

**MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON GRAFFITI**

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: ANTI-GRAFFITI STRATEGY UPDATE**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. THAT Council receive this report for information purposes.
2. THAT Council approve the Anti-Graffiti Coordinator position as a regular full time position in the City of Burnaby.

**REPORT**

The Mayor's Task Force on Graffiti, at its meeting held on 2008 October 29, received and adopted the *attached* report providing an update on implementation of the anti-graffiti strategy adopted by Council in 2007 January. The anti-graffiti bylaw came into effect in 2007 September and the Anti-Graffiti Coordinator has been involved in a variety of enforcement, education, prevention and eradication activities. The Task Force is pleased with the work that has been undertaken to date and recognize that in order to make "Burnaby Beautiful One Tag at a Time" the goals already achieved must be sustained while working towards other objectives and initiatives identified in the strategy. The Task Force noted that Council previously approved extension of the Anti-Graffiti Coordinator position to 2009 June 30.

Given the success of the program to date and the ongoing needs of the program, the Task Force is recommending Council approve the Anti-Graffiti Coordinator position as a regular full time employee.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Colleen Jordan  
Chair

Copied to: City Manager Director Finance Director Planning & Building Director Parks, Rec. & Cult. Services Director Engineering Chief Licence Inspector Human Resources Director
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**TO:** CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON GRAFFITI      **DATE:** 2008 October 21

**FROM:** ANTI-GRAFFITI COORDINATOR

**SUBJECT:** ANTI-GRAFFITI STRATEGY UPDATE

**PURPOSE:** To provide the Mayor's Task Force on Graffiti a progress report on the Anti-Graffiti Strategy

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** the Task Force on Graffiti receive this report for information purposes regarding the Anti-Graffiti Strategy completed by the Mayor's Task Force in January 2007 and adopted by Council in June 2007. The Anti-Graffiti Coordinator was hired to implement the strategy.

**REPORT**

**ERADICATION**

**Graffiti Bylaw/Reporting of Graffiti**

**Statistics provided are up to 2008 October 21**

The Graffiti Bylaw came into effect 2007 September 01. Since inception there have been 384 bylaw notices sent out to the tenants and owners of either business or private properties with 71 outstanding. Since 2008 June, the Anti-Graffiti Coordinator has had Licence Staff assisting with inspections on properties. They are responsible for investigating complaints and bylaw enforcement. The summer months have proven to be extremely busy with complaints and the extra help has been appreciated. There was real focus on Eradication during the spring and summer months.

City Property/Service requests to date **637** with **45** outstanding requests.

Traffic Signal Control Boxes	171
Signs, Barricades and sidewalks	65
Fences	18
Bus Shelters	34 (plus on going maintenance)
Retaining Walls, Over/Underpasses	70 (plus on going maintenance)
Sanitation Containers/Pelicans	38
Lamp standards	63

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Physical Plant Maintenance/City Buildings	124
Parks Department	54 (equipment, wall, buildings etc)

Parks Staff are very cooperative with graffiti maintenance.

The fight against graffiti on City property has been controlled due to the fact that our departments have been diligent with our fight against graffiti. Continued improvement on the look of our city appurtenances is evident. The occurrence of graffiti has lessened due to the immediate removal of graffiti by City staff.

Bus Shelters are a major target for acid etch graffiti and we are exploring ideas on prevention with other cities in the lower mainland. This has proven to be a very expensive endeavor. Products for this type of removal are clearly needed and will be explored.

The City of Burnaby has a reward program available for information leading to arrest of vandalism on City bus shelters. See more information under Identification and Deterrence.

**Public Utilities**

Public Utilities customer service requests to date are 254 with 48 outstanding requests All 48 are BC hydro boxes or poles.

Skytrain/Translink	52
BC Hydro	48
Telus	18
Canada Post	136

The graffiti hotline number is **604-298-TAGS**. The number is being used more consistently.

The graffiti webpage has had over 284 reports to date. See attached map for a look at the concentrated areas of where the graffiti is taking place around Burnaby (*Attachment 1*).

