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Halifax Regional Council
March 9, 2004

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Regional Council

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

DATE: February 27, 2004

SUBJECT: **2003 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

One Community Response Objective for 2003/2004 was to develop and implement a 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 CRT has had an active year in its efforts to foster a safer community and reduce the fear which accompanies crime. As part of its Graffiti Eradication Program, the following activities have taken place:

- undertook removal of graffiti within the business district of Quinpool Road itself and developed a good working relationship
- co-ordinated the Graffiti Eradication Program Kick Off - at the Halifax Commons - for Council and senior staff
- conducted a half day session on a unified service delivery - as it pertains to graffiti - for the RCMP, as well as members from respective COP groups. Cst Joel Allen, HRP, made a presentation re graffiti intelligence gathered to date, with Betty MacDonald addressing the group as to how the session tied into the Corporate Score Card. Both Supt. Vern Fraser and Insp. Pete Lepine addressed the group as well. The session was very well accepted and the room was filled to capacity
- developed a Graffiti Education program for both adults and teens with Mayor Kelly, Mr. George McLellan, Supt. Vern Fraser, and Chief Frank Beazley delivering a message to the community, on the negative impacts of graffiti. This program was adopted for use by both HRP and the RCMP
- developed a Graffiti Eradication and Removal Program with financial assistance from the Federal Department of Justice - two full-time HRM positions were created for graffiti removal. The individuals are mainly dedicated to removing graffiti off HRM owned facilities
- secured corporate funding to assist with the Graffiti Eradication and Removal program
- undertook extensive research on graffiti removal product and through trial and error, an asset base of appropriate product has been purchased and is maintained
- undertook extensive research on graffiti and its beginnings
- developed an article for HRM's Intranet outlining that graffiti was a crime and that staff should report it as such to the respective policing agency. The information was also shared with the business districts. Further, the Capital District website carried an article on the importance of ridding the community of graffiti
- utilized the Community Response Mobile Unit (trailer) to raise community awareness of the social impact of graffiti. The trailer was in both Natal Day Parades and set up on site at the first Saint Mary's home football game. The trailer is outfitted with equipment and product utilized to remove graffiti, and is on the road HRM wide
- removed over 50,000 square feet of graffiti. This does not take into consideration the area of surface cleaned on private property by outside companies

- presented HRM's Graffiti Eradication Program to organizations such as the Crime Prevention Society of Nova Scotia, Atlantic Provinces Round Table on Downtown Safety - two sessions - Moncton and Halifax, NSCAD, and to Provincial By-Law Regional Meeting delegates
- participated in staff discussions re proposed graffiti legislation
- co-ordinated the painting of three murals (Purcell's Cove Road, Bedford, Fairview overpass) in an effort to beautify the community and reduce graffiti in an area
- co-ordinated tour of municipal and police representatives from New Brunswick on the effects of graffiti on a community.

For the 2004/2005 year, it is the objective of the Community Response Team to continue with it's Graffiti action plan and the new season will commence once the weather changes. With Police Week coming in May, it is the intention of the RCMP, HRP and the Community Response Team, to target school children in educating them on the negative impacts of graffiti. It is the intent also for the Community Response Team to share, both locally and within/outside Nova Scotia, information and intelligence gathered through various means, on the subculture of the crime of graffiti within HRM.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Each business unit is responsible for covering costs incurred for the removal of graffiti off HRM properties.

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

- (a) RCMP Report prepared by Supt. Vern Fraser
- (b) HRP Report prepared by Supt. Stephen Sykes

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
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Memorandum

Date: January 29, 2004
To: Deputy Chief Chris McNeil
From: Superintendent Stephen D. Sykes
Re: Graffiti Report for 2003

The following report is intended to outline HRP 's response to the issue of Graffiti in the context of an HRM approach. HRP recognizes graffiti is a public order issues that impact on the community's sense of pride and safety. HRP continues to see sustainable community problem solving as the only approach capable of eliminating such a long standing public order issue.

