

## **SECTION 2 PROHIBITED SIGNS**

### **2.1 APPLICABILITY**

Prohibited signs are not permitted in any part of the Town due to the potential for nuisance, potential negative impact and safety concerns for adjacent and area properties, public rights-of-way, and the traveling public.

### **2.2 PROHIBITED SIGNS**

- (1) Signs which employ revolving, flashing or intermittent lights, or lights resembling emergency services, traffic signals, railway crossing signals, hazard warning devices or other similar lighting but does not include changeable content, sign projection styles or animation.
- (2) Any sign which creates traffic or a pedestrian hazard either due to its design or location shall not be permitted.
- (3) Signs which emit amplified sounds or music.
- (4) In any residential district, signs that employ animation or changeable content.
- (5) In any non-residential district, signs that employ changeable content, animation or pictorial scenes at a luminosity, intensity and/or interval which may create a public hazard or nuisance are prohibited.
- (6) Any signs located within the public right-of-way or on public property, except for signs approved by the Town of Fort Macleod, which may include: canopy signs, projecting signs and temporary signs or signs approved by the Province of Alberta or Federal Government.
- (7) Signs that are attached to or appearing on any vehicle or trailer which is parked on a public right of way or any other public lands or on private land that is located adjacent to a public right of way with the intent/purpose of displaying the sign to motorists and the public for any period of time, excepting signs for special events organized by a non-profit association, group or organization for a display time period not to exceed twenty-four (24) hours.
- (8) Any sign which has not obtained a development permit or any sign which has not been deemed exempt from the requirement of obtaining a development permit as per this sign schedule (see Section 3: Signs Not Requiring a Permit).

## **SECTION 3 SIGNS NOT REQUIRING A PERMIT**

### **3.1 APPLICABILITY**

Signs in this section do not require a development permit due to the size, temporary nature, and/or innocuous nature or the inherent need for the sign in question, such as but not limited to traffic signage.

### 3.2 SIGNS NOT REQUIRING A PERMIT

The following signs do not require a sign permit, but shall otherwise comply with this bylaw and be suitably maintained to the satisfaction of the Development Authority:

- (1) Signs posted by the Town that display the specifics of a development permit application;
- (2) Construction signs which do not exceed 3.0 m<sup>2</sup> (32.39 ft<sup>2</sup>) in area provided such signs are removed within 14 days of the completion of construction.
- (3) Banner signs which are displayed for a period of time not exceeding 30 days.
- (4) Signs, notices, placards, or bulletins required to be displayed:
  - (a) in accordance with the provisions of federal, provincial, or municipal legislation;
  - (b) by or on behalf of the federal, provincial, or municipal government;
  - (c) on behalf of a department, a commission, a board, a committee, or an official of the federal, provincial, or municipal government.
- (5) Any traffic or directional and informational signage erected by the Town, Province of Alberta or Federal government.
- (6) Municipal signs for municipal purposes (e.g. traffic or directional information signage, community service bulletin board signs, etc.).
- (7) Residency identification signs which state no more than the name and/or address of the person(s) occupying the lot, provided the sign is no greater than 0.4 m<sup>2</sup> (4 ft<sup>2</sup>) in area.
- (8) Vehicle signs except as prohibited in Section 3 (Prohibited Signs) above.
- (9) Entrance or exit signs used for the purpose of directing traffic providing:
  - (a) those signs that do not display any advertising message, other than a business logo,
  - (b) the sign area does not exceed 1.0 m<sup>2</sup> (10.7 ft<sup>2</sup>) in area, and
  - (c) the sign height does not exceed 1.2 m (3.9 ft).
- (10) A-board signs where the owner of the sign submits written authorization from the owner of the land where the sign is to be located and where the sign is removed from that location on a daily basis.
- (11) The alteration of a sign which only includes routine maintenance, painting or change in face, content or lettering and does not include modification to the sign structure or projection style.
- (12) Freestanding signs for community/neighbourhood/subdivision identification purposes where all relevant details and design drawings have been submitted, evaluated and approved as part of a subdivision application process.

