

**Subject: Enhanced Garbage Management Bylaw**

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Mayor & Council:

While I appreciate the good intentions behind Councillor Cuthbert's motion to have staff produce an 'enhanced garbage management bylaw', I simply can not support the initiative as outlined.

Council must keep in mind that a very large number of homes in the municipality do not have the benefit of a garage or even a basement. To suggest that residents not be permitted to keep their deep freeze units on their outdoor patios or in their carports is, in my view, beyond unreasonable. Frozen food contained in locked freezers does not emit any odor. If one of our many now urbanized bears has somehow discovered the content of freezers to be an attractant, then that bear has become a nuisance and needs to be dealt with accordingly.

Another part of the motion is to amend the time periods for garbage pick-up to prevent the placement of garbage containers at the curbside the night before pick-up -- a measure that is also completely insupportable. Take my own house, for example. As a common Edgemont rancher, we have no garage, and no basement. Our Scheafer garbage cart is located up against the side of our house at the end of our driveway. There is approximately 40 feet of separation between where the Scheafer cart sits beside the house and where we place it at the curb the night before collection day. So how on earth does this distance make any difference to a bear searching the neighbourhood for garbage? Are we going to be expected to keep garbage in our houses until collection day? Perhaps those of us without a garage are going to be told that we have to take our daily garbage to a community dumpster?

More realistically, are residents actually going to be forced, by threat of a fine, to get up in the early morning hours (between 5 am and 7:30 am) in order to haul their trash to the curb? What about shift workers who are not home during these early morning hours, or the retired who are not up early, or the elderly or disabled homeowners who often rely on the goodwill of neighbours to take-out their trash at a convenient time the evening before collection day?

In your efforts to fully consider the well-being of urbanized bears, please be careful about the level of regulation and the associated costs you impose upon citizens.

Sincerely,  
Brian Platts