In January 2003, members of the Problem Oriented Policing Unit (P.O.P. Unit) continued to address issues with the ongoing graffiti project. These officers discussed this with representatives from the Quinpool Road Business District Association and Canada Post regarding the "Adopt-A-Mailbox" program. Continuing discussions were also held with S/Sgt Heinz Kuck of Metro Toronto Police over graffiti issues and approaches. Contact was also made with the Community Response Team, HRP Call Back Unit and Metro Integrated Intelligence Unit. A progress report was submitted on February 12, 2003.

A proposal was submitted for a graffiti site within the HRP Website. It was used for a short time. It was later determined to be redundant as a result of a new Police Briefing report. The focus continued to be on the Quinpool Road area with further discussions with the Quinpool Road Business District Association and Canadian Tire, as well as continued surveillance in that area.

P.O.P. Unit members made contact with staff from By-law enforcement, HRM Legal, HRM Development Services and Constable Valerie Spicer, Vancouver City Police to develop a new HRM By-law regarding graffiti.

In April 2003, Constable J. Allen from the P.O.P. unit presented the proposed graffiti legislation to representatives of business associations, HRM Legal Services, By-law Enforcement, RCMP, HRP representatives including CRCP staff and the Community Response Team. This proposal is waiting to go through By-law rationalization process as outlined in Administrative Order 32. A business unit has not been identified as policy lead as of yet.

In an effort to better track reports of graffiti a change was made in the case management policy which now has case managers taking an additional step in casing all graffiti related files making tracking more reliable. This was implemented and we continue to refine our system so we can capture all reports of graffiti. This change along with a member being assigned within the CR/CP unit to track graffiti complaints region wide along with a constable in each of the divisional offices assigned to respond and work with citizens should lead to a more coordinated approach.

HRP and RCMP staff combined graffiti surveillance and clean up within HRM. Surveillance and intelligence gathering continued throughout the year resulting in

forty eight (48) persons of interest being identified as being actively involved in the graffiti culture. There were fifteen (15) people charged with criminal code offences, with one person charged several times. These files are in various stages in the court system. In total 89 reports of graffiti were received by HRP. There were fifty-eight (58) reports filed in Central Division, sixteen (16) in East Division and fifteen (15) in West Division. In addition members from both agencies took part in a graffiti information session at the Ramada Inn in Dartmouth in September.

Members of the P.O.P. Unit responded to calls for service involving graffiti issues and educated members of the public at every opportunity. A recent audit of the Quinpool Road area showed a marked improvement in graffiti damage. This will continue to be an ongoing issue in HRM and the P.O.P. unit will monitor the situation and respond when required.

Education will continue to be an integral part of the war on graffiti. The CRCP unit of HRP in conjunction with the RCMP developed an educational package complete with a Power Point presentation, lesson plan and a video. This presentation is available on CD and also on a shared HRM drive.

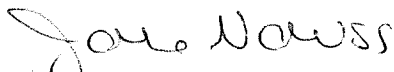
In order for the education component of this project to be successful, it must be available at three levels. The first level is that all of HRP School Liaison Officers have been briefed on the contents of the graffiti program/presentation. These same officers have been instructed to inform the schools of the availability of this presentation. A copy of this program will also be shared with school board representative for Safe Schools.

The second level is to inform the local business associations of the availability of this program. This is currently being done by the CRCP unit,

The third level is to educate members of the Halifax Regional Police. This will be accomplished through the HRP training section, who will evaluate this information and determine the best method of delivery for our members.

In closing, it is clear that the fight against graffiti continues. The war against graffiti is not just a police problem and has extended to other business units and the community at large. We will continue to work with other HRM business units, members of the community, businesses, Halifax Regional School Board, the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and the RCMP in combatting this problem.

Should you have any questions or require any further clarification please contact me.


