

**MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON GRAFFITI**

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: ANTI-GRAFFITI STRATEGY**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. THAT Council receive this report for information.

**REPORT**

The Mayor's Task Force on Graffiti, at its meeting held on 2009 October 29, received and adopted the *attached* report regarding the Anti-Graffiti Strategy including work in progress, outstanding strategy elements and new initiatives in each of the four elements of Eradication, Education, Prevention and Identification and Deterrence.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor C. Jordan  
Chair

Councillor S. Dhaliwal  
Vice Chair

Councillor P. McDonell  
Member

<p>Copied to: City Manager Director Engineering Director Finance Director Planning and Building Director Parks, Rec., and Cultural Services RCMP - O.I.C. Burnaby Detachment Rick Taylor</p>
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**TO:** CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON GRAFFITI      **DATE:** 2009 October 23

**FROM:** DIRECTOR ENGINEERING      **FILE:** 1750 20

**SUBJECT:** ANTI-GRAFFITI STRATEGY

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

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** the Task Force on Graffiti receive this report and forward it to Council for information.

**REPORT**

The Anti-Graffiti Strategy was developed by the Mayor's Task Force on Graffiti and adopted by Council in 2007 February. This report updates the Task Force on work in progress, outstanding strategy elements and new initiatives in each of the 4 elements of Eradication, Education, Prevention, and Identification and Deterrence.

**ERADICATION**

This element of the strategy facilitates the timely removal of graffiti and encourages reporting of graffiti. Work processes in this area are established and ongoing.

**PRIVATE PROPERTY**

Since the graffiti bylaw inception in 2007 September there have been 492 bylaw notices sent out to the tenants and owners of either business or private properties with the majority (94%) of them resolved. A summary is provided in Table 1. The higher number of private property incidents in the second year, (2008 June – 2009 June) reflects the fact that the graffiti bylaw was not in effect until 2007 September. Once in effect the numbers increased as staff was able to be more proactive in their efforts.

One change in the eradication strategy is the charging of property/business owners that were not complying with the graffiti bylaw. This change follows repeated education and encouragement to gain compliance. It is only implemented as a last resort to ensure fairness to those that cooperated to promptly clean up graffiti on their property. Actions have been applied to two properties and a contractor has been hired to remove graffiti at the owner's expense.

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From: DIRECTOR FINANCE

Re: ANTI-GRAFFITI STRATEGY

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Table 1: Summary of Reported and Identified Graffiti Incidents

REPORT TYPE	07/June-08/June	08/June-09/June	09/June-Present	Total Since 07/June
PRIVATE PROPERTY	203	249	40	492
CITY PROPERTY	07/June-08/June	08/June-09/June	09/June-Present	Total Since 07/June
Traffic Signal Control Boxes	170	10	2	182
Signs, Barricades, Sidewalks	96	55	9	160
Fences	39	27	3	39
Bus Shelters	33	16	5	54
Retaining Walls, Over/underpasses	34	21	12	67
Sanitation Containers	49	21	3	73
Lamp Standards	38	40	8	86
Parks Department	45	24	5	74

#### CITY PROPERTY

City staff has been diligent with the fight against graffiti by removing graffiti promptly when identified. Improvements to our City appurtenances is shown by the decreasing number of incidents reported since 2007 June. (See Table 1)

#### PUBLIC UTILITIES

Table 2: Summary of Reported and Identified Graffiti Incidents on Public Utilities (Non City Owned)

REPORT TYPE	07/June-08/June	08/June-09/June	09/June-Present	Total Since 07/June
Skytrain/TransLink	51	11	4	66
BC Hydro	23	24	15	62
Telus	12	5	1	18
Canada Post	93	79	11	183

Table 2 shows that the number of graffiti incidents on non-City owned public utilities has also decreased since the Anti-Graffiti program's initiation in 2007 June.

