



Halifax Regional Council
March 8, 2005

TO: Mayor Peter Kelly and Members of Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Betty MacDonald
Betty MacDonald, Director, Governance and Strategic Initiatives

DATE: March 1, 2005

SUBJECT: **2004 GRAFFITI STRATEGY REPORT**

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

The Community Response Team has committed to providing for Council, an annual Information Report on HRM's Graffiti Strategy.

BACKGROUND

The Community Response Team has committed to continuing with its Graffiti Action Plan. This is an update on that Plan.

DISCUSSION

The Corporate Score Card states that both Council and the residents of HRM want a safe community in which to live. Graffiti has a significant effect on communities as it is associated with the presence of disorder and crime.

To this end, the Community Response Team has had an active year in its efforts to foster a safer community and reduce the fear that accompanies crime. As part of its Graffiti Eradication Program, the following outlines activities undertaken in 2004 and various initiatives for 2005:

General

- Total sq footage of graffiti removed in 2004 - 84,000 sq ft
- Total cost to remove graffiti in 2004 - \$183,570 (taking into consideration product, supplies, labour)
- Go live date - Hansen system - middle of December/04 - for the reporting of graffiti - through the 490-4000 line
- Cst Mike O'sullivan (HRP) is CRT liaison re graffiti in the downtown business area
- Cst Andrew Mathews (HRP Problem Oriented Policing) is CRT liaison re graffiti for HRP policing area
- developed graffiti brochure jointly with HRP and RCMP
- conducting ongoing graffiti research re dynamics and removal product
- participated in Police Week (May/04) with mobile unit and information booth
- co-ordinated placements of 7 murals to assist in discouraging graffiti
- participated in Natal Day parades with mobile unit promoting anti-graffiti

Training - Social Impacts of Graffiti

- Training on the Social Impacts of Graffiti:
 - (1) Recreation staff - Nov/04
 - (2) Overview of social impact of graffiti for HRP uptown beat officers Feb 16/05
 - (3) Overview of social impact of graffiti for HRP and RCMP community relations/crime prevention officers Feb 25/05
 - (4) Met at the WTCC on Feb 15/05 - along with representatives from various downtown businesses in an attempt to co-ordinate the formation of a group to deal with safety issues common to all (to protect customers) - one issue of which is graffiti

Interviews

- CBC TV interview - fall of 2004 - Metropolitan Sportsfield vandalism (graffiti) issues - Lr. Sackville
- Chronicle Herald Feb 10/05 - story by Peter Duffy - entitled "Metro Graffiti Tour, Part 2: the Battle Continues" - CRT staff interviewed during drive around
- Chronicle Herald - Feb 12/05 - follow up story by Peter Duffy - entitled "Graffiti way of saying, I exist!"
- TV interview - Breakfast TV - Sept/04 - Merv Sullivan Park
- TV interview - ATV - graffiti in Woodlawn

Plans for 2005/06

- Co-ordinating Social Dynamics of Graffiti training session for Sportsfield/Playgrounds & Greenbelts staff
- Conducting Social Dynamics of Graffiti Training Session for HRP recruit class - April 20/05
- Conducting Information Session on the Social Dynamics of Graffiti for businesses within the Capital District, the Capital District Task Force and Council - March 24/05
- Conducting Information Session on the Social Dynamics of Graffiti for businesses within the areas of Sackville - March 21/05
- Co-ordinating Information Sessions on the Social Dynamics of Graffiti for businesses within the areas of Bedford and Spryfield
- Discussing with Human Resources the potential for conducting several Information Sessions on the Social Dynamics of Graffiti - per year - for HRM staff
- Participating in Police Week - Graffiti Mobile Unit as well as Information Booth
- Participating in Natal Day Parades - Graffiti Mobile Unit
- Continuation of partnership with HRP and members of Halifax Downtown Security Community regarding gathering of graffiti intelligence.
- Anticipated that 90,000 sq ft of graffiti will be removed
- Conducting ongoing graffiti research re dynamics and removal product

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

N/A

MULTI-YEAR FINANCIAL STRATEGY

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES - N/A

ATTACHMENTS :

Attachment A - Report from Halifax Regional Police
Attachment B - Report from RCMP

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Jane Nauss
Jane Nauss, Co-ordinator, Community Response Team 490-6174

Report Approved by: Gary Martin
Gary Martin, Manager, Community Response 490-4070

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(6) Co-ordinating date for session for Lr Sackville businesses

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Frank A. Beazley
Chief of Police

Address all correspondence to:
The Office of the Chief of Police

Website
www.police.halifax.ns.ca

*Leading and Partnering
in our Community
to Serve and Protect*

Annual Graffiti Report

The following report is intended to outline HRP's response to the issue of graffiti, in the context of an HRM approach. HRP maintains the position that graffiti equates to disorder and crime and that it has a negative impact on communities. Further, HRP continues to see sustainable community problem solving as an approach capable of eliminating this crime.

