

Snow Removal Program

Beginning November 2007, the Municipality will perform its own winter road maintenance operations, including snow removal. This service was previously contracted out.

Equipment

The Municipality has the following equipment that can be deployed for snow and ice clearing:

- 2 - 4WD, 1 Ton trucks fitted with salter/plow combinations
- 1 - 5 Ton truck fitted with salter/plow combinations
- 1 - 2WD, 1 Ton truck fitted with plow only – derated (only for clearing Municipal parking lots)
- Limited locally contracted backhoes, and miscellaneous equipment as required



One of our new 4WD, 1 Ton trucks fitted with salter/plow combination

Snow & Ice Control Strategy

Snow removal generally begins as soon as it is practical after a storm. A number of elements, including the following, are taken into consideration before snow removal operations are initiated:

- Public safety
- Emergency access routes
- Public Transit routes
- Street parking requirements
- Snow storage capability
- Vehicle and pedestrian traffic

Street salting and/or sanding is the first step in the winter control plan. Salt and/or sand provides traction for traffic until snow has reached a minimum depth. Once the minimum depth of snow is exceeded, plowing activities are initiated, and streets are cleaned according to their importance in the overall transportation system. Different plowing strategies may be used depending on the density, consistency and temperature of the snow, the snowfall rate, the road condition and the weather forecast. Sometimes, the plows will consciously leave the lower inch or so of snow in place, in order to leave the asphalt below with a salt layer on it – this prevents hard packing of snow on the asphalt.

Plowing Priorities

To maintain a fair level of service it is our policy to initiate snow plowing using different snow accumulation thresholds for different road types.

- 1) **Primary Roads:** Plowing begins as soon as possible
- 2) **Secondary Roads:** Plowing begins after Primary routes are passable
- 3) **Tertiary Roads:** Plowing begins after Primary and Secondary routes are passable

In some cases, safety concerns in snow & ice conditions may limit plowing until the end of the snow storm and during daylight hours only

- 4) **Municipal parking lots:** Plowing to occur as required

This includes lots at the Fire Hall, Municipal Hall, Quarry Park, Old General Store etc.

- 5) **Un-maintained roads:** Plowing will not occur

Sidewalks

Sidewalk clearing in the Snug Cove Business Area is the responsibility of the abutting property owner (Bylaw 133). Business property owners are required to clear snow and ice from the sidewalks that surround their property by 10 a.m.

Public Responsibilities

Despite the best efforts of a highly motivated crew, conditions can deteriorate and roads can become treacherous. In such conditions, motorists are advised NOT TO travel. If travel is necessary, motorists are advised to take public transit. If you decide to drive, your vehicle must have winter tires and should be fitted with chains.

Plow crews have a priority sequence, and have a big-picture understanding of the snow conditions across the whole island. Drivers are instructed NOT TO entertain personal requests for people's roads to be plowed first – Do not follow around plow trucks or stop crews to speak with them.

Cul-de-sacs and dead-ends with a short turning radius make it difficult for plow trucks to maneuver. Please do not park or store materials in these areas.

When shoveling your driveway, you are instructed NOT TO place snow onto the Municipal Highway. Please pile snow on the left side of your driveway (oriented if you are facing your property). This will improve visibility of approaching traffic and will reduce the possibility of snow being pushed across your driveway by plow trucks.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q – Does the Municipality regularly salt the roads to keep them free of ice?

A – Yes, when freezing conditions are expected a vehicle will salt the roads beginning at 3:30 am, Monday to Saturday (and beginning at 4:30 am, Sunday and Holidays).

Q – Does the Municipality have a Snow & Ice Control Procedure?

A – Before a snow fall, the roads will be pre-salted to help prevent hard packing of snow on the asphalt. During a snow fall, the first priority for the plows is to clear snow from all main roads and bus routes. The trucks will continue to clear and maintain the roads on a 24 hour basis during the snow storm.

Q – Why isn't my road being cleared?

A – Plow operators are instructed to maintain primary roads first and only clear secondary roads after the primary roads have been cleared. Tertiary roads are only maintained after both primary and secondary roads have been cleared. If snow falls again before all clearing is complete, crews must then return to streets with a higher priority. Understandably, this lengthens the response time to residential roads and is the prime cause of inquiries on snow control.

Q – What is the basis of the plow route priorities?

A – Plow route priorities have been created to allow crews to focus their effort on specific routes that are considered more critical than others.

1) Primary route - main roads and transit routes.

2) Secondary route – roads that are relatively close to a main route or roads that may be beyond the capabilities of the crew to keep clear during a heavy or long duration snow storm.

3) Tertiary roads – roads that have safety concerns associated with them during snow & ice conditions and roads that service relatively few homes.

Q – Why doesn't the Municipality use sand instead of salt?

A – When considering the significant clean-up costs, sand is much more expensive than salt. However, when the temperature falls below -6°C the effectiveness of salt is reduced, and a sand/salt mixture will be applied to the road surface. Additionally, sand or crushed gravel may be applied to certain sections of the road surface to provide immediate traction until the salt begins to react.