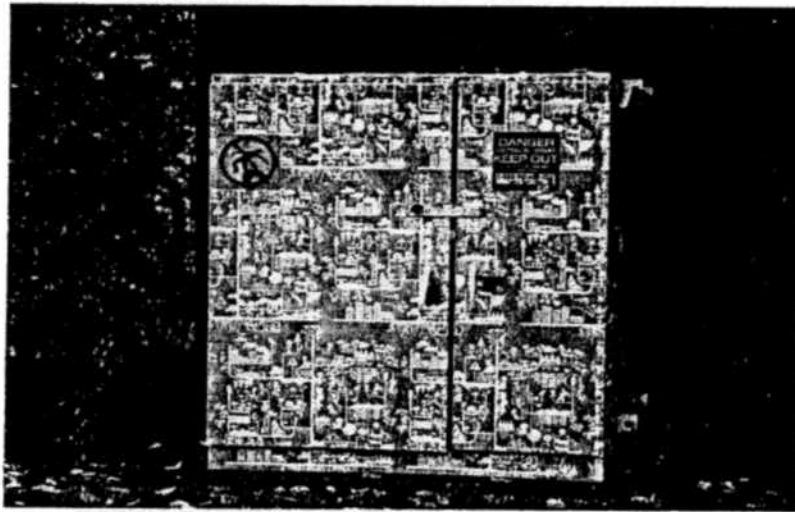
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BC Hydro has continued to clean prolific graffiti from transformer boxes, but is still reluctant to remove graffiti from their boxes on a regular basis. Despite initial resistance, BC Hydro has now wrapped five of their boxes with a decorative blue and green colored wrap (see photo below). It is hoped that BC Hydro will continue to wrap more of their boxes to prevent graffiti.



The use of the City's graffiti web page has been helpful in identifying and removing graffiti. To date over 428 online reports have been recorded. Attachment 1 shows that many incidents of graffiti have been reported along the Hastings and Kingsway corridors.

## EDUCATION

Work is ongoing with this element of the strategy that raises awareness and educates the public on the graffiti program.

Public education work has been ongoing this summer with an emphasis on community events. The Anti-Graffiti Coordinator has supported community initiated cleanups that focused on graffiti and garbage cleanup. Community events provide an opportunity to educate participants as well as surrounding business and property owners.

In 2009 November staff will be exploring the feasibility of initiating and supporting an education play about Litter, Vandalism and Graffiti. This play is geared toward elementary school aged students. The City of Richmond's School District is now using the Dream Riders Theatre Group and City staff will be reviewing that program to see if it would be suitable.

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## PREVENTION

The prevention element of the strategy is designed to better protect business, public and private property from graffiti vandalism.

### ANTI-GRAFFITI WRAPS

To protect traffic signal control cabinets, almost all have been decoratively wrapped. The two last remaining cabinets will be wrapped by the end of the year. As cabinets are replaced or new ones installed, the wraps will be maintained as a standard feature. The wraps have been very successful at reducing the incidents of graffiti as shown in Table 1, where the number of incidents has been dramatically reduced from 170 in the first year to 10 in the second year.

Information about the City wrap program has been shared with other cities in Metro Vancouver. The City of Coquitlam has now wrapped 6 of their traffic signal cabinets and will expand the program in phases. They are now being more proactive in removing graffiti, which is beneficial to the City of Burnaby being one of our neighbouring cities.

Metro Vancouver has also started using anti-graffiti wraps on five of their utility boxes within the City of Burnaby. The latest wrap is on Elwell St and 6<sup>th</sup> Ave.

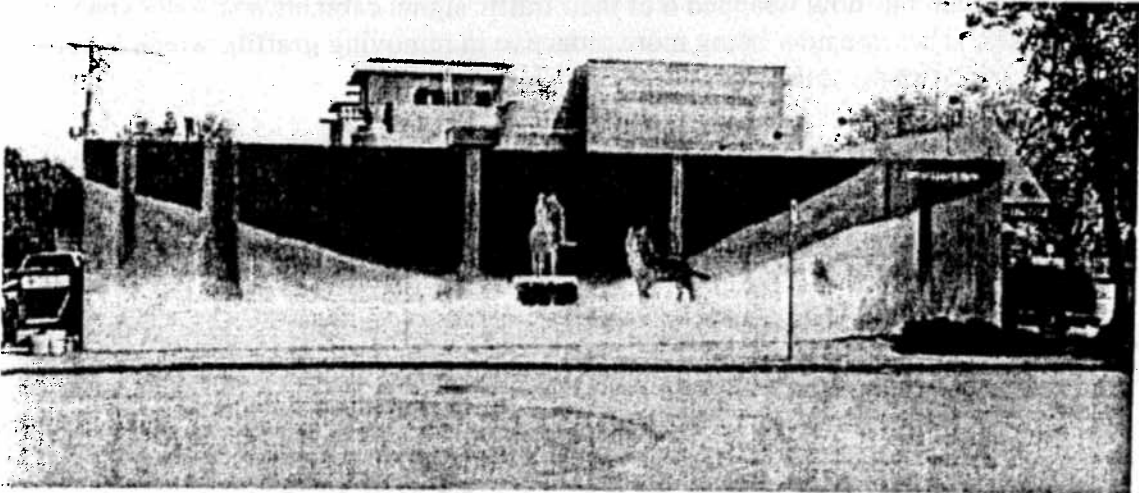
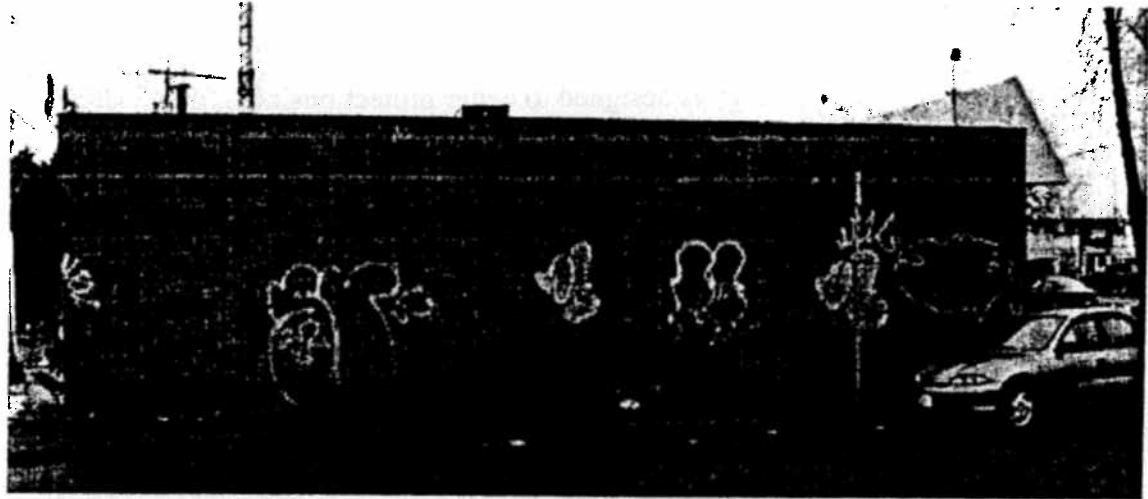
### MURAL PROGRAM