**Contractors**

- Goodbye Graffiti - Specializes with removal of graffiti with paint
- Envirocare Inc. - Specializes with removal of graffiti with steam

Envirocare has met with the Anti-Graffiti Coordinator to establish a working relationship with youth that have been arrested for graffiti incidences. The company is willing to hire these youth to remove graffiti and pay them for their services. This option is now being explored

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### **3<sup>rd</sup> Party Charges**

There has been one property that required the hiring of one of our contractors to remove graffiti off of a business. This process was only directed to the contractor after numerous contacts for the company to remove the graffiti by bylaw notices and also by telephone.

At present there are 5 properties that are not complying with the bylaw and the City is in the process of hiring our contractors to remove the graffiti.

### **EDUCATION ON GRAFFITI**

#### **Burnaby Webpage:**

Changes are ongoing with the graffiti webpage. Additions include new prevention brochure, new poster on TAKE BACK YOUR COMMUNITY and the Summer 2008 Information Burnaby regarding the Anti-Graffiti Wraps on Signal Boxes.

#### **Brochures:**

- Over 10,000 brochures have been distributed throughout Burnaby
- The brochures are on display at all recreation centers. Libraries, and at all 4 Community Police Stations
- Information Burnaby Summer 2008 Article on Anti Graffiti Signal Wrap (*Attachment 2*)
- Preliminary creation of new Prevention Brochure (*Attachment 3*)
- Created 300 posters on TAKE BACK YOUR COMMUNITY (*Attachment 4*)

### **MEETING WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS**

#### **2008 March 13**

##### **Community Paint Out Initiative**

The City of Burnaby Anti-Graffiti Program provided \$750.00 worth of paint and equipment to Metro Town Rotary Rollers for the community paint out volunteer program. The Rotary Rollers is the first community group to perform community paint outs in Burnaby. Additional funding will take place on an annual basis for graffiti removal to the Metrotown Rotary Rollers for continuation of Community Paint Outs.

#### **2008 March 19**

##### **Metro Town Rotary Rollers**

Location: Holiday Inn Metro Town

PowerPoint presentation to the Rotary Club about the Anti-Graffiti Program in Burnaby

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**2008 March 27**

**Burnaby South Safety Forum**

Location: Bonsor Recreation Centre

This forum was represented by Mayor Corrigan, Burnaby RCMP, Anti-Graffiti Coordinator, Kingsway Improvement Neighborhood Association, District 3 Chairperson and District 4 Chairperson. This will be an annual event.

Formal introduction of Anti-Graffiti Coordinator was made with a short presentation about the program. Questions and answer period followed.

It became evident that the Public Forum was a huge success for the Anti-Graffiti Program as the hits on our webpage for reporting graffiti grew substantially.

**2008 April 09**

**Deer Lake Rotary Rollers**

Clerks Office

PowerPoint presentation to the Deer Lake Rotary Club about the Anti-Graffiti Program in Burnaby.

**2008 April 26**

**Rotary Rollers Community Paint Out**

Location: 5558 Short Street

This was the inaugural paint out for the Metro Town Rotary Rollers. The great news is it is still graffiti free. Areas that were painted out were walls that were visible from the sky train corridor along the Beresford Street area. This area is referred to as the 'HOOD' by the sub-culture.

**2008 May 28**

**North Burnaby Safety Forum**

Location: Alpha Secondary School

The North Road Business Association fronted the forum.

This forum was represented by the Mayor Corrigan, Burnaby RCMP and City Staff  
This will be an annual event.

**2008 June 7**

**Hats off Day Parade**

**Heights Merchants Association**

Anti-Graffiti information booth was set up at Carleton Avenue and Hastings Street.  
The focus was on crime prevention.

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**2008 June 21**

**Hastings Street Graffiti Cleanup/Community Paint out**

This was a Community Paint out that was hosted by the District 1 Community Police Station. This event took several days of planning by RCMP and Anti-Graffiti Coordinator.

Posters were set up over the area about the event. Senior member of the Burnaby RCMP and family members volunteered their time.

Local newspapers advertised the event and that brought out extra volunteers.

**2008 June 12**

**City of Vancouver Graffiti Task Force Meeting**

Emphasis was on graffiti community paint outs organized by BIA's in Vancouver. Youth volunteer hours were discussed, especially ones that are required for graduation.