- (13) All signs for public buildings, except for freestanding signs and any signs that contain movement/motion (i.e. rotate, etc.) or employ animation or changeable content, which shall require the approval of the Development Authority.
- (14) Real estate signs, provided all such signage is removed within 30 days after the sale or lease of the premises upon which the sign is located.
- (15) Real estate open house A-board signs provided they are removed within 24 hours of the open house.
- (16) On-premises directional and informational signage and incidental signs 0.4 m<sup>2</sup> (4 ft<sup>2</sup>) or less in area.
- (17) Any window sign painted on, attached to or installed on a window provided that no more than 50% of the subject window area is covered.
- (18) Political poster signs provided all such signage is removed within 5 days after the closing of the polling stations for the relevant election or plebiscite and comply with the following requirements:
  - (a) signs cannot emit sound, use video features or be illuminated;
  - (b) signs shall be maintained in a condition that is neat and shall not be unsightly or dangerous;
  - (c) signs shall not interfere with the safe and orderly movement of pedestrians or vehicles, or restrict the sight lines for pedestrians or motorists;
  - (d) signs shall not exceed 2.97 m<sup>2</sup> (32 ft<sup>2</sup>) in area, 1.83 m (6 ft) in height, and be self supporting;
  - (e) signs shall not be posted for more than 60 days; and
  - (f) signs shall be a minimum of 3.0 m (9.8 ft) from any road access and a minimum of 5.0 m (16.4 ft) from any intersection.

## **SECTION 4 GENERAL STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS FOR ALL SIGNS**

### **4.1 APPLICABILITY**

The requirements of this section apply to all signs in the Town of Fort Macleod, except for those that meet the requirements of Section 3 of this Schedule.

### **4.2 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

- (1) Unless otherwise specified, a Development Permit application is required for all signs.
- (2) The Development Officer may refer any Development Permit application for a sign to the Municipal Planning Commission for a decision.
- (3) no more than three (3) signs are permitted on any building with a single frontage, or no more than five (5) signs for buildings with two or more frontages.

- (4) All signs shall be compatible with the general character of the surrounding streetscape and the architecture of nearby buildings.
- (5) All signs shall be of quality construction and of a design suitable for public display and all signs shall be maintained in good repair and a safe and tidy manner.
- (6) No sign shall be placed in a public road or laneway or sited in such a manner that the sign causes confusion with or obstructs the vision of any information sign or a traffic control sign, signal, light or other traffic device.
- (7) No sign shall be located or placed in such a manner that it will create a potential hazard or conflict with rights-of-way, easements or the routing of any public utility, and will not create a traffic hazard or obstruct the public's view of any other signage.
- (8) The size, location, illumination and materials of all signs and outdoor advertising structures and features shall not detract from the design of existing and proposed buildings and structures and the surrounding properties.
- (9) A sign shall be located entirely within the subject lot unless prior written approval granting permission for the sign to overhang another property is submitted to the Town by the affected property owner.
- (10) A sign shall not be erected on any property unless permission is granted in writing from the registered property owner.
- (11) Sign alterations (e.g. change in size, shape, type, illumination, sign projection style, etc.) shall not be made without first obtaining the required permits or written authorization.
- (12) Any signs that rotate, employ animation or changeable content require approval of the Municipal Planning Commission.
- (13) The copy area of all signs that make use of electronic changeable content shall not exceed 3.7 m<sup>2</sup> (40 ft<sup>2</sup>).
- (14) In all cases, the required distance from overhead power and service lines, as set forth in the *Electrical Protection Act*, shall be maintained.
- (15) A sign shall not be attached to a public bench, light standard, utility pole or any other publicly owned structure or building without prior written authorization from the Development Authority.
- (16) The source of light for all sign illumination shall be steady and suitably shielded, and of a level of luminosity that does not cause undue impact to neighbouring properties, the motoring public, or any other potentially impacted persons as determined by the Development Authority.
- (17) Subsequent to approval from the Municipal Planning Commission, signs may be permitted to locate within the setback requirement of a Land Use District if it does

not interfere with visibility at an intersection and complies with other requirements of this sign schedule.

