

#### 4. Bylaws (Also see Councillors' Reports)

##### **General comments**

Councillor Torres reminded residents of the importance of always obtaining a permit for the work they intend to do. She explained that to get information concerning the need for a permit, too many people are relying on their neighbours or calling her for answers. In order to get completely accurate information, it is essential to direct any questions to the Town's Planning Department. (November, 2023, Informer – **September, 2023**, Council meeting)

??That's because the permits section is not clear

Forty-three permits have been issued during the past month and four notices have been delivered. Two of the notices pertained to sanitation and maintenance and two for work being done without permits. Councillor Torres said she is dismayed at how many times she hears of bylaws regarding permits being ignored. She wants to ensure that the consequences are clearly understood because they can be very financially significant as well as very time-consuming. The information is readily available on the Town's website and all questions can be answered by contacting the Building Inspector's office before any work is started. (December, 2022, Informer -- **October, 2022**, Council meeting)

- **Airbnbs** – illegal (See Councillors' Reports. Fines described)

- **Bikes on Westminster sidewalks.**

A senior resident who uses a cane is alarmed by the many bicycles he encounters on the sidewalks on Westminster, especially when the Town has a bylaw which forbids this. The usual reply, in the past, has always been that there is little the Town can do to enforce this bylaw since the PSOs cannot issue a ticket for a moving vehicle violation. However, Councillor Mazzone stated this time that "bike-riding is not permitted on sidewalks, period!" Councillors Feeney and Mazzone, in an article in Councillors Communique in the April-May issue of the Informer, asked for co-operation from the community in keeping all the Town's sidewalks unobstructed and are considering an awareness campaign. (May-June, 2021, Informer – **April, 2021**, Council meeting)

??But couldn't they report it like permit violations and then fine later???

- **Car washing & tire changing prohibited on streets.**

One resident felt the bylaw prohibiting the washing of cars and the changing of tires in the street was unfair to those who have no driveways in which to accomplish those tasks. Present bylaws will be reviewed to determine if any modifications should be made. (September, 2022. Informer – **May, 2022**, Council meeting)

- **Children playing on streets.** (See Sidewalk obstructions just below)

- **Fossil fuel heating ban?** (see Environment)

- **Gas powered leaf blower ban.**

Montreal West will be joining many other municipalities in the further regulation of leaf blowers and is proposing that starting November 1, 2023, all gas-powered blowers and vacuums will be prohibited and only electric models will be permitted in the spring and fall periods. (October, 2022, Informer – **August, 2022**, Council meeting)

A resident requested modification of the bylaw governing leaf blowers to allow some types of blowers to still be used. Present bylaws will be reviewed to determine if any modifications should be made. (September, 2022. Informer – **May, 2022**, Council meeting)

- **Home swimming pools.** (See Councillors' Reports -- specify item)
- **Kids playing on streets.** (See Sidewalk obstructions just below)
- **Leaf blowers.** (See Gas powered leaf blower ban)

- **Leaves swept into street. Find reference – in Bylaws article?**  
Leaves are not permitted in any situation to be deposited on the street. All raked or blown leaves must be put into only paper bags or garbage bins to be picked up by the compost trucks on Tuesdays. No plastic bags are acceptable. (October, 2022, Informer – **August, 2022**, Council meeting)
- **Neglected properties.**  
It was explained to a resident on Ronald Drive who was upset at the abandoned and neglected property next to his home that the Town has been monitoring this situation for quite some time. The owner has been repeatedly warned and ticketed, but has never responded. The Town must wait for permission from the court to clean up the property. (December, 2021, Informer -- **October, 2021**, Council meeting)

The issue of cars left rusting on a property on Strathearn North is being dealt with, but is presently complicated by having to deal with the past and present owners of the property. (November, 2021, Informer – **August, 2021**, Council meeting)

- **Parking on Westminster in the business area.**  
Following complaints that time limits are not always being adhered to in the Town's parking lots on Westminster and Strathearn as well as on some streets, the PSOs will be following up on infractions. They will be verifying permits for cars using the Percival and Northview parking lots as well. (May, 2022, Informer – **March, 2022**, Council meeting)
- **Sidewalk obstructions.** (Also see Councillors' Reports)  
The rights of children to play in the street versus the need to legislate against certain aspects of these activities has been an issue brought to the mayor's attention in the past few weeks. The need to review the bylaws impacting this activity to determine which ones must be respected and which may have "passed their best before date" is seen as a way to ensure everyone's safety and enjoyment of their property. (May, 2022, Informer – **March, 2022**, Council meeting)
- **Size of trees on private property.** (See Trees)
- **Swimming pools.** (See Councillors' Reports)
- **Triplexes permitted in certain zones.** (See Councillors' Reports)
- **Wood burning stoves & fireplaces.** (See Environment)
- **Zoning bylaw changes and challenges.** (See Councillors' Reports)