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City Staff Report

Report Date: May 14, 2018**Meeting Date:** May 29, 2018**To:** City Manager**From:** Director of Development Services**Subject:** Bylaw of the Month – June 2018 – Unsightly Properties (Vegetation Overgrowth)

Purpose

The purpose of the June Bylaw of the Month is to develop awareness regarding the City's policy on unsightly properties with respect to overgrown vegetation.

Summary

- The City's Nuisance Bylaw is in place to prevent, abate, and prohibit nuisances and to prohibit persons from causing or permitting unsightliness on property within the City.
- The accumulation or excess growth of grasses, bushes, trees, noxious weeds, or other plants is considered unsightly under the City's Nuisance Bylaw.
- With our growing season well underway Bylaw Officers would like to remind the public to be mindful of the maintenance of their properties, contributing positively to their neighbourhoods.

Recommendation

THAT Council receives for information and promotion staff's administration report on June's Bylaw of the Month: Unsightly Properties (Vegetation Overgrowth).

Statutory Requirements

Local Government Act (Section 325)

Council Policy

City of Quesnel Nuisance Bylaw No. 1456, 2001

Strategic Objective

N/A

Financial Implications

\$100 advertising

Background

June is unsightly properties (overgrowth of vegetation) awareness month. The purpose of this bylaw of the month is to raise awareness on unsightly properties due to overgrown vegetation and accumulation of noxious weeds.

Bylaw Enforcement staff respond to complaints, as well as proactively correspond with property owners who are in, or have a history of being in, non-compliance.



The Nuisance Bylaw fines are accelerated for repeat violations and non-compliance of maintaining a sightly property:

First Offence: \$100

Second Offence: \$300

Subsequent Offence(s): \$500

When is a property a nuisance due to overgrown vegetation?

The standard is set in each neighbourhood and there are differences between the standards kept in compact neighbourhoods versus larger lots or more rural areas. Staff ask that property owners be respectful of their neighbourhoods and maintain their properties to a level that is consistent with the average property of the neighbourhood.

“Bylaw of the Month” has been established to increase awareness of select City of Quesnel regulations. The City will utilize the City’s website, social media, and Council’s media releases such as Council Highlights to inform the community on municipal bylaws. Attached is a sample ad that will be utilized. In addition, Bylaw Enforcement Staff will be increasing activities related to educating and enforcing the particular regulation during the specified month.

Attachments

Example message for Facebook/City website

Concurrence

Community Policy and Bylaw Supervisor