

# TOWN OF LUNENBURG

## WINTER STREET/SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### 1) **When will my street or sidewalk be plowed?**

Public Works Department employees are out clearing snow from streets and sidewalks during and after a snowfall. Streets are prioritized based on a Snow Plowing/Salting/Hauling Snow from Streets Policy approved by Town Council. The plowing of snow from streets and sidewalks is carried out in the following order of priority (1) main arteries into the Town, (2) downtown shopping area, and (3) residential streets. Generally the more traffic there is on a street the higher the priority.

The first priority includes Victoria Road, Green Street, Maple Avenue, Dufferin Street, Lincoln Street, Pelham Street (Kempt Street to Town Limit), Tannery Road and Mason's Beach Road.

The second priority in the downtown shopping area includes Montague Street, Pelham Street (Lincoln to Kempt Streets) and Bluenose Drive.

The third priority includes residential streets in New Town and Old Town.

Typically streets and sidewalks can take at least four hours to be plowed after a snowfall. The amount of snow, time of day and potential equipment breakdowns can affect whether or not your street or sidewalk will be plowed in this time period. Residents and businesses are asked to be patient and not park vehicles on Town streets until they are cleared of snow so as not to impede snow plowing operations.

The Town is responsible for salting or clearing approximately 27 kilometers of streets and 11 kilometers of sidewalks after every snowfall event. Residents and businesses are responsible for clearing snow that has been plowed off the street or sidewalk and into their driveway(s) or entrance walkway(s).

## 2) **Who is responsible for clearing the sidewalks?**

The Town has one (1) sidewalk plow which plows and salts all the sidewalks after a snow storm. The amount of snow which falls during a storm affects the amount of time it will take to clear the sidewalks. Small amounts of snow can be plowed from the sidewalk but greater amounts have to be removed with a snow blower attachment. During heavy snowfall events it takes longer to plow sidewalks so the areas with greater pedestrian traffic are plowed first.

## 3) **What can you do to help mitigate any damage to your property this winter which might be caused during snow plowing operations?**

There are some simple steps that residents and businesses can take before winter to help protect their property and ensure snow clearing efforts go as safely and smoothly as possible.

- **Trim any tree branches and shrubs that originate from your property.** These can obstruct access and visibility for snow clearing equipment.
- **Remove planters, signs, lawn decorations and any other portable objects** near the sidewalk before the winter.
- **Mark any permanent structures, railings, steps or objects too big to move with a reflector** that will be visible above the snow. This helps plow operators identify obstacles.
- **Secure off-street parking.** Vehicles that over hang or are parked on streets or sidewalks could be inadvertently damaged during plowing operations because they pose dangerous obstacle for plow operators. This impedes our ability to plow the streets for all motorists. Vehicles which are parked on the street during a storm are in violation of the Motor Vehicle Act and can be ticketed or towed.
- Monthly overnight parking permit passes are available for a fee in several Town parking lots on Lincoln Street, Blockhouse Hill and Linden Avenue. Please contact the Town Hall Finance Office (902-634-4410) for permit and payment information (\$33.10/month includes HST, subject to change).

**4) What should you do during and after a snowstorm?**

Residents are asked to stay home, if at all possible, and be prepared when a major snowfall is forecast. You should remove your vehicles from the street prior to and during snow clearing operations. Your vehicle can be ticketed or towed if it remains parked on the street once a snow storm starts and until all streets are completely cleared of snow. We also encourage you to help others, especially seniors and people with physical challenges, to clear access to their homes, walkways and driveways. Also, if you place solid waste (garbage, recyclables, paper or a green bin) out for collection during a storm, please ensure it is placed so that it will not interfere with the plowing of streets or sidewalks. If a major snowfall is forecast you may call the Town of Lunenburg Public Works Department at (902) 634-8992 to inquire if solid waste will be collected.

**5) Who is responsible for clearing snow from around fire hydrants and catch basins after a storm?**

The Public Works Department is responsible for clearing snow away from fire hydrants and catch basins within the Town. Hydrants which are located on private property and privately owned are the responsibility of the property owner. It takes a significant amount of time and effort to clear snow away from every hydrant particularly after a heavy snowfall when crews are busy clearing and removing snow from streets and sidewalks. Residents and business owners are encouraged to clear snow from around hydrants near their property which will save precious time in the event of an emergency in your neighbourhood. Similarly, clearing snow from catch basins can prevent flooding of private property in the event of a rain storm event during the winter months. The Town greatly appreciates the efforts of residents and businesses who help remove snow from around hydrants and catch basins.

