Section 139 of the Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act.

If you see a vehicle impacting snow clearing during regular business hours, please call 311. If you see a vehicle ignoring the overnight winter parking ban, please only call the after-hours line if it is an emergency (example: a vehicle is blocking a driveway or sidewalk).

Halifax has established two zones for the overnight parking ban. With these two zones, the following parking ban scenarios may occur during, or following, a declared weather event:

- Municipal overnight winter parking ban is being enforced/has been lifted (both Zone 1 – Central and Zone 2 – Non-Central)
- Zone 1 – Central overnight winter parking ban is being enforced/has been lifted
- Zone 2 – Non-Central overnight winter parking ban is being enforced/has been lifted
- Zone 1 – Central overnight winter parking ban has been lifted, but will continue to be enforced in Zone 2 – Non-Central
- Zone 2 – Non-Central overnight winter parking ban has been lifted, but will continue to be enforced in Zone 1 – Central

The creation of two zones improves service delivery by leveraging overnight winter parking bans that can accommodate more targeted snow removal.

### **MONCTON**

The pilot project for overnight winter parking restrictions was implemented on Dec. 1, 2022.

Overnight parking is now permitted on most city streets except when snow-clearing and ice removal operations are expected or taking place. Residents are responsible for staying informed on whether a parking ban is in place in their area.

- Notice of overnight parking restrictions will be issued by 4 p.m.
- On-street parking will not be permitted from midnight to 7 a.m. when restrictions are in place.
- Overnight parking ban may remain in effect for more than one consecutive day.
- Always check for updates before parking

Vehicles parked on the street when restrictions are in place risk being ticketed and towed.

Existing parking restrictions, seasonal parking bans on narrow streets, no parking zones, or temporary winter parking bans are still in effect. Follow local signage – overnight winter parking restrictions do not override existing parking restrictions.

Find out about a parking ban via the Moncton Alerts dashboard, [text](#) or email alerts by [signing up for Moncton Alerts](#), and [on local radio stations](#)

### **RIVERVIEW**

The Town of Riverview restricts parking on town streets between 12 a.m. and 7 a.m. from December 1 to March 31. Vehicles in violation of the Town's Traffic By-Law 700-11 could be ticketed or towed whether it is snowing or not.

## CONSIDERATIONS

After consulting with all key stakeholders, we have concluded the following:

- The implementation of the change will have very little effects on the snow removal operations as it is expected that the alerts will be in place every time snow plowing equipment is deployed.
- We may need to implement new seasonal parking ban to restrict parking on narrower streets to allow the salt truck to proceed during nights of no precipitation but risk of icing conditions. These occur often during the months of December, March, and April.
- We may need to implement new temporary winter parking bans along streets where we may need to load and haul snow to allow for storage space for future snow.
- As the new change will need to take place before December 1, 2023, the necessary changes to our alert system and the traffic by-law must proceed quickly.
- It has been identified that changes to our Traffic By-Law needs to be approved by the New Brunswick Department of Justice & Public Safety. I also understand that these approvals may take up to 1 yr. There is a risk that the changes in the Traffic By-Law will not be in effect by the next winter season.
- Last year, Moncton issued approximately 20 overnight parking ban alerts and issued many parking tickets each night. There were no patterns clearly visible to say that the situation was getting any better as the winter progressed.
- Alerts are meant to inform residents and subscribers that parking enforcement will be occurring those nights. When and if in doubt, owners should park in the driveway, as they did in prior years.
- We believe this change will allow enforcement to be active on night where with alerts and will be able to apply their time more efficiently. Residents, over time, will learn to expect that on snowy night they will need to park in their driveway or will be receiving a ticket. The predictability in receiving a ticket should improve the parking situation on snowy nights.
- Over time, the alerts system should result in less court appearances and in fewer tickets being challenged. In the short term, there are risks that tickets will be challenged by residents questioning/stating they were not aware of the alerts.
- Residents will be able to verify the alerts on our web site and by calling our emergency after hours number.
- Visitors may not be aware of the parking alert system and risk being exposed to receiving tickets if not informed by a host resident. Owners of vehicles could be reminded that “if in doubt, continue to park in your driveway same as before”.

Legal: N/A

Strategic Plan: N/A

Financial:

The cost of implementing the text alert messaging system represents an additional \$3,000 for the web site module to allow for text messaging. The current system is only accepting emails. If Council wishes

to proceed with the alert system, we recommend allowing staff to explore alert options and return to council with a recommendation.

