



**Community Services Department
Roads Branch**

Winter Control for Roads

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Version 1 December 2007**

Winter Control for Roads within the Township of Georgian Bay

The Township of Georgian Bay is responsible for approximately 100 kilometres of Township roads, and 70 kilometres of District Roads. We use approximately 400 tonnes of salt and 6000 tonnes of sand each winter season. In association with the other member municipalities within the District of Muskoka we are investigating the use of pre-wetting in order to minimize the use of salt on our roads by reducing the amount of material that is scattered to the edge of the road.

Within the Township of Georgian Bay are District Roads and Provincial Highways. Highway 400 is maintained throughout our boundaries by the MTO out of the MacTier Patrol Yard. A private contractor working for the District of Muskoka maintains District Roads #11 and #38. The Township maintains the remainder of District Roads.

The Township of Georgian Bay Community Services Department is committed to providing safe roads and sidewalks for the travelling public in an efficient, economical and environmentally friendly manner.

1.0 EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL

The Township of Georgian Bay has a Public Works Yard in MacTier and one in Port Severn to service its road network. Winter Sand is stored outdoors. It is stockpiled in the summer and sealed with a water repellent in an attempt to keep it dry.

Equipment used in winter operations includes:

- 2 Pick Up Truck w/Plough and Sander
- 2 Front-end Loaders
- 1 Grader
- 5 Combination Unit Plough/Sanders
- 2 Steam Generators (culvert thawing)
- 1 Back Hoe

2.0 SNOW PLOUGH ROUTES

Route - A

Services Twelve Mile Bay and ancillary roads, Go Home Lake Road, then continues on to South Gibson Lake and ancillary roads

Route - B

Services all local roads in the MacTier area, Stewart Lake Road and Silver Sands etc.

Route - C

Services Front Street and all parking areas etc. using Pick Up Truck and Front-end Loader

Route - D

Services all parking areas etc. using Pick Up Truck and Front-end Loader

Route - E

Services Honey Harbour Road, South Bay and ancillary roads

Route - F

Services Lone Pine Road, Whites Falls, Crooked Bay and ancillary roads

Our operators begin their shift before 5am in an attempt to service the school bus routes prior to the buses being activated. Each route takes between 5 and 7.5 hours to complete during a lasting snow event. In a continuous snowfall this may seem like a long period

3.0 POST STORM OPERATIONS

Cleanup operations occur after a storm has ended and our operators have had a rest period. Post storm activities include winging back the snow banks to allow for improved visibility at intersections/driveways; widening parking lots and bus turn arounds; 'slushing off' the roads if the snow pack is melting; ice blading the roads using the grader if the snow is frozen to the road surface and creating a rough road.

4.0 SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE

In Honey Harbour our Parks and Recreation Branch using a lawn tractor with a snow blower attachment carry out this activity.

In MacTier our Roads Branch using a pick up truck and loader carry out this activity.

5.0 SPRING CLEANUP

Street sweeping occurs mid-April. It takes approximately two weeks to sweep all of our roads.

FAQ's

Q: Can you stop putting snow at the end of my driveway?

A: An important fact to remember is that a fixed snowplough cannot carry snow around to put it where desired. The plough moves snow from the centre of the road to the side of the road – period – the operator cannot change that.

Q: Can you spread more salt on the roads to melt the snow?

A: We use sand with 5% salt on all of our roads because the traffic volumes are so low. We do use additional salt if the conditions are right, but this takes into account many factors.

Some facts about salt:

Salt becomes inactive below –12 degrees C

30% of the salt placed on the roadway rolls off into the ditch

It requires constant tire action in order to work the salt into the snow/ice and melt it. If there is little traffic the salt simply melts a small hole through the snow pack and creates rough roads.

Q: Why can't you scrape the *ice* off of the road?

A: When we have ice that has attached to the road surface it is very difficult to remove. It has made itself one with the road surface and must be melted. If we try to scrape it off we will tear up the surface of the road with it.