**2008 June 18**

**Advertisement Posters and Signs**

Burnaby Council, at its Open Council meeting held on 2008 June 16, heard a delegation from Mr. Norm Bacon expressing concern about the overall cleanliness of the City and in particular, the large number of signs and posters littering the City's lamp standards, signal lights and telephone poles. Council introduced and adopted the following motion:

"That the issues raised by the delegation be REFERRED to the City of Burnaby's Anti-Graffiti Coordinator."

The Anti-Graffiti Coordinator is in constant discussion with Mr. Bacon about this issue. City staff is diligently removing signs on a weekly basis.

**2008 August 19**

**Metrotown Rotary Rollers Community Paint Out**

Paint over Assistance was provided to 3 private property owners who were infirmed.

All victims were present and shared their appreciation to the Metro Town Rotary Club. A donation of fifty dollars was presented to the Rotary Club by one of the victims.

**2008 September 8**

**Calgary Conference on Investigative Skills on Graffiti**

This was a one day workshop hosted by the City of Calgary Bylaw Division. Guest Speaker was a San Bernadino Police Officer who has worked in Graffiti for 15 years.

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Course Overview:

- Understanding Graffiti
- Understanding the Culture
- Anti-Graffiti Programs in your Community
- Court presentation

The cost for graffiti management in the United States per year is approximately two billion dollars. A positive comment was made that Canada has taken early initiatives in the fight against graffiti and the result is that the graffiti isn't as prolific as in major centers in the USA.

**2008 September 10**

**Crime Free Multi-Housing Workshop hosted by Crime Free Multi-Housing Coordinator  
Burnaby RCMP  
Bonsor Recreation Centre**

Anti-Graffiti Powerpoint Presentation  
Question and answer period following presentation.

**2008 September 19**

**KINA (Kingsway Improvement Neighborhood Association) Graffiti Paint Out  
Beresford/Palm/Antrim Area**



Volunteers from Kina, the MetroTown Rotary Rollers and Creation Technologies paint out graffiti on a war wall at Beresford Street and MacPherson Avenue.

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**2008 October 9**  
**TAGS 4**  
**Holiday Inn North Vancouver**

This was a 2 day conference which was hosted by the City of North Vancouver Community RCMP. Guest speakers were from Vancouver, Translink, Vancouver Police, Yonkers New York Police Department, Langford Bylaw, Saskatoon Police, Youth Services North Vancouver.

General discussions were on how graffiti affects our communities.

This year there was a parent who spoke about how graffiti affects a family.

City Of Burnaby Anti-Graffiti Coordinator spoke about the Anti-Graffiti Strategy and the progress of our program to date. Positive comments regarding our Strategy were received along with our Anti-Graffiti Wrap Program.

This symposium is extremely valuable for networking.

**PREVENTION**

**SUPERGRAPHICS ANTI GRAFFITI WRAPS**

Council, at the open Council meeting held 2008 March 17, received an Anti-Graffiti Strategy update report and referred the request for use of gaming funds in the amount of \$160,000 for anti-graffiti wraps on traffic control cabinets to the Finance and Civic Development Committee for review.

The Finance and Civic Development Committee, at its open meeting held on 2008 March 19, completed its review of this matter and supported the request.

The \$160,000 will wrap all the traffic control boxes in Burnaby.

In consultation with the Planning Department photos were selected to be used in specific neighborhoods in Burnaby.

- Generic photos were chosen for non specific neighborhoods.
- Edmonds Area and City Hall area have historical photos.
- Lougheed Town Centre and Hastings Heights area photos were chosen to reflect business areas.

The summer issue of Information Burnaby had an article about this program and phone calls have been received from all over North America enquiring about the wraps. All the calls have been of a positive nature.



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The goal is to have all 230 traffic signals wrapped by the end of October. To date we have wrapped 180 of the 230 boxes.

In addition BC Hydro has contacted the Anti-Graffiti Coordinator to conduct a pilot project in the city. They have agreed to fund 8 of their transformers. The funds will be coming from their Power Smart Program.

**2008 May-2008 August 27**  
**Heights Merchants Association Mural Project 2008.**

2008 May

Muralist selected and the successful artist is Alex Achtem, an art student at Emily Carr.

2008 June

The mural art decision was made by members of the community, business representatives, city staff and the Heights Merchants Association.

The inspiration of the mural is derived from Russian poster art, depicting epic beams of light cast on a house while a family stands in the foreground.



