

SER-009-028

Strathcona County
Municipal Policy Handbook

Rural Right-of-Way Tree and Brush Removal

Date of Approval by Council: 02/07/95; 02/27/96; 12/12/2006

Resolution No. 90/95; 128/96; 826/2006

Lead Role: Chief Commissioner

Replaces: n/a

Last Review Date: December 12, 2006

Next Review Date: 12/2009

Administrative Responsibility: Transportation and Agriculture Services

Policy Statement

Strathcona County, in an effort to maintain and improve the rural transportation and drainage network, must periodically remove trees and brush from within road and drainage rights-of-way. It is recognized that trees and brush have environmental and social value and removal operations will consider these values while sustaining the optimum function of the rural transportation and drainage networks.

Procedures

1. General

Road rights-of-way clear of tree and brush growth are safer, offer better visibility, are more stable, are less prone to snow drifting and offer more snow storage space. Clean drainage courses are more hydraulically efficient. For these reasons, removal of trees and brush in these areas is a priority.

Major removal of trees and/or brush, will not normally occur between April 15 and September 1. Any major removal required, due to emergency or exceptional circumstances, between April 15 and September 1, must be pre-approved by the Chief Administrative Officer or designate.

2. Definitions:

- a) Brushing: removal of trees or brush by hand, chemical or machine methods.
- b) Removal: cutting, shredding, or otherwise separating a tree or brush from its roots.
- c) Right-of-way: lands owned or managed by Strathcona County and used for the purpose of transportation and/or drainage.

3. Procedures:

- a) Major brushing to improve sightlines, and enhance right-of-way and drainage functions will occur during the allowable period of September 1 to April 15.
- b) Selection of brushing and disposal methods will consider aspects of economy, environmental and aesthetic impact.

4. Exceptions:

Brushing activities which are deemed to not adversely affect the environment or have significant aesthetic impact may occur at any time. Brushing necessitated by legislation such as the Electrical

Protection Act fall outside this policy however all appropriate means shall be taken to encourage minimal environmental and aesthetic impact.

Examples of these are:

- i) brush and tree removal near powerlines
- ii) removal of dead, damaged or isolated growth which is impacting road or drainage rights-of-way including vehicular safety concerns
- iii) Rural Roadside Vegetation Control Program Policy SER-001-006

5. Communication:

- a) Removal of trees and brush on private property will be preceded by formal agreements with property owners.
- b) Landowners adjacent to areas planned for major tree and brush removal will be notified prior to commencement.