



## Where do you draw the line?

The presence of graffiti has a widespread impact on any community. In 2010, a group of municipal partners formed the **Waterloo Region Anti-Graffiti Alliance** and identified four areas in which to focus efforts:

### Prevention & Enforcement

Develop deterrence initiatives and consistent bylaw regulations.

### Community Engagement

Engage people in activities to prevent and reduce graffiti.

### Public Awareness & Education

Raise awareness within the community about the impact of graffiti.

### Public Art

Develop public art projects in identified areas of the region as a way to deter graffiti.

## Partners

Bell Canada	KW Hydro
Button Factory	KW Real Estate Board
Cambridge BIA	North Dumfries Township
Canada Post	Reaching Our Outdoor Friends (ROOF)
City of Cambridge	Region of Waterloo
City of Kitchener	UpTown Waterloo BIA
City of Waterloo	University of Waterloo Police
Community Centres and Volunteers	Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council
Community Justice Initiatives	Waterloo Catholic District School Board
Community Members	Waterloo Region District School Board
Conestoga College	Waterloo Regional Police Services
Crown Attorney's Office	Wellesley Township
Downtown East 'You Gotta Luv It' Project	Wilmot Township
Downtown Kitchener BIA	Wilfrid Laurier Police
Grand River Conservation Authority	Woolwich Township
Grand River Transit	
John Howard Society	

... And YOU!

# graffiti

Where do you draw the line?

## WATERLOO REGION ANTI-GRAFFITI ALLIANCE

Reporting Hotline:

**1-855-TAG FREE**

1-855-824-3733

[www.wipeoutgraffiti.ca](http://www.wipeoutgraffiti.ca)

# Recognize It.

## What is Graffiti?

Graffiti is vandalism resulting from the etching, painting or placing of a mark on public or private property.

## Is Graffiti Illegal? YES!

The cities in Waterloo Region have graffiti bylaws that prohibit graffiti from being placed on any property without the owner's consent and requires them to remove graffiti from their property.

A ticket or summons to appear in court may be issued. A person who commits tagging may be charged under the Criminal Code of Canada

## How does Graffiti Affect our Community?

Graffiti affects everyone!! It is a major concern for many citizens, organizations, and businesses. Graffiti is not a victimless crime. If ignored, graffiti can:

- Lead to increased graffiti and crime
- Create loss of business and tourism
- Result in costly clean up
- Reduce property values
- Decrease feelings of safety in neighborhoods

# Report It.

When reporting an incident of graffiti, please provide as much information regarding the location as possible. City staff will use the information reported to them to contact the appropriate property owner or agency to call for the graffiti to be removed as soon as reasonably possible.

## Reporting Hotline:

1-855-TAG-FREE (1-855-824-3733)

## Online Reporting:

[www.wipeoutgraffiti.ca](http://www.wipeoutgraffiti.ca)

## Call Police:

Call 911 if you witness an act of *graffiti in progress*, as it is a crime in progress. Provide as much detail about the incident as possible to the 911 operator.

Call police at 519-653-7700 to report Incidents of *hate crime or gang graffiti*.

## Call or Text Crime Stoppers:

Secure & anonymous Tips via Text Message Send your message to:

“CRIMES” (274637) and type “TIP152” at the beginning of the body of the message. Your messages are secure and anonymous.

# Remove It.

The faster graffiti is removed, the less likely the site will be tagged again. With your help we can start to reduce this kind of vandalism in our Community.

## Prevent it

Keep it clean! Properties that have littered lots, graffiti, broken fences, over-grown greenery and poor lighting, suggest neglect and are prime targets of graffiti vandals. Keeping your property clean and maintained has a positive effect on the community and deters graffiti.

Remember the 3 R's of Graffiti -

## Recognize. Report. Remove.

- to reduce the spread of graffiti and make our cities and townships a great place to live!