Superintendent Stephen D. Sykes

Halifax Detachment RCMP Graffiti Status Report for 2003

Prepared By: Cst Joe Taplin
Community Policing
Halifax Detachment

Submitted By: Supt. Vern Fraser
OIC Halifax Detachment

Overview of Halifax Detachment Graffiti Status

The Halifax Detachment Management Team continues to relay the importance of graffiti awareness and related police action to our entire membership. RCMP officers continue to be fully briefed on the firm stand taken by the Halifax Regional Municipality Administration in their proactive approach to the graffiti problem within the HRM. The coordination of anti-graffiti initiative for Halifax Detachment remained under the Community Policing Section. The community policing sections consist of three full-time community policing officers for Tantallon, Lower Sackville and Cole Harbour. Also, included in the community section are the six full-time youth liaison officers assigned to High Schools and their feeder schools. Ongoing information sharing of this intelligence gathered by the members has taken place with the Halifax Regional Police (HRP) as well as the Community Response Initiative (CRI) team members.

Halifax Detachment has taken an initiative to have as many as its officers trained in graffiti awareness and graffiti initiative training which was presented by Gary Martin team leader of the Community Response Initiative of the HRM. This far RCMP members have taken part in three sessions completed by Gary Marti and have trained 36 members including all youth liaison and community policing officers.

The scoring code for tracking graffiti for Halifax Detachment has been implemented and is used on all graffiti related complaints to continue to track graffiti in Halifax Detachment. The scoring code will continue to allow us to differentiate graffiti from other mischief complaints in certain areas. The scoring code has also allowed us to pinpoint graffiti areas and will enable our community policing officers to address this with the community.

This past year Supt. Fraser has had nine town hall meetings and has discussed the importance of Halifax Detachment and citizens in combating future graffiti problems. The main area of concern would be graffiti prevention and education.

Breakdown of Current Graffiti Status

Cole Harbour and Area

The Cole Harbour area which includes Eastern Passage, Lake Echo, the Prestons, and portion of

Porters Lake, has continued to see an escalation in graffiti over the past year. The primary area for graffiti remains the same as previous years, which is the Cole Harbour area on Forrest Hill Drive, Cole Harbour Road.

The area mentioned is mainly concentrated at local businesses with the core of the community. The shopping Centers of Forrest Hills Drive and Cole Harbour Road remains an area which continues to be tagged. The business of Canadian Tire on Forrest Hills Drive took a proactive approach and had the graffiti removed from their building when it was noticed. A major area of concern still centers around the local skate board park situated next to Cole Harbour Place. The Community Response Initiative Team came to the skate board park area this fall and removed graffiti from the skate board park and all structures within this area. Cole Harbour Place then situated their security cameras to view this area. Within days the tags started to show up again within this area. The cameras at Cole Harbour Place proved to be of no avail as they were not appropriate for this type of surveillance.

There seems to some reduction of graffiti in the Eastern Passage area. The school areas where tags were placed last year and removed from the school, have not redeveloped in these areas this past year. Once again this year a bike rodeo was held in the Eastern Passage area and the main education theme was bike safety and anti-graffiti messages sent out with the children during this event.

RCMP members continue to address the graffiti problem within the school system. The Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program remains the main tool for the anti-graffiti message. DARE is taught within all Elementary schools within the Cole Harbour office area with a 45 minute lesson which concentrates on graffiti. This lesson elaborates on the negative side of graffiti and portrays it as a crime which could be associated with gangs. This year DARE is being delivered to 987 grade six students within the Cole Harbour area. Parents of DARE students have also seen the positive side of this message and reinforce the anti-graffiti message with their children. This past year, during the DARE graduations, attended by members of the community, an anti-graffiti message was delivered during this event.

Lower Sackville and Area

The Lower Sackville area which includes Upper and Middle Sackville, Fall River, Waverley, Windsor Junction and Beaver Bank, have seen a decrease in graffiti over this past year.

Lower Sackville schools have had the odd tag here and there but the tags were removed as soon as they were placed on the buildings. One of the proactive approaches to graffiti within the schools took place at Sackville Heights Junior High School. Three young offenders were arrested for tagging the school and were dealt with within the Restorative Justice Program. The word traveled fast within the school areas that the police and school were treating graffiti very seriously.

