



Sidewalk Clearing - Do You Know The Rules?

While residential property owners have always taken on the responsibility for clearing the sidewalks adjacent to their properties of snow and ice, with the recent installation of sidewalks in the Gasoline Alley area of the County, it came to light that Red Deer County did not have 'written' rules in place relative to this responsibility. As a result, the County adopted a bylaw in September 2016 that requires property owners to be responsible for clearing these sidewalks.

Bylaw No. 2016/22 amended the Road Protection and Traffic Control Bylaw, and states that adjacent landowners will be responsible for clearing snow and ice from adjacent sidewalks within 48 hours of the snowfall. The snow and ice must also be removed onto private property, and not onto another portion of the sidewalk or onto the road.

Red Deer County provides the snow clearing service for its bus stops, and residents are responsible for clearing the sidewalks adjacent to their property. A review of other municipalities within Alberta showed that, in all instances, property owners are also responsible for the clearing of snow and ice from sidewalks adjacent to their property.

In the areas where a sidewalk may be adjacent to public lands, County administration will be coordinating the service to ensure these sidewalks are cleared pursuant to the County's bylaw.

In order to ensure that the regulations as set by a bylaw are adhered to, a method of enforcement is also adopted.

In this instance, there are a number of avenues that may be pursued by the County if sidewalks are not cleared pursuant to the terms set in the bylaw.



If a property owner does not comply with the clearing of snow and ice, a notice of offense may be given. As in all other instances, County Peace Officers have the discretion to issue a warning as opposed to a violation tag or ticket. If the snow and ice remains, the County may take steps to have the snow and ice cleared and the costs associated with clearing would be invoiced to the property owner.

Clearing snow and ice from sidewalks helps create a safe environment for everyone during the winter months. Thank you for your assistance in keeping our walkways safe.