



TOWN OF MAYERTHORPE BYLAW BULLETIN

With Fall just around the corner, it seemed to be a good time send out this reminder concerning traffic issues and property matters that may affect you.

Traffic Matters:

Distracted Drivers Legislation is now being enforced around the Province as well as here in Mayerthorpe. The biggest part of this law concerns the use of cell phones while driving. You must now use a hands free device such as Bluetooth in order to talk on a cell phone while driving. Texting is prohibited. Doing anything else while driving that distracts you such as personal grooming, reading, writing, playing video games and entering information on a GPS are also prohibited. You are still allowed to drink beverages, smoke, talk to passengers, or use a GPS navigation system as long as it is affixed to the vehicle and is programmed before you start driving, You may eat a snack as long as it is a practical one. If you are holding a bowl of Frosted Flakes in one hand and the spoon in the other, you will probably get a \$172.00 ticket. At this time, there are no demerits associated to this offence. You should also be aware that pursuant to section 43 of the Use of Highways and Rules of Road Regulations, you may only park on the shoulder of a highway in an emergency. So if you want to make a call on your hand held cell phone etc., you must do so at a designated rest area or parking area such as a gas station. If your car is broken down, then this obviously constitutes an emergency and you can use your cell phone to call for assistance. For more information on this topic, go to www.saferoads.alberta.ca or contact myself.

For the benefit of new people to the area, here are some main safety issues that are enforced in Mayerthorpe concerning Traffic;

- U Turns can only be made at intersections. An alley entrance is NOT considered an intersection.
- You can not cross the centre line on Main St. and park on the other side of the road. You must make a U Turn at an intersection and then park on the other side.
- You can not park on the wrong side of the road facing traffic. Make a legal U turn and then park properly.
- Obey the speed signs. Windshield stickers were mailed out with last month's utility bill indicating school zone times among other things. I have more at the Town Office if you have more than one vehicle.
- Obey Stop Signs. You must bring your vehicle to a complete stop at a Stop Sign. Anything less than a complete stop may get you a \$287.00 ticket. It only takes a few seconds longer to bring your vehicle to a complete stop than to "roll" through the intersection.

Street Snow Clearing:

Last winter, some vehicle owners chose to ignore the snow clearing signs put out by Public Works. Due to the heavy snowfalls that we had last winter, this lack of action on the part of some vehicle owners caused unnecessary problems for the snow removal guys. This winter, random night shifts will be worked by the undersigned and if your street is signed to be cleared that night and you have failed to remove your vehicle from the street, it may be towed at your expense, not to mention the fine.

RV Parking Bylaw:

As a reminder, as of October 15th, all trailers and recreational vehicles are prohibited from parking on any street in Town. This remains in effect until April 15th 2012. As in past years, exceptions will be made for construction companies at job sites, as long as the trailer remains hooked to a vehicle and is removed at the end of the day. This exception does not pertain to any company parking a trailer over night on the road, either at the job site or at their residences.

Property Maintenance Bylaw:

As a further reminder, snow must be removed from sidewalks within 48 hours of a snow fall for residences and 24 hours for businesses. As was the procedure last year, any property owner who has not removed snow or ice from their sidewalks within the above noted time period will be sent a Bylaw ticket and a Written Notice to clear the snow. If after the Notice has been sent and the sidewalk has not been cleaned in the required time given, the Town or a contracted person will clean the snow and the property owner will be invoiced. **THE SNOW MUST BE SHOVELLED DOWN TO THE CEMENT FOR THE ENTIRE WIDTH AND LENGTH OF THE SIDEWALK.** Last year some snow was allowed to be left on the sidewalks. This caused headaches in the spring when the snow melted and ice formed. This will not be tolerated this year. ***** If you are going to be away or require assistance in clearing the snow from your sidewalks, please call me and I can provide you with names of people who can be hired to this work for you *** If you want to earn extra money this winter shoveling snow, please call me and I will add your name to the list *****

House Numbering Bylaw:

Just a reminder that all houses and businesses require a street number placed on the building which is at least four inches high and clearly visible from the road. If you don't have one or it is not clearly visible from the road, please take the necessary steps to remedy the issue, otherwise you may face a fine for non-compliance.

Again, all of these Bylaws can be found on the Town's website at www.mayerthorpe.ca and go to Bylaw Enforcement. You can also contact me at 780 786-2416 and I will be more than happy to help you out or answer any questions that you may have. If you prefer E-mail, you can also reach me at bylaw@mayerthorpe.ca.

Gord Sedgewick
Community Peace Officer
Town of Mayerthorpe

