



**Goodbye Graffiti™**

**PRESS RELEASE:**

Goodbye Graffiti™ Lake Ontario East Makes Local Oshawa Paper

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**COUNCIL**

# City targets graffiti

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OSHAWA — Kids under 18 won't be able to buy spray paint, large markers or anything else considered a "graffiti implement," if Oshawa councillors give the green light to a new bylaw.

On Thursday, council's finance and administration committee had the first look at the proposed bylaw, which would make it an offense for Oshawa stores to sell graffiti implements to people under 18, or for minors to possess them in a public place.

"We're paying in excess of \$100,000 a year in clean-up costs, and that doesn't include the enforcement," said committee chairman Councillor Brian Nicholson. "We have to do something about this."

A staff report says this approach has been successful in Ottawa, Winnipeg, London and Vancouver.

"There doesn't seem to be anything you can do that inoculates your building against graffiti," said Coun. Louise Parkes. "I think by restricting the sale of paint and implements to minors, at least it makes their parents aware, it may get them to pay attention and take more action."

The bylaw would require any business selling graffiti implements to post a sign advertising the fact that it is illegal to sell "spray paint, broad-tipped marker pens, paint pens, glass-cutting tools or glass-etching tools or instru-

## FAST FACTS

### Removal project

The Downtown Oshawa Board of Management has hired graffiti removal franchise Goodbye Graffiti, to rid the downtown core of graffiti as part of the Communities With Brooms clean-up event on April 23.

An estimated 225 tags will be removed by the company, which has worked with the board to identify tags in the central business district, providing photos and addresses for each.

Goodbye Graffiti uses custom graffiti removal vehicles and certified technicians with experience removing tags from more than 75 types of surfaces.

The City of Oshawa will co-ordinate graffiti removal from Canada Post boxes, Bell Canada phone booths and newspaper boxes.

ments" to anyone under 18, unless they are accompanied by a parent or guardian.

It would also be an offense for anyone under 18 to possess those items in a public place, unless they are supervised by a parent, guardian, teacher or employer.

The proposed bylaw would carry fines ranging from \$350 to \$2,000 for a first conviction, \$450 to \$5,000 for a second conviction and \$500 to \$10,000 for a third or subsequent conviction.

Coun. Nicholson said those convicted of a graffiti offence should also pay additional penalties, to cover the City's costs related to administration, prosecution and clean-up.



For additional information on the Goodbye Graffiti™ Group of Companies please contact Amy Harrison at 1-877-684-4747 or [aharrison@goodbyegraffiti.com](mailto:aharrison@goodbyegraffiti.com)