Policy:

This change must be implemented in the Traffic by-law. Below is an excerpt of the Halifax and Moncton Traffic by-laws sections pertaining to the alert system.

**HALIFAX - WINTER PARKING REGULATIONS**

**WHEREAS** I am of the opinion that, due to anticipated special conditions, it is necessary restrict the parking of vehicles in Halifax Regional Municipality from time-to-time, to conduct snow and ice removal and associated winter operations.

**THEREFORE** under the authority of Section 202 of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1989 RSNS, c 293 as amended, as Traffic Authority for the Halifax Regional Municipality, I make the following regulations:

1. In this Regulation:

a) “publicized” means a communication to the public in any form determined by the Traffic Authority for the Halifax Regional Municipality on a case-by-case basis and includes posting a communication on the website for the Halifax Regional Municipality; and

b) “special condition day” means any number of days, determined by the Traffic Authority for the Halifax Regional Municipality, to be required for snow or ice operations, or any other weather event.

2. At its sole discretion the Traffic Authority for the Halifax Regional Municipality may declare a special condition day for one or more of the following areas:

a) All of Halifax Regional Municipality.

b) Dartmouth within highway 111, Wallace Heights, Lakeshore Park Terrace, and peninsular Halifax including all of Joseph Howe Drive, as depicted in Schedule A; or

c) the area of Halifax Regional Municipality which is outside of the area depicted in Schedule A;

3. A special condition day shall be declared and publicized at least 12 hours before the parking prohibition takes effect.

4. Notwithstanding that certain traffic signs, parking permits, parking pay zones, or pay stations have been erected or are in use in the Halifax Regional Municipality prohibiting or permitting the parking of vehicles upon sections of the highway during certain hours:

a) It shall be an offence for any person to park an unattended vehicle upon any highway between the hours of 1:00am and 6:00am in any area for which a special condition day has been declared

**MONCTON - Snow Removal**

*7(1) No person shall stop, stand, or park a motor vehicle:*

*(a) on any Highway or portion thereof between the hours of midnight and 7:00 a.m. from December 1 to April 15; or*

*(b) on any Highway or portion thereof when the City Manager has authorized its closure for snow removal and ice control operations.*

*7(2) Despite any other provision of this By-Law, where a motor vehicle is parked or left standing on any Highway or portion thereof, contrary to the provisions of this section, and in such manner that it interferes with or obstructs snow removal or ice control operations, a peace officer or a by-law officer may cause such motor vehicle to be moved or towed at the owner's expense.*

*7(3) The provisions of this section are enacted for the purpose of snow removal.*

*7(4) Despite paragraph 7(1)(a), if the City Manager, or their delegate, successor or designate is of the opinion that weather, snow and Highway conditions do not require parking restrictions between the hours of midnight and 7:00 a.m. at any time between December 1 and April 15, the City Manager, or their delegate, successor or designate is authorized to permit the stopping, standing or parking of motor vehicles on any Highway .or portion thereof for such period of time and in such locations as the City Manager, or their delegate, successor or designate deems advisable.*

Stakeholders:

This change will impact residents and visitors who own a motor vehicle. The change will also impact a few departments and the following staff members were consulted:

- ✓ Manager of Public Works
- ✓ Communications Manager
- ✓ By-law Enforcement Officer and the Municipal Enforcement
- ✓ IT Manager

Interdepartmental Consultation:

As this change will impact a number of departments, the following staff members were consulted:

- ✓ Manager of Public Works
- ✓ Communications Manager
- ✓ By-law Enforcement Officer and the Municipal Enforcement
- ✓ IT Manager

Communication Plan:

An extensive Communication plan will be developed to support the implementation of the alert system. The Town already has an alert system and I understand, the new winter parking alert will utilise the same process. The delivery of the change may involve placing PSAs, our current social media outlets, web sites, and the radio stations.

If approved, the process of issuing an alert will be done before 4pm the day of the alert. The Manager of Public Work will contact the communication department informing them to issue the alert.

Alert can be received via text messaging, or by email. The communication department may decide to also push these out on Facebook and twitter.

### **OPTIONS**

- a) The Town may proceed with the winter parking alert as a pilot project for the 2023-2024 winter season from December 1 to March 31, during the hours of midnight to 7am.
- b) The Town may decide to not proceed with the alerts and continue with the current December 1 to March 31 parking ban.

### **RECOMMENDATION FROM STAFF**

I recommend Council direct staff to proceed with Option A; prepare the appropriate amendments to the Traffic By-Law, and direct staff to explore alert options and return to council with a budget recommendation.