The Mayor's Task Force on Graffiti, at its meeting held on 2009 March 31, formed a Mural Subcommittee to develop a long term vision for a mural program and to initiate a program in the shorter term. Council approved the formation of the committee in 2009 April.

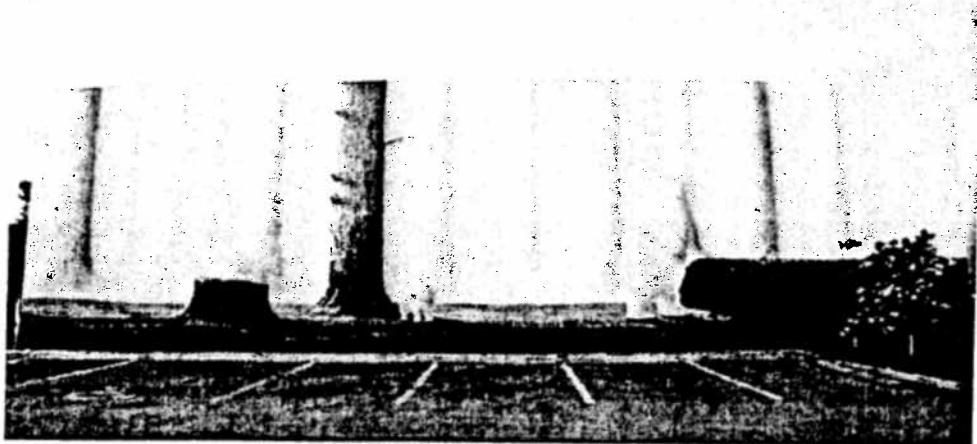
The Task Force will be preparing a report to the Finance and Civic Development Committee to request funding for a mural program. The funding will be used to create more murals in Burnaby where graffiti has been a problem. Murals will be used not only to deter graffiti, but to beautify the City and help create community identity.

Since 2009 March, 3 murals were completed in Burnaby. In 2009 May the official unveiling of the Wolves Mural took place on New Vista Place in Burnaby. This mural was on a brick wall that was riddled with graffiti. See the before and after pictures on page 5 of this report.

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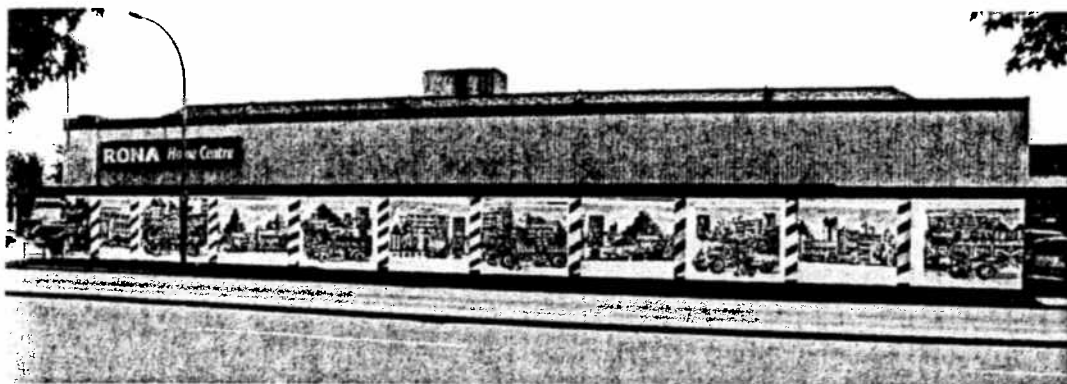


