



## **WINTER OPERATIONS**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **How does the Whitestone prepare for winter weather?**

The Municipality has a comprehensive winter operations plan that includes snow plowing/removal, road sanding, and other measures to ensure safety during winter conditions.

#### **My road still has not been plowed? Why is it taking so long?**

During a snow fall, roadways are plowed in accordance with priorities as well as established plow routes. The first priority is to ensure all main Whitestone arterial roads and collector roads are clear as well as school bus routes. This means that plows may not be able to immediately clear less-traveled roads.

During a snowfall event which lasts less than a single day. Plows will go out near the end of snow fall event to clear and sand roads.

During snow events that last multiple days, plows may be out several times to clear accumulated snow and sand the road. Once the snow fall event has completed, a final clean up will be done, typically early morning.

#### **Why does the plow fill in the end of my driveway?**

Snow plows clear roads from the center of the road to the right shoulder – leaving snow across private driveways. Unfortunately, this cannot be prevented and it must be understood the shoulder area is designed for snow storage from the traveled portion of the roadway.

#### **Will anything be done about the high snow banks along my road?**

The Municipality will work to push back/cut down the snow banks along roads. The Municipality will begin to push back/cut down snow banks when the banks cause sight line issues and snow storage becomes a concern.

Snow banks located along Hwy 124 and Hwy 520 are the responsibility of MTO and MTO's snow plow contractor.

### **Why does the Municipality plow during the early morning?**

Depending on how much snow falls, the Municipality may have to plow early morning. Not only is this a safe and more efficient time as there is little road traffic but it also ensures that the roads are ready for the morning school busses and commuters.

### **Why are snow plows and sanders out on the roads when it is not snowing?**

Residents may see Municipal Operators out when it's not snowing. We pro-actively sand the roads during expected weather conditions. In other cases, plows are sent out to address areas of concern that may have hills or curves. With safety in mind, it is in the best interest of the Municipality and the general public to have these areas treated to prior to ice formation.

The Municipality will remove build up on our snow packed roads. The grader is equipped with special blades for removing snow build up on our roads. When meeting the grader please slow right down and give the grader right of way.

### **Are there any restrictions during winter weather, such as parking bans?**

Yes, to enhance the efficiency of snow removal on municipal roads and properties, it is prohibited for individuals to park vehicles on roadways/snow plow turnarounds or engage in unauthorized parking on municipal properties within the jurisdiction of the Municipality. This restriction is in effect at any time from November 1st of each year to April 15th of the following year.

### **How can residents help?**

Residents can assist the Municipality in the winter by doing a few things to assist in snow clearing operations:

- Avoid parking on roads to allow plows to do their work.
- When shoveling or plowing snow from your driveway, don't throw it on the road. Pile snow on your property.
- Consider assisting your elderly or disabled neighbour(s) by clearing snow for them.
- Please do not push large volumes of snow into ditches. It can turn into ice and block nearby culverts.
- When piling snow on your property, take care not to block sightlines from driveways.
- Be mindful of your neighbors. Do not pile snow so the Municipal plow will push it away from your entrance and fill in your neighbor's entrance.

- You, as the property owner, are responsible for clearing windrows from the end of your driveway.
- Teach children not to play in snow banks at edge of road, snow piles at the end of roads or any other area where snow removal takes place.
- Keep your 911 sign clear of snow buildup.
- Please be mindful when approaching a plow from the opposite direction, please slow right down and give plow right of way.
- When meeting a plow at an intersection please keep well back of the snow plow as the snow plow must back up to make several passes to clear the larger area of an intersection.
- Keep well back of a snow plow. If you cannot see the snow plow operator from the snow plow side mirrors, then the snow plow operator cannot see you. Snow plow have limited visibility close to the plow and especially on the passenger side and directly at the back of the plow.
- Do not overtake (pass) a plow from behind, be patient allow the plow to do its job. The plow is equipped with a large front plow and a large wing which limits the ability of the plow to maneuver. Passing a plow from behind creates a dangerous situation for the vehicle passing and the operator of the plow.
- Snowmobilers, please do not ride on our snow banks. Snow banks help drivers identify the edge of the road. Once a snow bank is flattened the edge of the road is no longer visible for the vehicles and snow plow operators. Please do not ride on the end of culverts, this freezes the end of the culverts and causes flooding during thawing events.
- When parking in a parking lot please group up vehicle together on the left side of parking lot. This will allow the snow plow to push snow to the right and not have to plow between vehicles.
- Residents are encouraged to have winter tires, keep driveways clear, and be aware of weather forecasts for timely preparation.

If you have any questions, please contact:

- Municipal Office 705-389-2466
- Public Works Garage 705-389-3838

**PLEASE DRIVE SAFE**