



## Winter Maintenance Operations

City of Stratford Council at the November 8, 2010 Council meeting adopted Patrolling, Snow Accumulation, and Icy Roadways as per the Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal Highways under the *Municipal Act 2001*, as amended by Ontario Regulation 23/10 as the City Standards for Winter Maintenance. This Provincial criteria ensures that maintenance activities are consistent across the Province. The City of Stratford makes every effort to consistently deploy snow clearing equipment to meet and/or exceed these response times. We strive to respond to winter conditions both in a proactive manner and with sufficient resources to maintain these standards.

- Please remember overnight parking is prohibited on any roadway or shoulder between 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.
- Don't place snow from driveways on the street
- Remind children not to climb or play on snowbanks

City of Stratford By-laws that relate to winter maintenance operations are [Snow and Ice Removal By-law No. 225-2005](#) and the [Traffic and Parking By-law No. 159-2008](#), Sections 8, 13 and 82.

Click [here](#) to view the Ontario Regulation 23/10 amending O. Reg. 239/02 under the *Municipal Act 2001*

Click [here](#) to view the Ontario Regulation 239/02 Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal Highways under the *Municipal Act 2001*

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Question**

Who do I call if a road or sidewalk has not been plowed within 24 hours of the last snowfall?

### **Answer**

Call the Public Works dispatcher at 519-271-0250 ext. 259.

### **Question**

How long does it take to clear all the roads in the City?

### **Answer**

It depends on how much snow is falling. If snow starts and stops, then a typical rotation through the City takes between 18 and 24 hours to plow all



178 kilometres of roadway. If snow continues, then the primary roads will be plowed again prior to the residential streets. During some winter events, plowing continues for several days using City and Contract equipment.

### **Question**

Why does my neighbour's street get plowed before mine every time?

### **Answer**

There are several classifications of roads in the City based on the amount of traffic on them and the speed of the traffic. Other factors including bus routes, school, and hospital areas dictate road classification. Plow operators are given beats that show them what to plow first and what to plow after that. If you live on a cul-de-sac with a low volume of slow traffic, your street will be plowed, but it will not be plowed as soon as the larger streets with higher volumes of traffic using them.

### **Question**

Why did the plow go by after the sander last night?

### **Answer**

Winter Sanders are out sanding and salting for the first 5 centimetres of snow. At these levels of snow, salt and sand are the most effective tool at removing or reducing snow and providing traction and safer driving conditions for motorists. If the snowfall ends at that point then no other action is needed. However, if it continues to snow then the plows are called out and the plowing operation starts.

### **Question**

Why do the plows go by 2 or 3 times during some winter snows?

### **Answer**

When there is significant snow or drifting snow, the large plows will clear snow from local roadways and highways. Although this operation removes the snow quickly from the travelled portion of the road, a follow up plowing occurs in order to push snow back as far as possible to provide storage space for the next snowfall. This is best accomplished with a second push at the snow bank. A second reason for the follow up plowing is to attempt to expose catch basins which are essential for allowing melting snow and potential rainfall to drain off the street.



### **Question**

Why do you plow in my driveway?

### **Answer**

Plowing in driveways is a result of plowing the roadway. In order to clear snow from the roadway, all property frontages and driveways will receive a "grader ridge" as plows pass by. If City crews attempted to clear entrances during roadway plowing operations, the process would become very time consuming and very expensive.

### **Question**

You plowed around my car and I couldn't move it after you went by, will you come and dig it out?

### **Answer**

Cars parked on the roadway in the winter can stop plows and sanders from being able to go down your street. If the plow can go around, it will, and it will leave a ridge around the car. We are unable to "dig out" these cars and ask that everyone make every effort to keep cars off roadways and cul-de-sac islands in the winter.

### **Question**

Why do the big snow blowers blow snow on my lawn?

### **Answer**

The large blowers are used to remove the snow banks when they become so large that visibility for drivers and pedestrians is reduced and when the travelled portion of the road becomes so narrow that cars cannot pass comfortably.

### **Question**

The sidewalk plow ripped up my lawn, what can I do?

### **Answer**

If you see that a road plow or a sidewalk plow has damaged your lawn you can call Public Works and give them your name and address. The damage will be noted and your address kept for repair in the spring.



**Question** Can I sweep winter sand from my lawn and boulevard to the street for the big sweepers?

**Answer** Yes, winter sand is the only material allowed to be swept to the gutter line from front lawns, sidewalks and boulevards. Please make sure to "spread it out" along the curb, don't put it in one large pile. Winter sand can be raked out in April and May of each year.