NANAIMO GRAFFITI TASK FORCE

THE PROBLEM

LOVE
DA
HOODRAT
SHIT

#TEAM GREEN

HOW WE GOT STARTED

- Public Pressure
- Council directive to create a committee to look into the problem
- Quickly became evident this was a bigger problem than first thought
- Brought in the expert Sgt. Wendy Hawthorne of Transit Police Vancouver
- October 20th 2004

STARTED SLOWLY

- Began with monthly meetings:
- RCMP
- City Bylaw Services
- City Parks Recreation and Culture
- City Public Works

WHAT WAS HAPPENING?

RCMP:

- Caught offenders
- Bylaw tickets only $150.00

PARKS:

- Removed as required
- Small budget

WHAT WAS HAPPENING ?

Public Works:

- Not a lot being done
- Traffic controller boxes being hit 40 tags a week
- Hired contractor to remove tags on weekly inspection

Community Stakeholders:

- Businesses and Community members were doing very little and really didn't know where to start.

THE BEGINNING

The Task Force decided to start with the Downtown :

- Removal of all graffiti with the assistance of all Task Force members.
- Pictures were taken and forwarded to the RCMP
- Downtown Nanaimo Business Association (Now DNBIA) created Adopt a Block!

ORGANIZING BEGINS

- Meetings scheduled 3-4 times/ year
- Made it easy for partners to contact each other
- Communication revealed common tagging issues.
- Encouraged to take pictures and remove the graffiti asap!

CITY OF NANAIMO

- Core Graffiti Group
- Public Works & Parks Yard:
  - Sign Maintenance vehicle replaces / removes tags ASAP.
  - In-house signs are graffiti proofed when made. Quick turn around on replacement.
  - Pictures and tag information logged in Database
  - Graffiti kits available to any community member at no cost - complete with training.
  - Murals by Jeff King

CITY OF NANAIMO

- Bylaw Services:
  - Assist RCMP in the investigation of tags
  - Calls for service for all Graffiti incidents on City & private property
  - Photograph and log tags - circulate to Task Force
  - Educate property owners on Property Maintenance Bylaw
  - Assist community members fight graffiti through CPTED.

TRAFFIC CONTROL BOXES

- 2004 – 40 tags / week on 45 traffic controllers
- Contractor hired to check and remove tags on a weekly basis
- Immediate removal is an excellent deterrent
- Are they right?

DOES IMMEDIATE REMOVAL WORK?

ENTER JEFF KING

- First mural painted on high profile controller
- Cost $500.00 – $900.00
- Started with silhouettes
- Themes related to the area
- All are anti graffiti coated

ORIGINAL TCB

FLOAT PLANE TERMINAL

BOWEN PARK

NUMBER 3 FIRE HALL

RCMP DETACHMENT

BOWEN PARK

MISSED OPPORTUNITY!

BAKER
LOVE IS The MSG
PEACE
NANAIMO

KEYS ELEMENTS TO SUCCESS

- There are 4 components to helping solve this ***COMMUNITY PROBLEM***:
  - **Reporting**
  - **Eradication**
  - **Education**
  - **Enforcement**

Reporting -

- City Infrastructure :
  - Public Works & Parks Ops - Removal done by staff or contractor (Bylaws notified and tags logged)
  - Other Government Agencies or Task Force Members – Are notified by the public and or Bylaws – Logged and removed – RCMP contacted for File # and reporting.
  - *** ***Major cases of Mischief are reported to RCMP minor tags are removed and logged.***

ERADICATION

Uplands @ Oliver

Wakesiah @ 4th

Fitzwilliam @ Wallace
2 small markers

Fitzwilliam @ Milton
poster

EDUCATION

- Public Meetings (Town Halls etc)
- Business Meetings (Rotaries, Chamber of Commerce etc)
- Clean Up Days (special events)
- Schools:
  - Professional Days with Teachers
  - Young students (before 13 - 14 Years)

ENFORCEMENT

Apprehend and Prosecute Individuals

- Each Tagger dealt with on an individual basis.
- Encourage laying charges under Criminal Code Charge Mischief under $5000 Section 430 (1) (a)
- No charges means: "I can get away with it. I just won't get caught again".

Education -

- This is a community issue and it takes a group effort to stay on top of graffiti vandalism
- Educating starts when citizens call in to report the graffiti.
  - Removal of tags as soon as possible and continue to remove them will discourage the vandalism.
  - Large areas that get tagged may require – Graffiti coating to be applied for easier clean up
  - Getting removal kits out to neighbourhood groups / Block Watches has proven successful.

- City and Police Education –
  - Taking the time to educate your whole organization from Council to the front line employee
  - Members educated at morning meetings or watch briefings.

Bylaw Enforcement

- Records and logs all tags and creates a database of tags and the dates and times they were done and are removed.