In mid-2002 to 2003, HRP's Problem Oriented Policing unit (POP) achieved much progress in its efforts to combat graffiti within HRM. The POP team conducted research through schools, shops, the internet, etc and intelligence was compiled through observation and contact sources. An operation plan involving awareness, education, observation and enforcement resulted in arrests for approximately 28 persons. A partnership with the Quinpool Road Business Association assisted in significantly reducing graffiti in that area.

During 2003/2004, the CRCP office developed a graffiti education lesson plan to be delivered to junior high students (grades 7-9). A presentation aimed at high school students, adults and business stakeholders was also developed. These lesson plans include PowerPoint presentations, a video entitled "Graffiti Hurts" as well as colour brochures which were developed in partnership with the HRM Community Response Team and the RCMP. These brochures were distributed during Police Week as well. Further, HRP participated in a community partnership session, lead by the Community Response Team, at which time the issue of graffiti was discussed.

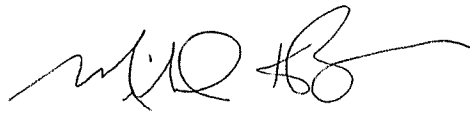
Cst Regan Fong has introduced the lesson plans to the Halifax Regional School Board and the lesson plans fit into the school curriculum.

At the request of Cst Donald Jenkins, the Nova Scotia College of Arts and Design (NSCAD) has agreed to HRP delivering the graffiti education plan to both students and staff. Cst Jenkins will also be delivering this plan to the business community in Burnside. In fact, all Community Response Police Officers and Village Constables have been informed of this initiative and of the availability of new resources.

The anti-graffiti campaign will involve other community stakeholders such as Block Parents; Neighbourhood Watch; City Watch and Canada Post. Education and awareness components will be delivered to them and the full impact of graffiti and it's ramifications will be presented. In an effort to deal with graffiti downtown, the CRCP office is presently working with Cst Mike O'Sullivan and the Community Response Team. Further, Cst Andrew Matthews (POP team) has been identified as liaison officer for graffiti related issues, HRP policing area.

The CRCP office continues it's efforts in the fight against graffiti. Information (appropriate telephone numbers) has been distributed to staff, residents and the business community, encouraging individuals to report graffiti crimes to the respective policing agency. Further, it has been determined that School liaisons are the link to delivering the lesson plans to the youth. The Safe Schools Consultant agrees with this and looks forward to including the programs in the curriculum. This is where the impact will be most beneficial. Graffiti education aimed at youth will be of benefit to the entire community of HRM.

HRP is committed to working with other business units and the community at large in this fight against graffiti. In support of this, Cst Peter Myatt has been seconded to the Community Response Team, to assist in their Graffiti Eradication Program.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Burns', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Superintendent Mike Burns
Halifax Regional Police



TO
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Supt. V Fraser
District Manager
Halifax County District

FROM
DE

Cpl. W Latimer
Nco i/c CP/VS Unit
Halifax County District

SECURITY - CLASSIFICATION - DE SÉCURITÉ
OUR FILE - NOTRE RÉFÉRENCE
YOUR FILE - VOTRE RÉFÉRENCE
DATE 2005-02-21

SUBJECT
OBJET

Halifax County District RCMP Graffiti Status Report for 2004

The Halifax County District Management Team continues to relay the importance of graffiti awareness and related police action to the members of the Halifax County District. Members of the Halifax County District continue to be briefed on the firm stand taken by the Halifax Regional Municipality in their pro active approach to the graffiti issues within the HRM. The coordination of the anti - graffiti initiative for Halifax County District falls under the Community Policing Unit. In May 2004 Cpl. Wayne Latimer assumed the role of Nco i/c of the Community Policing Unit. The Community Policing Unit continues to consist of three full time community policing officers for the Tantallon, Cole Harbour and Lr. Sackville offices. The unit also has six full time Youth / School Liaison officers, assigned to the high schools and their feeder schools in the Tantallon, Cole Harbour and Lr. Sackville office areas Members of the Halifax County District continue to share information and intelligence gathered with the Halifax Regional Police Service as well as the HRM Community Response Team.

