
HALDIMAND COUNTY

Report ECW-09-2021 Regulation of Recreational Vehicles Parked on County Roads



For Consideration by Council in Committee on October 5, 2021

OBJECTIVE:

To provide Council with a recommendation to amend the current parking by-law as it applies to the parking of recreational vehicles on County roads.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Report ECW-09-2021 Regulation of Recreational Vehicles Parked on County Roads be received;
2. AND THAT Haldimand County Parking Control By-law 307/02, Section 9 Parking Prohibited, be amended as outlined in Report ECW-09-2021.

Respectfully submitted: Tyson Haedrich, M. Eng., P. Eng., General Manager of Engineering & Capital Works

Approved: Craig Manley, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The current Parking Control By-law 307/02 restricts the parking of all vehicles on County roads for a period of longer than 48 hours. This restriction has caused challenges for enforcement as the 48 hour window is reset if the vehicle is moved even slightly on the road. Recreational vehicles contribute to this problem because the zoning bylaw has front yard setbacks that prevent most people from parking recreational vehicles on their own lots.

Staff have reviewed possible options and are recommending that the parking by-law be amended to limit recreational vehicle parking on County roads to two 48 hour periods over 7 days. This option is recommended because it provides a balance between allowing people a reasonable amount of time to load/unload, clean and winterize their recreational vehicle while at the same time providing a clear enforcement method if the vehicle is on the street for longer than 48 hours.

BACKGROUND:

At the November 17, 2020 Council in Committee meeting, staff were given direction through the following resolution:

"THAT staff be directed to report back to a future Council in Committee meeting on options for restricting on-street parking of recreational vehicles."

This direction resulted from a number of issues over the years involving concerns that larger vehicles can restrict sightlines, objections to the appearance of recreational vehicles on streets for long periods of time and issues with on street parking spaces being occupied with the larger recreational vehicles.

The parking of recreational vehicles in Haldimand County is currently controlled through the following regulations:

Definition of Recreational Vehicle (County Zoning By-law HC 1-2020)

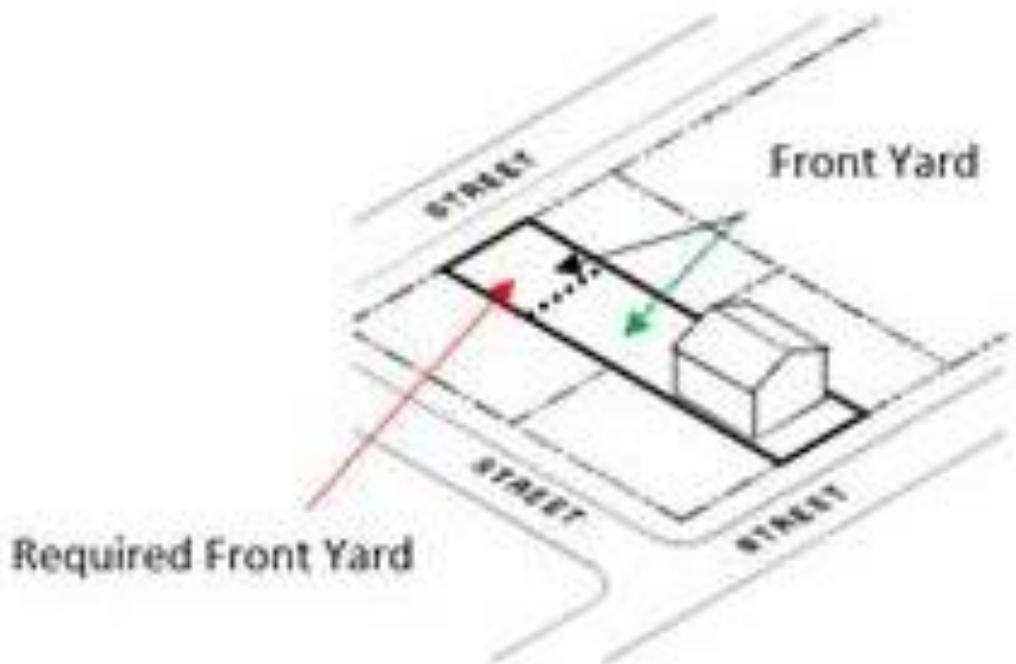
“Recreational Vehicle” shall mean a vehicle designed to provide temporary living, sleeping or eating accommodation for travel, vacation, seasonal camping or recreational use and designed to be driven, towed, transported or relocated from time to time whether or not the vehicle is jacked up or its running gear is removed, and with a size as defined by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA). A recreational vehicle shall not be used as the principal place of residence of the occupant. A recreational vehicle shall include a motor home, camper trailer, motorized home, motorized camper, truck camper, pick-up coach, chassis-mounted camper, slide-in camper, tent trailer, fifth-wheel trailer and park model trailer and similar mobile vehicles and shall include a mobile home, a motorized racing vehicle, snowmobile, off-road vehicles and marine craft.

Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw HC 1-2020 - Section 5.2.14 Parking of Vehicles in Residential Zones

The parking of vehicles in Residential zones shall be subject to the following:

c) recreational vehicles, boats, personal water craft, horse trailers, general use trailers, motorized racing vehicles and snowmobiles shall be prohibited from parking in any required front yard or required exterior side yard. No parking space shall be permitted within an auto shelter located within the required front yard or exterior side yard of a lot.

As shown in the diagram below the zoning by-law provides for a minimum front yard (required front yard) for all properties in the urban areas of 6 meters. In general, minimum front yards are larger in the Hamlet (9 metres) and Lakeshore Residential (7 metres) zones, however given these properties are typically larger than urban areas there is usually more space for parking recreational vehicles even with the larger front yard setbacks.



Room to park an RV where the green arrow points.

Current Parking Bylaw Regulation – Section 9 Parking Prohibited

Unless otherwise permitted in this by-law, no person shall at any time park a vehicle for a period of longer than 48 consecutive hours. The current fine for a ticket received for a violation of this time frame is \$50.00.

This parking by-law regulation has resulted in issues with enforcement with long term parking on County roads because if the vehicle is moved on the street in any way the 48 hour time frame restarts.

ANALYSIS:

Based on a review of the current zoning bylaw, the current parking by-law and the feedback from several Councilors as well as by-law enforcement staff, three options are presented representing the most feasible options for controlling recreational vehicle parking on County roads.

The three options for regulating recreational vehicle parking on County roads are:

Option 1 – Maintain Status Quo:

Maintain the current parking by-law regulations and do not implement any changes to enforcement.

This option is not recommended as the ability of by-law enforcement will not be changed and the issue will persist.

Option 2 – Limit Parking of Recreational Vehicles to two 48 Hour Periods over 7 Days:

Amend Section 9 Prohibited Parking of the Parking Bylaw with the following clause:

No Person shall park a Recreational Vehicle on a street more than twice each time, for a period of no longer than 48 consecutive hours, within a 7 day period.

From an enforcement standpoint a ticket will now be able to be issued when:

- after 48 hours the recreational vehicle is still on a County road even if it has been moved on the same street or to another street.
- the recreational vehicle is on the street after two non-consecutive 48 hours within a 7 day period.

This option is recommended because it provides a balance between allowing people a reasonable amount of time to load/unload, clean and winterize their recreational vehicle while at the same time providing a clear enforcement method if the vehicle is on the street for longer than 48 hours.

This proposed amendment to the parking by-law should address the most common method of avoiding the current 48 hour parking restriction which is people moving their recreational vehicle slightly to restart the 48 hour time frame.

This option also represents a tightening of the existing 48 hour time limit to apply to recreational vehicles only and therefore limiting any possible unforeseen effects on member of the public abiding by the regulations.

Option 3 – Prohibit Recreational Vehicles from Parking on County Roads:

Amend the parking bylaw to prohibit the parking of recreational vehicles on any County road at any time.

This option is not recommended as there is a need for recreational vehicles to park on the street for limited times during certain activities such as loading/unloading.

FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not applicable.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACTS:

Not applicable.

REPORT IMPACTS:

Agreement: No

By-law: Yes

Budget Amendment: No

Policy: No

ATTACHMENTS:

None.