2008 August 27

The final mural launch was celebrated by the Height Merchants Association and community partners at the corner of Gilmore Avenue and Hastings Street.

**2008 September 02**  
**Mural Program with Todd Polich/Environmental Artist**

In June, the Anti-Graffiti Coordinator was approached by artist Todd Polich with an idea to create art work of endangered species of Canada. The artist's ideas were inspirational and staff wanted to do whatever possible to encourage his endeavor which is why it made sense to apply his work to a building that was city owned. The building is addressed 6875 Royal Oak.

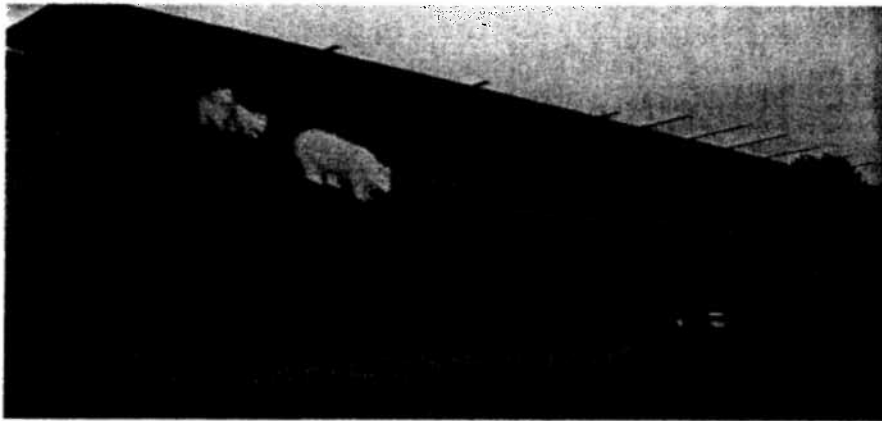
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Todd's proposal did not include an artist fee as long as the product evolved around endangered species.

The Mural started on 2008 September 02 and the art work was complete on 2008 September 24. The total cost for the mural was \$3350.00. This amount included the cost of equipment rental, paint, supplies and sealant. This cost is a fraction of the price of a regular mural. The wall is ninety feet wide by eighteen feet high

The environmental mural is a pilot project and we are waiting to see if it's a success for deterrence of graffiti. This location is an area where there has been a lot of graffiti.

Plans for additional murals are currently being considered.



Wall in progress. This is a photo just before completion. The artwork is called the Spirit Circle and the endangered species are the Spirit Bear, the salmon and the bald eagle.

You can find out more about the program is you visit online [www.earthfoundation.ca](http://www.earthfoundation.ca)

## **IDENTIFICATION AND DETERRENCE**

**2008 June 26**

### **Restorative Justice Meeting Justice Building**

Staff met with, Restorative Justice Facilitator to talk about starting a RESTART program in Burnaby. Staff has participated in several for the City of Vancouver and will be a great resource for the start up in Burnaby. The approximate cost per restart is approximately \$5000.00.

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**2008 August 6-11  
Vancouver Restart Program  
Kitsilano Recreation Centre**

Anti-Graffiti Coordinator attending Restart Program and was asked to participate as a member of the community who is affected by graffiti

The purpose of a Restart Program is to create an opportunity for people to explore the impacts and culture of graffiti.

This program provided shared viewpoints on what graffiti means to different realms of society. Three Facilitators who are strictly neutral run the program. The workshop focus is to build trust and security for all parties involved. Considerable collaboration and discussion is part of a successful program. Two artist mentors participated in this restart. Both were past graffiti writers in the Lower Mainland and are now working as Muralists for the City of Vancouver.

Youth involved with the sub-culture attend on a restorative justice basis.

The event took place over 5 days and at the end the participants engage in a mural on city property. The mural is under the Granville Street Bridge.



The Mural theme voted on by the group was the Evolution of Graffiti. You can see the beginning of time in Prehistoric Era and then the evolution of a cave man drawing to a graffiti artist drawing a mural, legally of course. Upon completion of the mural the artists' names are displayed. If the participants are caught doing anymore illegal graffiti, their names are taken off the list. This is a deterrent for the participants. This mural started at 8:00am and finished at 5:00pm.