- PROPERTY MAINTENANCE AND STANDARDS BYLAW – 21 day removal letter
- Works with Property Owner – Compliance

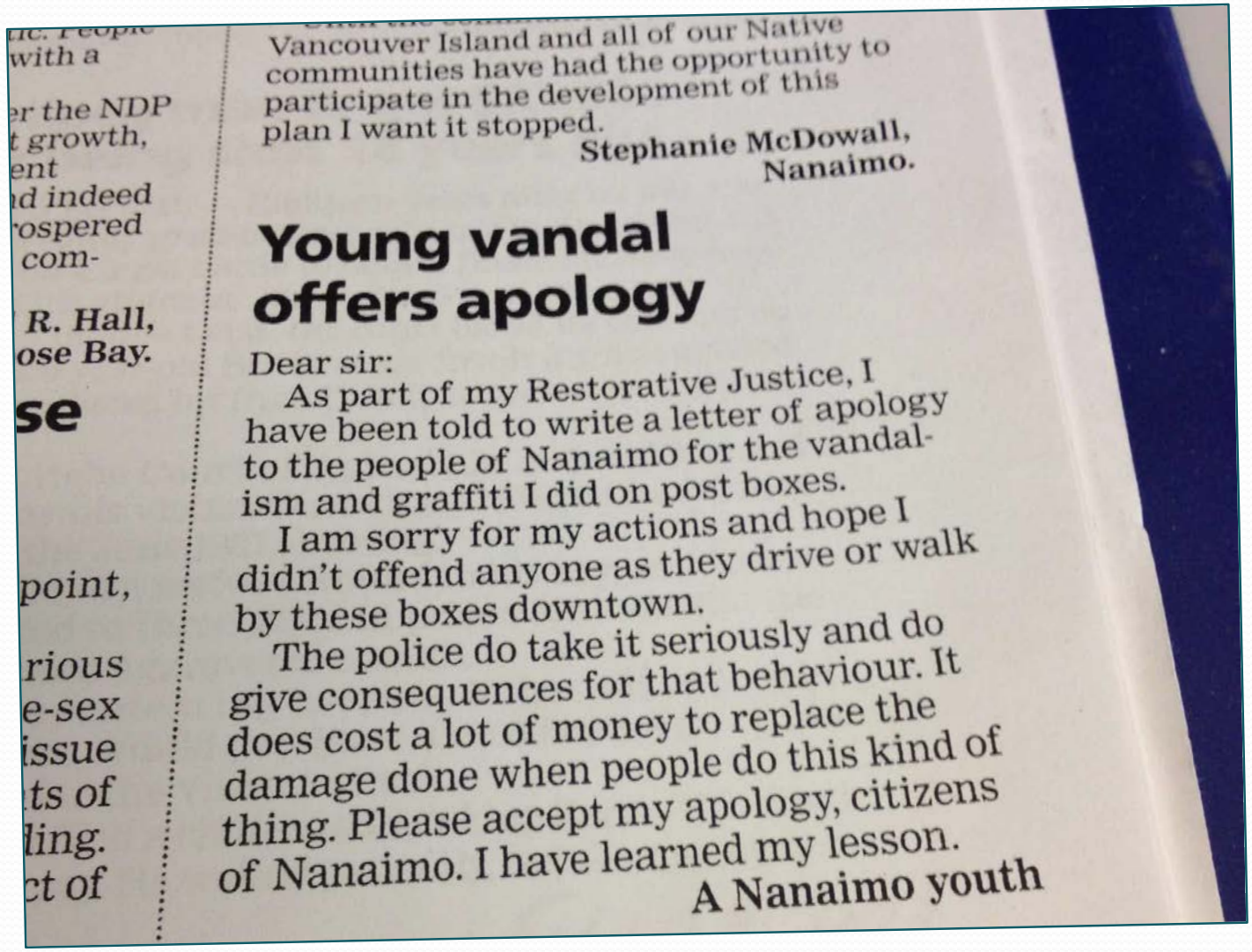
- Issues a violation under -
- PROPERTY MAINTENANCE AND STANDARDS (Non compliance)

- Costs of removal placed on Property Owners Taxes

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE / DIVERSION

- Excellent alternative
  - Seek restitution
  - Request letter of apology to victim
  - Community hours (community anti-graffiti program)

LOUDON PARK: RESTORATIVE JUSTICE



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Vancouver Island and all of our Native communities have had the opportunity to participate in the development of this plan I want it stopped.

Stephanie McDowall,
Nanaimo.

Young vandal offers apology

Dear sir:

As part of my Restorative Justice, I have been told to write a letter of apology to the people of Nanaimo for the vandalism and graffiti I did on post boxes.

I am sorry for my actions and hope I didn't offend anyone as they drive or walk by these boxes downtown.

The police do take it seriously and do give consequences for that behaviour. It does cost a lot of money to replace the damage done when people do this kind of thing. Please accept my apology, citizens of Nanaimo. I have learned my lesson.

A Nanaimo youth

Current Graffiti Task Force Members:

- City of Nanaimo – Operations / Parks & Bylaws
- RCMP Bike Unit
- BC HYDRO
- TELUS
- Southern Rail
- MOTI / EMCON
- Canada Post
- RDN Transit
- Nanaimo Port Authority
- School District # 68.

Vancouver Island Graffiti Task Force

- Most RCMP Detachments on Island
- Saanich PD & Victoria PD.
- Bylaw Services: City of Langford, City of Victoria Town of Cumberland
- Expand the sharing of info.
- Meet 1-2 times / year.
- Share info via email.

FUTURE OF TASK FORCE

- Community Involvement – Pride in Community
- **Maintaining Status Quo – Involving all stakeholders** (VERY IMPORTANT)
- If we relax tagging will increase
- Community support and RCMP involvement critical
- ***KEEPING THE ISSUE IN THE FOREFRONT***

THANK YOU!

Questions?

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