In 2009 June the KINA sponsored Spirit Bear Mural at Kingsway and Denbigh was revealed.



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In 2009 October the Santa Claus Parade mural at Kingsway and Edmonds St was completed. The mural is a reproduction of the City of Burnaby's Christmas card design that was produced a couple of years ago. The mural acknowledges the Santa Claus Parade that takes place every November in the Edmonds Town Centre area.



## COMMUNITY GRAFFITI CLEAN UPS

During the spring, summer and fall months there have been 6 graffiti cleanups in all areas of Burnaby. Community graffiti clean ups have been well received and will continue on an ongoing basis. These events are coordinated and initiated by the Anti-Graffiti Coordinator and the Burnaby RCMP Anti-Graffiti Investigator. One of these events took place in July with a group called CIVIC. CIVIC is a youth group that gets together one day each year, Canada wide, to volunteer their time to help out in their communities. This event required the organization and coordination of 25 youths to paint out graffiti along the Royal Oak and Beresford St corridors. The volunteers were youths between the ages of 15 to 28. The event was a huge success cleaning up graffiti on six businesses and eight BC Hydro utility boxes. The assistance from the Burnaby RCMP Anti-Graffiti Investigator was invaluable.

## IDENTIFICATION AND DETERRENCE

This element of the strategy focuses on identifying vandals and holding them responsible for their actions.

The City of Burnaby RCMP and other law enforcement agencies throughout the lower mainland have formed a Metro Vancouver Task Force on Graffiti. They meet on a regular basis to share and discuss information about graffiti vandals throughout Metro Vancouver. This Task Force has been successful in identifying several vandals in Burnaby and Metro Vancouver. The RCMP Anti-Graffiti Investigator has been actively communicating with the graffiti writers involved in the sub-culture and is out in all four community districts documenting and photographing graffiti. His presence in the community and work with known graffiti writers has helped to deter the frequency of graffiti in the City. Walls are staying cleaner for longer periods of time and some prolific walls have remained graffiti free since cleaning.

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Another successful deterrent has been the establishment of Graffiti Paint Outs with youth that have court ordered community hours to remove graffiti. One location cleaned was a wall on Beresford St east of Buller Ave which was well known as a prolific area for graffiti. This event provided an opportunity to network with youth who were entrenched in the graffiti sub culture. Since the wall was painted in 2009 June, it has remained clear of graffiti.

### FUTURE PLANS

Below is a list of future and ongoing work as part of the Anti-Graffiti Strategy:

#### ERADICATION

- Continue with enforcement of the Graffiti Bylaw
- Continue to work with public utility companies regarding the prompt removal of graffiti
- Coordinate and organize Community Paint Outs

#### EDUCATION

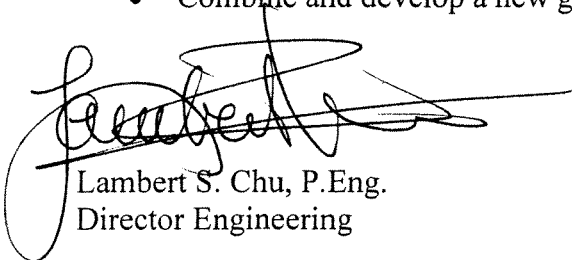
- Continue with public education through community events
- Initiate communications with youth involved with the sub-culture of graffiti
- Pursue the development and delivery of an educational campaign targeted at youth

#### PREVENTION

- Complete the Anti-Graffiti Wrap Program for traffic signal control boxes
- Support and coordinate additional murals in Burnaby

#### IDENTIFICATION AND DETERRENCE

- Continue to work with RCMP with restorative justice/community hours for youth involved with graffiti
- Combine and develop a new graffiti photo database with the RCMP



Lambert S. Chu, P.Eng.  
Director Engineering

KW:br  
Attachment

Copied to: City Manager  
Director Finance  
Director Planning and Building  
Director Parks Recreation Cultural Services  
RCMP - O.I.C Burnaby Detachment Supt. Rick Taylor