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## **2008 August 19 ANNOUNCEMENT**

RCMP Superintendent announces the hiring of a Burnaby RCMP Anti-Graffiti Coordinator. Expected start date has not been determined. This is exciting news for the Strategy as a fulltime RCMP member will be beneficial in the Identification and Deterrence part of the Anti-Graffiti Strategy. The officer will be working on the enforcement aspect and also the educational piece for law enforcement officers.

## **FUTURE PLANS**

### **ERADICATION**

Continue with enforcement of Graffiti Bylaw.

The Anti-Graffiti Coordinator will continue to work with Public Utility Companies regarding the prompt removal of graffiti.

### **EDUCATION**

In November, the Anti-Graffiti Coordinator is scheduled to attend 5 Parent Advisory Committee meetings to educate parents and teachers on the Anti-Graffiti Strategy. The intention is to visit all elementary schools before June 2009.

Continue with Public Relation through community events etc.

### **PREVENTION**

- Meet with our Parks and Planning Department to discuss future Mural Project
- Continue with the Anti-Graffiti Wrap program
- Distribute new posters and pamphlets in our communities
- See preliminary poster on Mural Projects(*Attachment 5*)

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## **IDENTIFICATION AND DETERRENCE**

### **Bus Shelters**

The Anti-Graffiti Coordinator will explore the reward program for vandalism on City Bus Shelters. The reward for information regarding vandalism is \$500.00

### **Establishing a Restart Program with Restorative Justice and RCMP**

The primary focus is to establish a program where there is restitution of youth who are involved with graffiti. Preliminary discussion with staff has been encouraging. This program is a key part in controlling graffiti in our city.

### **Burnaby RCMP Anti-Graffiti Coordinator**

Continue to work with RCMP on the Identification and Deterrence portion of the strategy. Having an officer to network with regarding this part of the strategy is a crucial part of making this program a success.

Combine and develop new photo database with City of Burnaby and RCMP.

