

### **Sign Theft and Road Destruction**

The R.M. of Canwood No. 494 is asking for the public's assistance to report known incidents of the destruction or theft of R.M. signs and roadways during the summer of 2020. Numerous signs have been stolen or vandalized in the general area north and east of Canwood. Destructive driving resulting in deep ruts in the roadways has been reported throughout the municipality. If you notice a sign that is missing or damage that has been done to the road that could cause danger to motorists on our roadways, please contact the Municipal Office. If you witness theft or vandalism in these events or have information on a theft or vandalism, you can report these offences to the police at **310-RCMP(7267)** or if you wish to remain anonymous, call Crime Stoppers at **1-800-222-TIPS (8477)**.

**The R.M. of Canwood will pay up to \$1,000.00 for information that leads to the arrest, charge, and conviction of persons for Theft, Possession of Stolen Property or Mischief in relation to the theft and destruction of R.M. signs and roadways.**

The destruction of R.M. signs, roads and property is considered Mischief Under/Over \$5,000.00, and the theft of signs constitutes Theft Under \$5,000.00. Both are **CRIMINAL CODE CHARGES**.

Traffic signs are used to alert drivers. Signs such as **STOP and YIELD** are regulatory signs which give motorists notice of traffic regulations that apply at any given place or on any given roadway. Warning signs such as **DEAD END, CURVE or ROAD CLOSED** help drivers prepare for what is ahead by warning traffic of hazardous conditions either on, or adjacent to, the road. When these signs are stolen or destroyed, drivers have no notification of what is ahead, making drivers a danger to themselves as well as others on the roadways.

R.M. signs are used to provide motorists with information. These signs are especially useful to emergency personnel (**Fire, First Responders, Ambulances and Police**) by helping them get to people who are in emergent need of medical or safety assistance. The absence of these signs increases the arrival time of emergency personnel and could mean **LIFE OR DEATH**.

The maintenance of signs and roadways becomes more costly to R.M. property owners when signs have to be replaced or when roadway maintenance has to be repeated as a result of vandalism or theft. The average cost to buy and erect one sign is \$180.00 and the cost per hour of grading to repair an area of road that has been damaged by deep ruts is \$80.00.