The other area of concern was the Windsor Junction area where the Community Response Initiative Team had to come out to this area and remove racial slurs twice from the street.

As with Cole Harbour, the DARE program is being offered in the majority of Lower Sackville's schools. The DARE program is being delivered to 743 kids within the school system this year.

Tim Hortons on Beaver Bank Road has taken a proactive approach to graffiti within their business. When Tim Hortons was tagged, the graffiti was removed within days of being placed on the building or within the washrooms of their establishment.

Tantallon and Area

The Tantallon area which includes the Sambro loop, Peggy's Cove and area, Hubbards, Hammonds Plains, Beechville, Lakeside and Timberlea have remained the status quo with graffiti. They have not seen any reduction but believe there has not been an increase in graffiti.

The one concern that did arise from the Tantallon area was the racial slurs which were placed on the water tower at the end of Charles Rd in Timberlea. The Community Response Team came out to the water tower and removed the racial graffiti the same day it was reported. The RCMP then contacted Herald Reporter Randy Jones to complete a story on the negative image graffiti has given to the community. Once the press release was completed and released, all three television stations picked up the story and put the negative stigma on the effects this type of graffiti does to your community. There was a very large outcry from within the community that this is not welcome in their area and would not be tolerated.

This past year a new Youth Liaison member took the school positions for Sir. John A High School and has started to implement graffiti talks to the junior high and elementary schools within the Tantallon area.

Musquodoboit Harbour and Area

The Musquodoboit area which includes a portion of Porters Lake, Ship Harbour, Clam Harbour and Meaghers Grant, has had very limited signs of graffiti.

Areas that saw tagging were the community offices in Porters Lake and a few highway signs within the Musquodoboit area.

Sheet Harbour and Area

The Sheet Harbour area which includes Ship Harbour, Ecum Secum, Upper Musquodoboit, Mooseland and Mosher River has reported again this year that there are areas that have received graffiti.

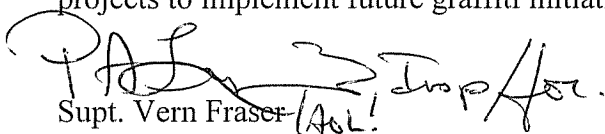
The Sheet Harbour office is aware of the anti-graffiti program established within the HRM and will continue to participate in any way to make the program a success.

Conclusions and Future Initiatives

The OIC of Halifax Detachment continues to be committed to ensuring that all the members of the unit actively participate in addressing the graffiti problem within the HRM. One of the main initiatives this year in the anti graffiti message was RCMP and HRP teamed up with Saint Mary's University Football team to deliver an anti-graffiti message to students this past year. The Community Response Initiative Team participated in home football games this year at Saint Mary's where the graffiti trailer was on display with the graffiti banner "GRAFFITI HURTS". With the continued ongoing cooperation with Halifax Regional Police, Halifax Regional Municipality and the Community Response Team there will be a reduction in graffiti in years to come.

Graffiti Initiatives for 2004.

1. Media Relations have made contact with Herald reporter Randy Jones and a HRM story will be completed this spring on the anti-graffiti message.
2. Graffiti education will continue with the school system.
3. Continue support between the major stakeholders of the HRM
4. Incorporating our Youth Group, Stetson and Spurs to photograph and card all graffiti within the five RCMP offices.
5. Community Policing officers will be putting action plans together to deal with graffiti problem areas.
6. Continue ongoing training of RCMP members in anti graffiti/graffiti awareness education.
7. Continue to track and use the scoring code on all graffiti related complaints.
8. Educate our Neighborhood Watch Programs of graffiti and how to report it.
9. Continue to update the communities via City Watch on graffiti Initiatives.
10. Police Week 2004 will have an "Anti-Graffiti" theme for all schools.
11. New recruits to Halifax Detachment's offices of Lower Sackville, Tantallon, and Cole Harbour will be completing a CAPRA project on graffiti and Halifax Detachment will use these projects to implement future graffiti initiatives.


Supt. Vern Fraser / *Imp. Acc.*
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