



Staff Report

Report To: Council Meeting
From: Lee Gosnell, Manager of Operations & Community Services
Date: 2025-02-27
Subject: Parking Restrictions – Munroe Street, West Lorne

Recommendation:

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the report from Lee Gosnell, Manager of Operations & Community Services; And

Option 1 – That West Elgin Council considers removal of parking restrictions along the South side of Munroe Street immediately adjacent to the Arts & Cookery Bank (approx. 20 meters); Or

Option 2 – That West Elgin Council leaves the parking restriction, along the south side of Munroe Street from Graham Road to Ridge Street, in place as per the current parking by-law.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide information for West Elgin Council regarding Councilor Dennings notice of motion on parking restrictions along Munroe Street in West Lorne.

Background:

On August 15, 2024, West Elgin Council approved a municipal parking by-law amendment to deal with parking concerns along Munroe Street in West Lorne, between Gramham Road and Ridge Street. Upon implementation, the only feedback received by staff or Council came from owners of the Arts & Cookery bank who felt they were losing space for unloading goods and accessible parking for their events. The following information is for Council's consideration.

West Elgin's municipal parking bylaw restricts parking within 9 meters of an intersection and 3 meters from any fire hydrant, these restrictions reduce the available area and limit parking to two or three spaces, at most.

There are also two commercial entrances at the west end of these spots which increases the number of vehicles entering/exiting Munroe Street in this area. Parking creates a visual obstruction for cars accessing Munroe Street.

The need for loading and unloading event materials and/or people can still be accomplished, as per the following definition in our parking bylaw.

"PARK" or "PARKING", when prohibited, means the standing of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, except when standing temporarily for the purpose of, and while actually engaged in, loading or unloading merchandise or passengers.

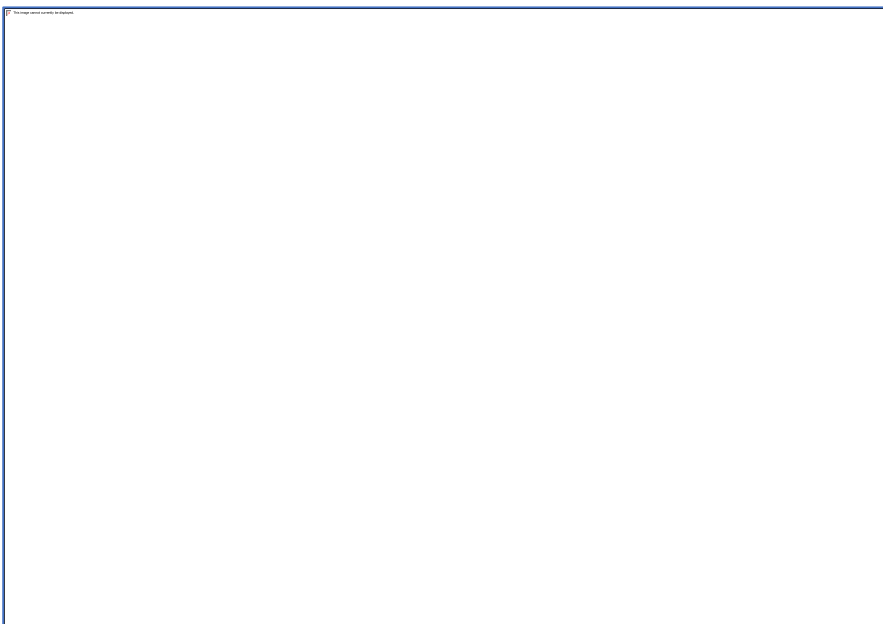
Although temporary standing for such purposes would be allowed, use of the space during events would not be guaranteed as it is public space and there are no restrictions around Arts & Cookery use only.

This area of boulevard does not meet any of the criteria for 'accessible' parking.

- The area is a gravel surface vs. paved, which can be uneven and hard to traverse for people with mobility issues.
- The spots are not a standard depth for accessible parking, and the railing would make it difficult for people exiting the right side of the vehicle.
- There is no proper access to the sidewalk, short of walking to the corner or the commercial parking lot to the west.
- The area cannot be marked as accessible parking because it does not meet AODA standards.

A relocation of the 'no parking' limits may also promote parking of commercial vehicles in this space while drivers use the Tim Hortons. This would be counterproductive to the original purpose of these parking restrictions and create a new list of issues that would have to be addressed.

As previously discussed, seeding this area to make it more aesthetically pleasing and reduce the temptation for parking. It could also be left gravel if the business wishes to continue using the area for loading/unloading purposes, keeping in mind that it will be maintained like other boulevards in the urban areas (no winter maintenance, etc.)



Financial Implications:

Option 1 in this report will require relocation of 'No Parking' signage along the south side of Munroe Street (west of Graham Road) to properly identify the new restricted parking zone. This would cost approximately \$300.00 and would come from the 2025 public works operating budget. Option 2 will have no financial implication.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Infrastructure Improvement	Recreation	Economic Development	Community Engagement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To improve West Elgin's infrastructure to support long-term growth.	<input type="checkbox"/> To provide recreation and leisure activities to attract and retain residents.	<input type="checkbox"/> To ensure a strong economy that supports growth and maintains a lower cost of living.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To enhance communication with residents.

Respectfully submitted by,

Lee Gosnell

Manager of Operations and Community Services

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Parking Restrictions - Munroe Street, West Lorne - 2025-03-Operations (Infrastructure Development).docx
Attachments:	- Parking By-Law Amendment - 2024-21-Operations Community Services.docx
Final Approval Date:	Feb 23, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Robin Greenall