Halifax County District has in place and continues to use a scoring code for tracking graffiti complaints. The scoring code (DQ89) has been and will continue to be used in order to differentiate graffiti damage from other damage to property complaints. The scoring code used for the year 2004 has allowed our members to identify in which of the five office areas of Halifax County District graffiti appears to be the most prevalent.

Over the past year the District Manager has held a number of Town Hall meetings in all areas of Halifax County District. The graffiti issue appears to be more prevalent in and a concern to the citizens of the three metro offices, those being Cole Harbour, Lr. Sackville and Tantallon. The District Manager has discussed the importance of combating graffiti, through prevention, enforcement, and education at these Town Hall meetings.

There were a total of fifty (50) reports of graffiti damage reported during the year 2004. There were a total of thirty one (31) reports of graffiti damage for the year 2003. The majority of these complaints were recorded within the three metro office areas of Halifax County District, for both the 2003 and 2004 years

REPORTED GRAFFITI DAMAGE:

OFFICE	2003	2004
Lr. Sackville	9	35
Tantallon	17	11
Cole Harbour	03	04
Musquodboit	01	0
Sheet Harbour	01	0
TOTAL	31	50

2004 Graffiti Initiatives:

1. Halifax County District members worked with the HRM Community Response Team in developing a graffiti brochure which included cost sharing for education purposes.
2. Halifax County District members developed a children's graffiti brochure, which was distributed to youth during Police Week. The youth had to colour the brochure, place their art in a draw, and prizes were given to the winning brochures.
3. Cpl. Latimer took part in anti graffiti television report with members of the HRM Community Response Team, which was taken at a Skate Board park in Lr. Sackville. This report is to be aired on CBC.
4. Halifax County District members took part in a "Breaking down the Silos" work shop delivered by the HRM Community Response Team, during which anti graffiti programs within the HRM were reviewed.
5. Halifax County District members took part in a graffiti training session in March, which was delivered by the HRM Community Response Team at the Ramada Inn.
6. In all office areas of Halifax County District, members have delivered anti - graffiti sessions by delivering the DARE program, or other similar programs, to the students of a number of schools.
7. There has been an on going effort by members of the Tantallon and Lr. Sackville offices to gather intelligence, from a number of sources i.e Citizens on Patrol (COPs), and others, on active persons and or groups of persons suspected in cases of graffiti damage.
8. All members of the Halifax County District Community Policing Unit, worked as a youth action team during the summer months. The members patrolled identified areas within the Halifax County District i.e. beaches. parking lots, parks, paths and other locations where youth gathered and reports of graffiti damage were received.
9. Four members of the Halifax County District Community Policing unit received Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Site Audit training. This training will allow members to work with victims i.e schools, where graffiti damage is done to lessen the risk of damage reoccurring.

Graffiti Initiatives for 2005.

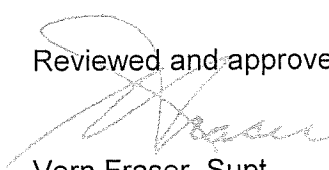
1. Graffiti education will continue within the school system.
2. Members will take part in anti graffiti / graffiti awareness training.
3. Scoring code to track graffiti related complaints will be used by all offices.
4. The Neighborhood Watch and City Watch programs will be used to gather information and intelligence.
5. Members will continue to work with and support the major stakeholders of the HRM.
6. Youth action teams will be put in place to target areas where youth gather during the summer months.
7. Site Audits using CPTED will be done when required or requested.

Major Initiative: Members of the Halifax County District are committed to ensuring they take part in any program or initiative that will address the graffiti problem within the HRM. It appears that the Lr. Sackville office area of Halifax County District, is the area where the majority of the reported graffiti incidents are occurring.

Cst. Curt Wentzell, who is the Community Policing member in Lr. Sackville Office, will form a partnership with the HRM Community Response Action Team. There will be an action plan put in place to address the graffiti issues and concerns within the Lr. Sackville Office area. This plan will include education and enforcement, i.e patrols, intelligence gathering, town hall meetings . This action plan will be reviewed on a regular bases and if successful modified to meet the needs of all offices within Halifax County District.

W Latimer Cpl.
Nco i/c CP/ VS Unit
Halifax County District RCMP

Reviewed and approved 2005-02-22



Vern Fraser, Supt.
Officer in Charge
Halifax Detachment, RCMP