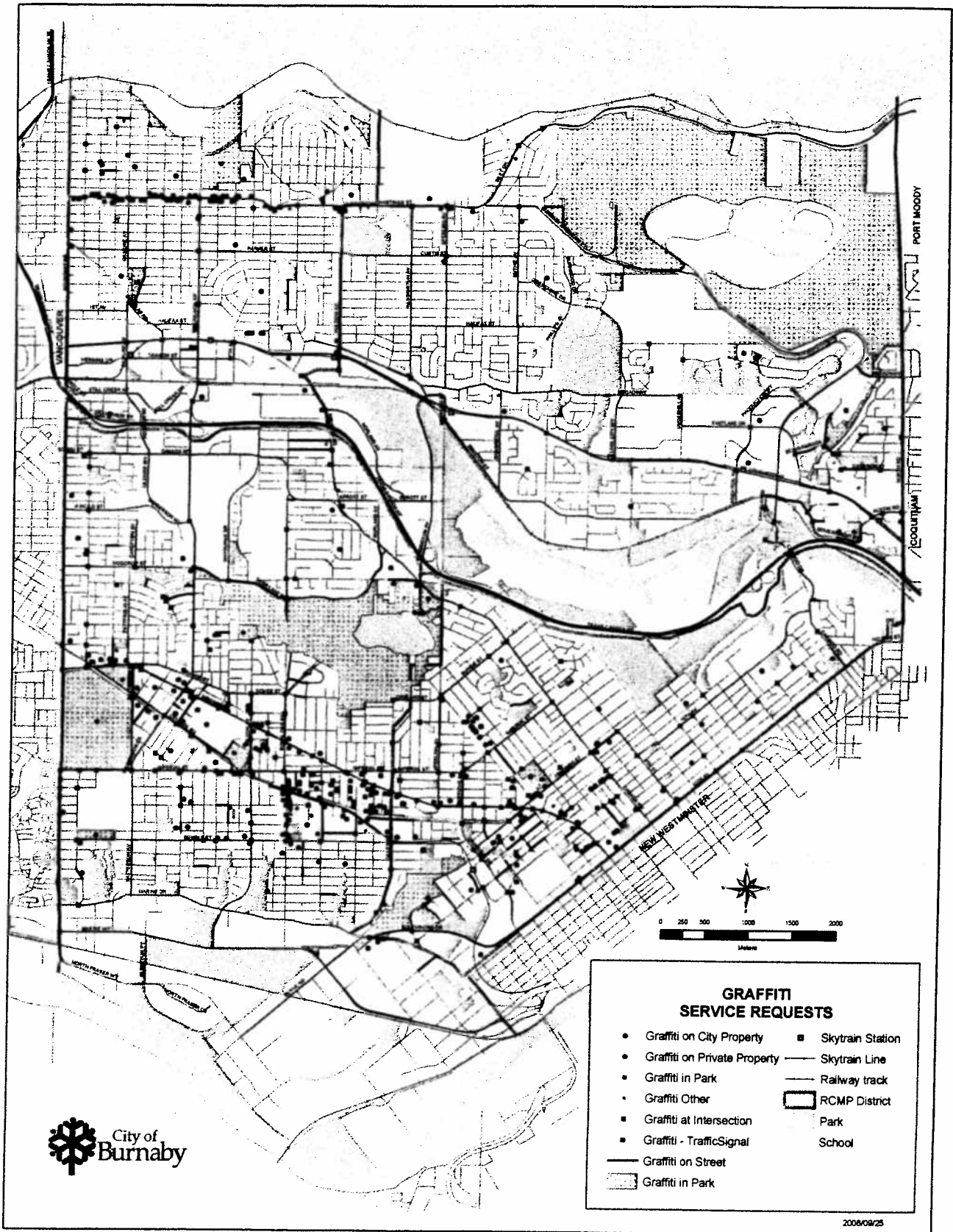
## **CONCLUSION**

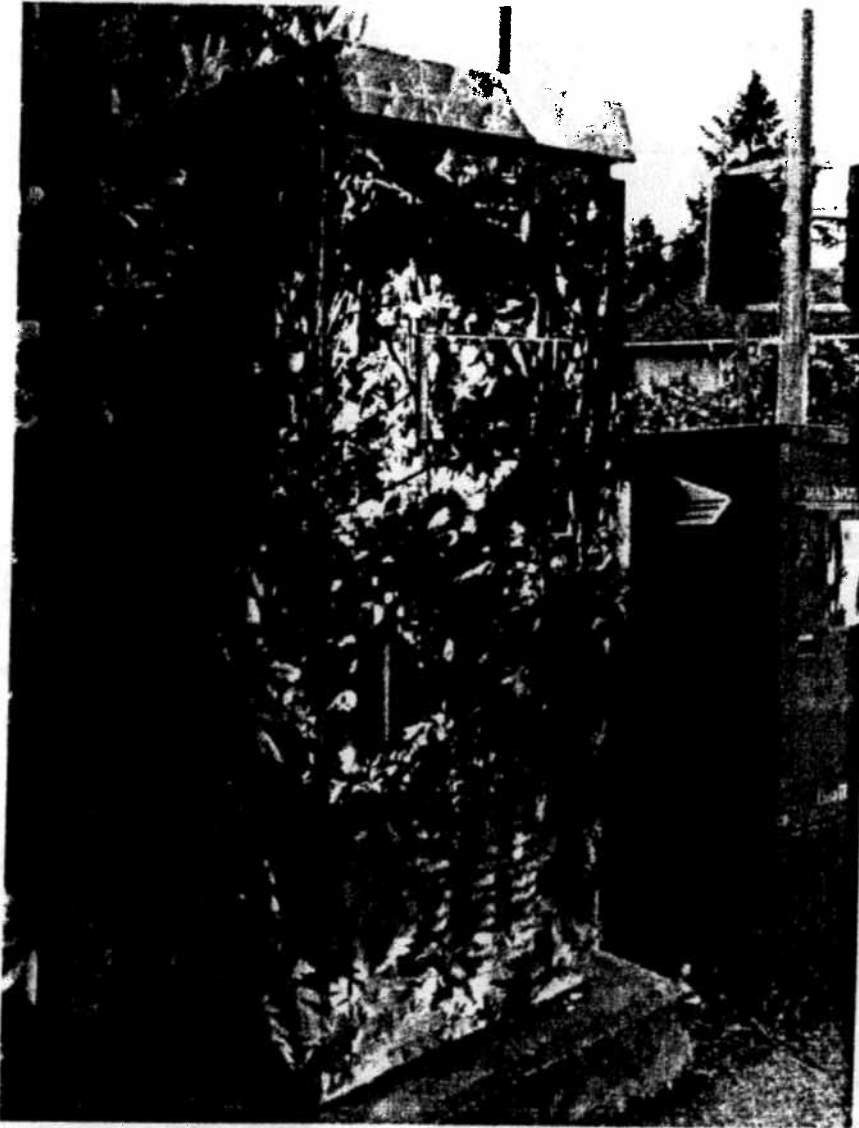
The Anti-Graffiti Strategy is well underway with the focus on enforcement over the last 7 months. The next six months will be focusing on building all elements of the Anti-Graffiti Strategy.