**6) When are you allowed to park on the street after a snow or ice event?**

Any time the streets are icy and/or snow covered and a vehicle interferes with salting or plowing operations by being parked on the paved portion of the street including parking areas it can be ticketed or towed. Section 139 of the Motor Vehicle Act (MVA) provides for ticketing and/or towing of a vehicle at the owner's expense if it is parked on a street and interfering with snow removal or winter

maintenance operations. This section of MVA is enforced at any time of the day or night and helps the snow plow operators safely clear the streets/sidewalks and improve winter driving conditions for everyone.

If the Public Works Department plans to remove snow (load trucks and haul snow away) from Town streets we try to post signs advising motorists, e.g., “No Parking Snow Removal 6 pm to 10 am”. A vehicle will be towed at the owner’s expense if parked in an area where these signs have been posted and interfering with this work. Please respect these signs and find another place to park so that parking conditions can be improved for everyone.

**7) How do you find a vehicle which may have been towed?**

Vehicles interfering with snow removal will be towed at the owner’s expense by Corkum's Auto Body and Towing Limited located at 376 Northwest Road, Highway 324, Lilydale, Lunenburg County (902-634-4972). The minimum towing charge is \$125., plus HST, and an additional \$30./day, plus HST impound fee (subject to change). Contact Corkum’s Auto Body and Towing Limited (902-634-4972) or the Lunenburg Detachment of the RCMP at (902-634-8674) if you are unable to find your vehicle to determine if it has been towed.

**8) Why does the plow sometimes push snow into your driveway and who will clear it?**

When streets are being plowed the equipment operator has nowhere to push snow except towards the curb or edge of pavement. It's very important that snow be pushed well back to open up all lanes of traffic and catch basins, make room for additional snow for the next snowfall and provide access for emergency vehicles. The plow operator often makes several passes to push the snow back as far as possible. Sometimes snow may be pushed into your driveway more than once during the same storm. We understand this is an inconvenience for property owners but this helps keep the streets and sidewalks safe for motorists and pedestrians. Removing snow from driveways or entrance walkways is the responsibility of residents and businesses as the Town does not have the resources to do this work.

**9) Why do snow plows sometimes plow one lane only?**

During heavy snow storm events plow operators clear the main arteries, the downtown shopping area and after that open up one lane in residential neighbourhoods. After the snow accumulation subsides the plow operator will return to the residential streets and push the snow back to the curb or edge of asphalt and open up the other traffic lane. If there is too much snow and the plow (single axle dump truck) cannot move the snow from the street our front-end loader will eventually come by and push the snow back beyond the curb or edge of asphalt.

**10) Am I allowed to clear snow into the streets?**

It is an offence under section 318 (1) (c) of the Municipal Government Act for anyone to deposit snow or ice on a Town street. Section 318 states that “No person shall deposit any snow or ice on the travelled way of a street”. The definition of “street” includes a public street, highway, road, lane, sidewalk, thoroughfare, bridge, square and the curbs, gutters, culverts and retaining walls in connection therewith. Please do not shovel or blow snow onto the Town streets or sidewalks.

**11) How many plows will be on the streets during a snow event?**

The number of plows used to clear streets varies from storm to storm. Depending on weather conditions, temperatures, snow fall amount and when the storm occurs during the day the Town will respond with the appropriate equipment. The Public Works Department has one (1) front-end loader with a wing attachment, one (1) backhoe, three (3) single axle dump trucks with plows, two (2) of which spread salt, plus a sidewalk plow. The plow on the sidewalk plow can be removed and a snow blower attached if there is too much snow for the plow. We respond with the appropriate equipment depending on the conditions and during a significant snowfall event every piece of equipment is typically in use.

**12) How can citizens help make streets safer in the winter?**

- If at all possible don't drive during a snow storm. It's much safer to stay at home and wait until street conditions improve.

- Remember that during a major snow storm event main arteries are cleared and salted more frequently and therefore secondary streets and sidewalks will not be as high a priority and take longer to clear.
- Watch out for ice on streets and sidewalks especially in shaded areas.
- Never assume that when the temperature is above freezing that a street is free of ice as there is always a potential for frost below the street to cause wet pavement to freeze even if the air temperature is above zero degrees Celsius.
- Adjust your vehicles speed to the weather conditions. Road salt is not as effective below -10 C.
- Follow other vehicles at a safe distance. It can take up to 12 times further to stop on snow and ice than on dry pavement.
- Never pass a plow when it is clearing snow from a street to reduce the risk of an accident.
- Use winter tires and keep a winter survival kit in your vehicle.
- Don't plow or shovel snow from your driveway onto the street.
- Children should not play in the snow along the side of the street or anywhere a snow plow is likely to operate.