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## Report 2024-135

**Report Title:** Forest By-Law Enforcement Officer Appointment

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Corporate Services

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Municipal Solicitor

**Approved by:** Jennifer Moore, CAO

**Council Meeting Date:** October 16, 2024

**Report Not Considered by  
Standing Committee Because:**

- Time-sensitive Issue (information received too late for Committee consideration)
- Urgent Matter (issue arose after this month's Committee meeting)
- Other

**Strategic Plan Priorities:**  Innovate for Service Excellence  
 Ignite Economic Opportunity  
 Foster a Thriving Community  
 Propel Sustainable Growth  
 Champion a Vibrant Future

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### Recommendation

“That County Council having considered Report 2024-135 ‘Forest By-law Enforcement Officer Appointment’, refer the enactment of a by-law to Appoint Municipal Law Enforcement Officers for the County of Northumberland as Authorized Under the Provision of the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 to Enforce By-law 21-10 and to Repeal By-Law 23-2024, to the Enactment By-laws portion of the October 16, 2024 County Council agenda.”

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### Purpose

To seek Council authorization of By-Law XX-2024, appointing Alnwick Haldimand Township By-Law Enforcement Officers for the purposes of enforcing County By-law 21-10.

### Background

Through the collaborative work between County staff and staff from the Township of Alnwick Haldimand (“Township”) in updating the Forest Land Use Agreement, staff held discussions about by-law enforcement in the County Forest.

The lands within the County Forest are a myriad of County owned and Township owned properties. Township by-law enforcement staff have knowledge of the forest and its trail network. In addition to monitoring Township by-law enforcement, Township staff have also offered to provide by-law enforcement support in enforcing the County’s Forest Use by-law 21-10.

### **Consultations**

County staff met with staff from the Town of Cobourg and Alnwick Haldimand to discuss by-law enforcement at the County Forest.

Municipal services have direct experience and understanding of by-law enforcement in a municipal setting inclusive of appropriate user engagement and education.

### **Legislative Authority / Risk Considerations**

The County is required to enforce by-law 21-10, governing use in the county forest.

Motorized season closes on November 1, 2024 to permit time to transition signage etc. for winter use and to negate significant damage to the trail system during significant freeze/thaw and rainy periods. Not having by-law enforcement present to ensure unauthorized users are not using the forest presents a significant risk to the ecology and trail system in the forest.

### **Discussion / Options**

Historically, utilizing external security agencies to conduct by-law enforcement has been fraught with significant challenges. Continuing to utilize private firms/resources is not recommended.

Based on the Land Use Agreement, currently under revision, and the partnerships established with Township staff through this process, it is recommended that Township staff be appointed as by-law enforcement for the forest.

### **Financial Impact**

Enforcement will be provided for approximately \$600 per week. With hours primarily worked on Saturday and Sundays.

### **Member Municipality Impacts**

There is no direct impact to member municipalities.

### **Conclusion / Outcomes**

Council approve By-Law XX-2024 as attached.

### **Attachments**

1. Report 2024-135 ATTACH 1 ‘By-Law XX-2024 – A By-law to Appoint Municipal Law Enforcement Officers for the County of Northumberland’

2. Report 2024-135 ATTACH 2 'By-Law 21-10 - Govern Use of Lands known as Northumberland Forest'