



The Town of Niagara-On-The-Lake

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Report:	OPS-17-025	Committee Date:	April 03, 2017
		Due in Council:	April 10, 2017

Report To:	Operations Advisory Committee
Subject:	The Village Parking Survey Results

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is respectfully recommended that:

- 1.1. The Town Clerk be directed to amend Section 205.01.11 of By-Law No. 4308-09, Parking and Traffic on Town Roads, to remove the 2:00 am. - 6:00 am. parking prohibition.

2. PURPOSE / PROPOSAL

The purpose of this report is to report on the findings of a recent parking survey distributed to The Village residents including recommendations for appropriate remedial measures.

3. BACKGROUND

On January 16, 2017, Council approved recommendation 1.1. of Report CS-17-003 which states, "That Council approve the distribution of a parking survey within The Village." The purpose of the survey was to gather information following a motion that was approved at the December 2016 Council Meeting regarding the implementation of an overnight parking pass, signage and parking designations within The Village.

The approved parking survey was distributed to The Village residents on January 20, 2017, and responses were accepted until February 10, 2017. 240 surveys were distributed and 200 responses were received. (One survey was received after the due date however it was still included in the accumulated results). The survey saw a total response rate of 83%, the highest survey response rate that staff has ever seen.

The survey included questions designed to establish the adequacy of the current parking inventory, the frequency and purpose for which on-street parking is being used, the level of support for a permit system should one prove necessary, and the preferred type of permit system if implemented.

4. DISCUSSION / ANALYSIS

When considering permit parking as a way to mitigate parking issues, staff recognizes that this approach benefits an exclusive group of users and therefore should only be used where the fronting homeowners are affected by extreme and undue parking pressures (i.e. the influx of seasonal tourist traffic in the Heritage Business District). In this event, a permit system is implemented only to the extent necessary to mitigate the pressure on adversely affected residents.

In general, traffic and parking controls are principle based, evidence based and should be applied uniformly throughout the Town. Accordingly, the survey was analyzed from the perspective of several key principles underlying the management and administration of the Town's roadways including:

1. Public roadways are maintained at a cost to all taxpayers. Accordingly, access to the roadway, on-street parking, boulevards, sidewalks and other appurtenances within the Town right-of-way should be held equally available to all road users.
2. Except for properties developed before the inception of site control, homeowners and businesses are responsible for satisfying their parking needs within the limits of their own property.

Staff reviewed the survey results in several steps:

Determining the Adequacy of On-Street Parking Inventory:

Of 200 survey respondents:

68 (34% of total respondents) never use on-street parking

10 (5% of total respondents) rarely or seldom use on-street parking

Of the remaining 122 respondents who routinely use on-street parking with frequencies ranging from occasionally to daily:

53 (26.5% of total respondents) never have problems finding parking

39 (19.5% of total respondents) rarely have problems finding parking

Of the remaining 28 respondents who routinely use on-street parking and have difficulty finding parking:

9 (4.5% of total respondents) do not support a permit system

Although 69% of respondents support a parking permit system, there was no consensus on a preferred type of permit. Only 19 of 200 respondents (9.5%) routinely use on-street parking, have difficulty finding parking and support a permit system. These respondents were distributed throughout the development with no one problem street clearly identified. This low threshold indicates that there are no undue parking pressures in the area surveyed, and therefore no justification for the imposition of a

permit parking system.

That only 44 respondents (22%) approved of marking parking stalls to make more efficient use of the available parking inventory further supports the conclusion that there is sufficient on-street parking available. This response further indicates that there is limited inconvenience to residents from parked vehicles encroaching on driveways, laneways and intersections.

Determining Overnight Parking Requirements:

Of 200 respondents, 143 (71.5%) indicated that they needed overnight on-street parking, in most cases for the accommodation of overnight guests. After reviewing the survey results, staff concluded that the majority of residents who were in support of a parking permit system within The Village, wanted it to alleviate the restriction on overnight parking.

Section 205.01.11 of the Town's Parking and Traffic By-Law No. 4508-09 currently prohibits parking on Town streets between the hours of 2:00 am. and 6:00 am. (without signs). This regulation was implemented in all area municipalities as part of a unified Regional parking by-law approved in 1988. The intent of this provision was to ensure that the streets were kept clear at predictable times so that municipalities could conduct routine maintenance and winter snow removal operations, and to prevent nuisance long-term parking.

It should be noted that the 2:00 am. to 6:00 am. parking prohibition has been rendered obsolete, as in keeping with the Town's Noise By-law routine maintenance is no longer conducted at night. In addition, the 2009 update of the Town's parking and traffic by-law included separate provisions to address nuisance long-term parking and street clearance for snow plowing operations.

Assessing the Need for a Permit System

Staff recognize that the implementation of a permit system within The Village would lead to an ongoing administrative expense which would be borne by all taxpayers to address a localized problem. Staff are of the opinion that elimination of Section 205.01.11 of the Town's Parking and Traffic By-Law No. 4308-09 (no parking between 2:00 am. to 6:00 am.) is a viable alternative to a permit system, and will effectively reduce parking issues/concerns within The Village and benefit the municipality as a whole.

5. STRATEGIC PLAN

N/A

6. OPTIONS

Option #1

Approve the recommendation as is to amend Section 205.01.11 of By-Law No. 4308-09, Parking and Traffic on Town Roads, to remove the 2:00 am. - 6:00 am. parking prohibition. Approval of this recommendation solves the current overnight parking problem at no cost.

Option #2

No change. Leave the provision of the 2:00 am. - 6:00 am. parking prohibition and do not institute a permit system within The Village. This option is not favourable for The Village residents, and ongoing enforcement costs would be incurred.

Option #3

Leave the provision of the 2:00 am. - 6:00 am. parking prohibition and institute a 1-year trial permit system on Brock Street only. Staff suggests beginning with Brock Street because they had one of the highest survey response rates and of the 35 respondents, 69% were in support of a permit system.

The implementation of a trial permit system on Brock Street would require the installation of signs ("No Parking 2 am - 6 am Except by Permit") at an estimated cost of \$2,750.00 plus \$500.00 for the installation and administration of a simple (i.e. annual) permit system with permits being purchased at the Town Municipal Offices.

Should the trial be successful and be expanded to the rest of The Village, it would cost an average of \$1,000.00 per block for signage and a minimum of \$10,000.00 to contract an online permit system/app as is favoured by the residents. An additional cost of \$500.00-\$1,000.00/year is anticipated for app maintenance plus the cost of enforcement for vehicles without permits.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Should staff's recommendation be approved as is, there will be no financial implications.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

Should Council approve staff's recommendation to remove the 2:00 am. - 6:00 am. parking prohibition, staff will advise residents of this change through a Media Release, Social Media posts and within the Niagara-on-the-Lake News.

9. CONCLUSION

Staff recommend that Council direct the Town Clerk to amend Section 205.01.11 of By-Law No. 4308-09, Parking and Traffic on Town Roads, to remove the 2:00 am. - 6:00 am. parking prohibition.

Respectfully submitted,

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ATTACHMENTS

WEB ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENTS FOR LINK

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