



Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula
Council Report

Report Number: MLEO 24-10

Subject: Parking Report 2024

From: Curtis Bekking – Acting Chief Bylaw Officer

Date: December 9, 2024

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives MLEO report No. 2024-10 Parking Report for 2024, as information;

AND THAT the report be uploaded to Let's Talk NBP for thirty (30) days for public comment.

Background:

The paid parking program within the Municipality is monitored and documented through May 15 to October 15. At the end of every season, a paid parking report is presented to Council with information and recommendations to improve the parking program.

The goal of the program is to maintain an organized parking structure at high-traffic sites to improve pedestrian safety and reduce congestion for residents. The use of contracted parking enforcement officers strives to provide information on parking fees, locations and to maintain the orderly flow of traffic in high congestion areas. Parking enforcement officers are equipped with counters to record the number of vehicles turned away when high-traffic areas are at capacity. These numbers are recorded and included in this report to assist in future decisions on the recommendations made.

Comments:

Tobermory Parking Committee Requests

During the previous Council meeting, the Tobermory Chamber of Commerce presented several requests regarding the Municipal paid parking program. Below is a summary of their key points.

The Chamber has proposed the addition of bill changers alongside existing parking meters. However, a review conducted in 2017 revealed no suitable locations for these change machines. Additionally, an analysis of parking meter income indicated that only 6.66% of total revenue for the season came from coin payments. From July to October 15, there were 54 reported malfunctions across the municipality's parking machines, with issues ranging from printer failures and connection problems to low printer paper. Many of the payment difficulties are attributed to user error, as visitors often try to use non-accepted payment methods such as debit cards and Visa debit. To mitigate this, all machines were updated in spring 2024 with visible stickers indicating that only coins and credit cards are accepted. The current payment options include coins, credit cards, and online payments via scan and pay.

Additionally, the Tobermory Paid Parking Committee has recommended reducing the paid parking season from June 20 to Labor Day. In 2023, the municipality experienced an estimated revenue loss of \$77,779, factoring in expenses from both Tobermory and Lions Head.

Grace Period:

Parking enforcement officers have been reminded of the grace period policy, which allows vehicle owners time to retrieve their parking passes from machines or online. Officers are also trained to assist visitors with information about the paid parking program and the locations of parking machines.

Arrow on Bay Street:

There has been concern regarding vehicles stopping on Bay Street, off Highway 6, to drop off people or items. To improve traffic flow and minimize stoppage in this area, it has been suggested that a right turn arrow be installed at the intersection near Peninsula Ice Cream and The Crowsnest. Additionally, implementing "no stopping" signs at the entrance of Bay Street from Highway 6 may also help alleviate congestion.

Recommendations:

That the Municipal parking season be amended to May 15 to September 15, and;

That a right turn arrow be added at the corner of Bay Street Peninsula Ice Cream along with no stopping signs, and;

That middle parking spaces at Tobermory Community Centre be designated as 30-minute parking.

Dyers Bay:

The relocation of the parking machine to the intersection of Dyers Bay Road and Bartley Drive, along with the installation of signage for the parking lot, has successfully guided visitors. However, a persistent challenge in the Dyers Bay area has been the poor cellular signal. To enhance visitor experience, implementing a reservation system would allow individuals to book and pay for their parking space in advance. Additionally, the parking machine could be moved to a location with a higher visitor volume and improved cellular coverage.

Seasonal By-Law Officers regularly patrolled the Dyers Bay dock, which led to vehicle owners relocating their cars and citations being issued for unauthorized parking at Dock Lane.

Recommendations:

That a reservation system be utilized at the Dyers Bay parking lot.

Borchardt Rd:

In 2024, a significant number of alarms from the parking machines were attributed to poor signal connections in the Borchardt parking lot. As this area is quite remote, officers often spent valuable time traveling to address these connectivity issues. Given the success of the reservation system in other locations, implementing it at the Borchardt Road lot would not only reduce the need for officers to travel for alarm responses and collections but also alleviate visitor frustration caused by a malfunctioning parking machine. By allowing reservations to be made in advance from a location with a stronger signal, we can enhance the overall parking experience for visitors.

Recommendations:

That a parking reservation system be utilized at the Borchardt Road parking lot.

Carter Rd:

The parking area at Carter Road remains a low-traffic zone compared to other locations within the Municipality. Consequently, no dedicated parking enforcement officer is assigned to this area. Instead, seasonal by-law officers conduct routine patrols, which typically find very few parking-related issues.

Recommendations:

That a parking reservation system be utilized at the Carter Road parking lot.

Attachments:

Nil.

Budget Implications:

A Treasurer's report regarding the 2024 Parking Meter operational

Municipal Strategic Commitment:

1. Creating a strong & resilient economy
2. Maintaining a transparent & responsible government

Respectfully submitted:

Approved by:

Curtis Bekking

Bylaw Officer

Peggy Van Mierlo-West,

Chief Administrative Officer