

“THE PROBLEM”

Vehicles parked or abandoned on streets during the winter are a serious impediment to snow clearance from the public right-of-way (R-O-W) and mean avoidable costs to taxpayers. These obstacles not only make it impossible to plow snow to the curb line or edge of road, but also add risks to the public and snow control operations, reduce efficiency, hinder manoeuvrability of plows and place undue stress on plow operators.

Snow clearance cannot be completed when parked cars obstruct the R-O-W; travel lanes narrow, snow accumulates and packs hard, ice forms and plows need to return to the scene time and again. Impacts become magnified over sequential storms.

PURPOSE

On-street parking is restricted during the winter months to:

- ▶ Maintain travel lanes and enhance pedestrian safety
- ▶ Improve emergency access and traffic flow
- ▶ Support street plowing and snow removal operations
- ▶ Reduce avoidable winter maintenance costs to taxpayers
- ▶ Improve safety of citizens and winter operations
- ▶ Provide cleared space for full street usage during winter months

TRAFFIC BY- LAW

Winter Street Parking Restrictions prohibit parking on all municipal streets, between midnight and 7 am each day, from December 1st to March 31st, except those specifically identified as exceptions.

Section 5(9)(a) of the *Traffic By-Law* applies:

“Notwithstanding any other provision of this by-law or the presence of parking meters or the presence of signs that have been erected in the City of Saint John prohibiting or permitting the parking of vehicles upon streets or portions of streets during the hours stated thereon, no person shall, between December 1 and March 31, inclusive, of each year, park a vehicle on a street, except for those streets listed in Schedule “R”, between the hours of 00:01 and 07:00.”

Section 113(5) of the *Motor Vehicle Act* permits the municipality to prohibit on-street parking without a traffic control device (sign), providing the restriction is for purposes of snow removal and does not extend beyond the midnight to 7 am time period.

PENALTIES

Penalties for violations are specified in the *Traffic By-Law*.



ENFORCEMENT	<p>By-Law Enforcement Officers of the Saint John Parking Commission have authority to ticket for parking offences, including violations of <i>Winter Street Parking Restrictions</i>.</p> <p>The Saint John Police Force has the authority to issue tickets and cause vehicles to be removed (towed away) under the provisions of the <i>Winter Street Parking Restrictions</i>.</p> <p>Resources of the Parking Commission and the Police Force are required to ticket and tow vehicles in violation of <i>Winter Street Parking Restrictions</i>.</p>
EXCEPTIONS	<p>Four areas of the city listed below have special off-street parking challenges and require different arrangements (for the immediate term). The attached maps identify specific street sections in these four areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Wright Street area immediately north of Throughway▶ Old North End▶ Lower West▶ South Central Peninsula▶ Old East <p>City streets exempt from <i>Winter Street Parking Restrictions</i> are listed in Schedule "R" of the <i>Traffic By-Law</i>.</p>
ALTERNATIVES	<p>Alternate arrangements to clear snow and ice from those streets exempted from <i>Winter Street Parking Restrictions</i> including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Temporary "No Parking" signs posted on individual streets to facilitate snow removal, as conditions dictate▶ Alternate side parking where such provisions specifically exist in the <i>Traffic By-Law</i>▶ Permanently prohibited parking on portions of a City street▶ Removal of abandoned vehicles by Police (<i>Motor Vehicle Act</i>)▶ South-Central Peninsula parking ban, with alternate side parking (<u>for this area only</u>) <p>Level of service objectives may not be possible on the streets exempted from <i>Winter Street Parking Restrictions</i>.</p>



NOTICES/SIGNS Temporary signage, supported by public service announcements, shall be used on streets exempted from *Winter Street Parking Restrictions* as the primary means of notifying residents that snow removal will be taking place on the street.

TEMPORARY BANS OVERNIGHT PARKING BAN – SOUTH CENTRAL PENINSULA (ONLY)

A temporary overnight parking ban, from 11:00 pm to 7:00 am during the winter, can be declared by the Commissioner, on the evening after each significant snow storm. Such a temporary ban allows crews to push snow back on streets to allow alternate side parking to be close to the curb and to keep the street open. When a declared snow ban is in effect, no vehicles are permitted to be parked on any street within the boundaries of the South central Peninsula. Any vehicles remaining on the street when the parking ban is in effect will be towed at the owner's risk and expense.

Public notification will be provided no later than 4:00 pm the day of the ban, and will be done through the following:

- ▶ Recorded information line; 658-4040
- ▶ News media and radio announcements
- ▶ City of Saint John Website; www.saintjohn.ca
- ▶ E-mail; to register for e-mail updates, visit www.saintjohn.ca

Information on winter parking in the South central Peninsula is provided in an information brochure produced by the Saint John Parking Commission (copy attached).