Kathy Wipf  
ANTI-GRAFFITI COORDINATOR

KW:dy

Copied to: City Manager  
Director Finance  
Director Planning and Building  
Director Parks Recreation Cultural Services  
Director Engineering





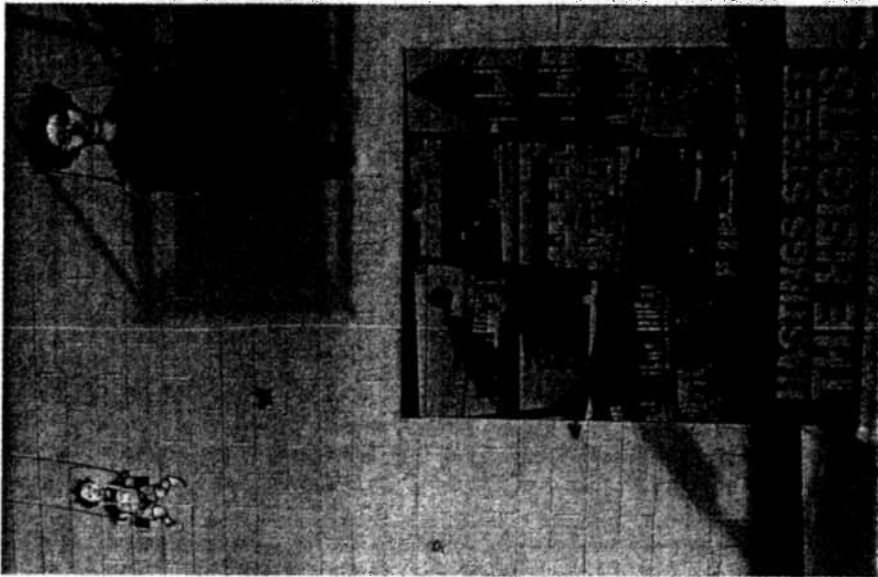
## New Anti-Graffiti Wrap Program

The City of Burnaby's Anti-Graffiti Strategy is underway and committed to the prevention, deterrence and eradication of graffiti in our community.

As part of this initiative, Council has approved a program to wrap 200 city-owned traffic signal cabinets over this summer. The wraps feature decorative images of Burnaby's gardens and plants with special wraps located in our town centres. This beautification program is intended to deter graffiti and lower maintenance costs as these special vinyl wraps have an anti-graffiti sealant.

For more information on this program and the Anti-Graffiti Strategy, please call our Anti-Graffiti Coordinator, Kathy Wipf at 604-294-7338.

# Anti-Graffiti Vinyl Wraps



The purpose of these wraps is to deter graffiti vandals from displaying their tags on the device because of its background. If a tag is present, the anti-graffiti coating makes the clean-up a breeze.

# Rapid removal is the best form of graffiti prevention



# Preventing Graffiti In Your Community





# Some helpful tips for graffiti prevention



Rapid removal of graffiti is the best way for property owners to protect their neighbourhood's image and preserve a sense of security. Report graffiti to the **City of Burnaby's Graffiti Hotline** at 604-298-TAGS (8247), take a picture of the graffiti and then remove it quickly!

Control access by installing lighting around your property. Use motion sensors in remote areas. Incorporate shrubs and vines to restrict access to a potential graffiti target wall.



Wherever possible, use fences, controlled entrance and exits, rails, and other barriers that discourage through traffic.