- (18) The following rules apply to all types of signs on municipal property:
- (a) No signs shall be located on, erected on, or attached to municipal property, buildings or structures unless permission is granted in writing from the Town.
  - (b) If permission is granted for a sign to be located on, erected on, or attached to municipal property, buildings or structures, the sign type shall comply with all applicable sign regulations contained within this Land Use Bylaw.
  - (c) Any sign located on, erected on, or attached to municipal property without authorization from the Town, may be removed without notice.
- (19) Any abandoned sign shall be removed at the property owner's expense. If abandoned signs are not removed the Town may remove the sign.
- (20) Non-compliance with any regulation of this Bylaw may result in the Town removing a sign without notice and any cost associated with its removal may be charged to the sign owner. A sign recovery charge of \$200 will be required prior to the return of the sign to the owner.
- (21) Any signs removed by the Town may be held for 30 days after removal at the owner's risk. Should the signs not be claimed by the owner after 30 days from the date of removal, the signs will be disposed of at the discretion of the Town.
- (22) The Town shall not be held liable for any injury, loss or damage suffered by any person or corporate body which is caused by any sign located in the Town whether or not the sign is in accordance with the requirements of this Bylaw.
- (23) When a sign cannot be clearly categorized as one of the sign types as defined in this bylaw, the Development Authority shall determine the sign type and any and all applicable controls.

## **SECTION 5 SIGN PERMIT APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

The following requirements shall be met for each development permit for a sign application, to the satisfaction of the Development Authority:

- (1) A development permit for a sign shall be made to the Development Authority by an applicant, a landowner, or someone that has been authorized by the landowner, an agent for instance, to submit a development permit application, on a completed application form.
- (2) An application for a development permit to erect, place, alter or relocate a sign shall also be accompanied by:
  - (a) the name and address of the sign manufacturer or company and the lawful sign owner;
  - (b) a letter of authorization from the affected registered property and/or building owner (if the applicant is not the landowner).

- (3) The Development Authority may require any additional information deemed necessary to evaluate a Development Permit application for a sign, but generally, an application for a permit to erect, place, alter or relocate a sign shall be made to the Development Authority and shall be accompanied by photographs and/or drawings, to an appropriate scale, showing where applicable:
- (a) the location of all existing and proposed sign(s);
  - (b) the size, height, and area of the proposed sign(s), including any supporting structures;
  - (c) details with respect to the sign content (i.e. wording/lettering, text, message, graphics, etc.);
  - (d) the sign colour and design scheme;
  - (e) materials specifications;
  - (f) location of the property boundaries of the parcel upon which the proposed sign(s) is to be located;
  - (g) utility rights-of-way, access easements and any other related encumbrances;
  - (h) location of existing building(s) on the site;
  - (i) the type of illumination, animation and/or changeable content, if any, and details with respect to the proposed luminosity intensity and/or interval;
  - (j) If a sign is to be attached to a building, the details regarding the extent of the projection and the type of anchoring to be used to affix the sign to the building.

## SECTION 6 DISPLAY STYLES AND ILLUMINATION

- (1) The content of any sign type (e.g. temporary, freestanding, billboard, etc.) may be projected using one or a combination of more than one of the following projection styles:
- (a) **Lettering/Logo:** means the sign content contains simple wording, lettering, logo or graphics that are not animated, moving or cannot be changed automatically.
  - (b) **Animation:** means the sign content or a portion of the sign content contains action or motion, including lighting changes, special effects or pictures, but does not mean changeable content.
  - (c) **Changeable content:** means the sign content or a portion of the sign content changes automatically through electronic and/or mechanical means.
  - (d) **Movement/motion:** means the sign, sign content or a portion of the sign conveys its message to the public through the movement or motion of its mechanical parts. Typical signs using this projection style include rotating signs.
- (2) Any change in projection style requires the submission of a new development permit application.