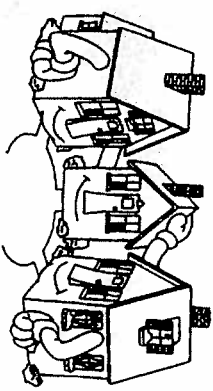
Limit access to roofs by moving dumpsters away from walls and cover drainpipes and ladders to prevent vandals from scaling them.



Step up security by installing some type of security camera.



Organize a Block Watch in your neighbourhood.



Take advantage of the City of Burnaby's Paint Program where you can receive paint at specially reduced prices at **General Paint**. To obtain vouchers, contact the Graffiti Hotline.



Consider protecting an area where graffiti has occurred in the past with a product designed to repel graffiti, allowing for easier clean-up.

ARE YOU  
A  
VICTIM?



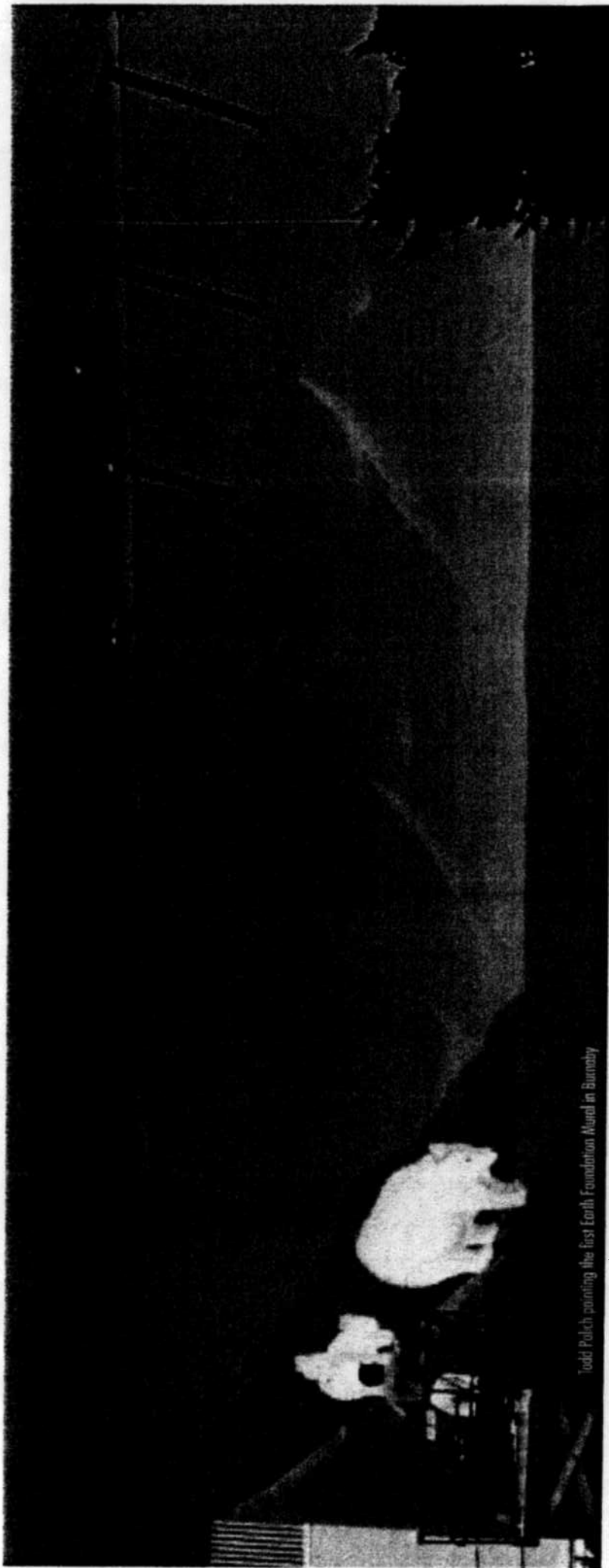
AN ANTI-GRAFFITI STRATEGY

or part  
of the  
solution!

For more information contact  
Kathy Wipf, Anti-Graffiti Coordinator  
at 604-294-7388

Take Back Your Community

# The Difference Between Art and Vandalism is Permission



Todd Pulch painting the first Earth Foundation Mural in Burnaby

## Be part of the City of Burnaby's Mural Program

For more information contact Kathy Wipf Anti-Graffiti Coordinator 604-294-7388

