

MUNICIPALITY  OF ASSIGINACK

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Winter Maintenance Policy

Long before the season's first snowfall, road maintenance crews are preparing for the winter. Dump trucks and graders are transformed into snowploughs, maintenance in preparation of winter is performed and supplies of sand and salt are stockpiled.

Snow removal for the municipality follows an approved Winter Operations Policy so that roads and sidewalks are ploughed and sanded or salted in the most timely and effective manner.

Armed with plows, sand and salt our crews are ready to clear your roads and sidewalks as quickly and effectively as possible. The Township maintains 120 lane kilometres of roads and 1 kilometre of sidewalks.

Winter conditions create challenges for both pedestrians and motorists. We are committed to providing safe, passable roads, sidewalks and parking lots so that residents can travel safely during the winter months.

The primary objectives of the winter control program are:

- to facilitate the handling of emergencies by all emergency personnel
- to maintain safe, passable school bus routes
- to reduce the hazards of winter conditions for motorists and pedestrians on roads, sidewalks, and parking lots maintained by the Township
- to reduce the economic losses to the community resulting from traffic delays and accidents

[You can report snow related concerns online](#)

Sanding and Salting

Salt can only be used on asphalt and only then in ideal conditions, crews most of the time apply sand. Unfortunately while the sand greatly reduces the risk of the road or sidewalk being slippery, snow can build up and drivers should drive accordingly.

Sidewalks

Sidewalks currently maintained in the winter are Queen Street, Arthur Street, Michael's Bay Road, and Spragge Street. These sidewalks are maintained at the same time as the streets and once again have the students as the major concern. A prolonged snow event on the weekend when there is no school could see these unmaintained for a longer period.

Snow Removal

Snow removal is done when snow piles have reached the point where they are becoming a traffic hazard or when time permits. Only snow banks in the downtown are removed on a regular basis.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What can I do to prepare for a snow storm?

A. Keep parked cars off the street so that ploughs can move through the streets more effectively. When a snow storm is in the forecast, you should ensure that you purchase any food, medication, and household supplies that you might need for the next 48 hours. Try to stay off the streets.

Q. I leave work at 5 am. Can the plow do the road to my house first?

A. The plows leave the garage at 5 am most mornings unless a weather pattern dictates a different schedule. All our roads are inspected and maintained on a very tight schedule with the bus routes being the major concern. There is no way we can adjust our route and schedule to satisfy everyone however we do our best to help our residents leave for work and appointments and return safely.

Q. Which streets and sidewalks get plowed first and why?

A. Streets designated as "priority" are cleared first and then crews take care of the remainder of the streets. School bus routes are designated as priorities.

Q: Why does the snow plow leave a windrow to block my driveway?

A: Plow operators do not intentionally block driveways. With hundreds of driveways, it is not practical for plow operators to lift their blades at every driveway. The plow operator also has limited control over the amount and direction of snow that comes off the plow.

When clearing your driveway, try to pile the snow on the right side (standing in your driveway and looking towards the street). This can help reduce the amount of snow that is pushed onto your driveway when a snow plow passes.

The Township does not clear driveways.

Q: Why does my lawn get damaged when the sidewalk plow goes by?

A: While operators strive to minimize sod damage, some degree of damage is inevitable. Sidewalk plows must be large machines in order to effectively plow deep snow. This makes them less forgiving to operate on sidewalks.

Deep or drifted snow conditions often completely hide the sidewalk edge. When sod is not frozen it lifts away very easily. Often the sod removed is overgrowth growing onto the sidewalk.

Resident responsibilities

You are responsible for clearing the snow on your property including the snow left by plows in your driveway and on the sidewalk. You may need to clear your driveway a number of times if plows make multiple trips on your road during the storm.

From November 1st to April 15th, vehicles are not to be parked overnight on municipal roads, streets and turn arounds.

By-law # 04-04 as amended: Avoid parking on the streets during a snowstorm and in the days following a snowstorm. Parked cars interfere with snow plowing operations. Plows must re-plow these areas resulting in additional costs and further inconvenience for your neighbours who must clear their driveways again.

Vehicles interfering with winter control operations are subject to an immediate ticket and/or towing.

How you can assist:

- Remove debris and snow from any catch basin inlet near or adjacent to your property;
- Do not push or blow snow from your property back onto the street, this is dangerous and illegal;
- Pile snow on the right side of your driveway (as you face the street) so that cleared snow does not get moved back into your driveway by the snow plow;
- Reduce the height of snow banks by shoveling snow further back on your property to improve visibility;

Tips for safe winter driving

- Clear snow and ice from all windows, lights, mirrors and roof;
 - Make sure you have plenty of windshield washer fluid and that it is rated to -40 degree Celsius or lower;
 - Plan your route ahead of time and tell someone your destination and expected time of arrival;
 - Wear comfortable clothing that doesn't restrict your movement while at the wheel;
 - Have warm clothing in case you need to get out of your vehicle;
 - Always keep the gas tank at least half full
 - Bring a map and be prepared to take an alternative route;
 - Bring a cell phone;
 - Use a matching set of four all-season or snow tires.
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- The two-second rule provides a guide to safe spacing under normal driving conditions. In winter and during poor weather conditions you should double the two second rule.
 - i. Pick a marker on the road ahead, such as a road sign or pole;
 - ii. When the rear of the vehicle ahead passes the marker, start to count, 'one thousand and one, one thousand and two;'
 - iii. When the front of your vehicle reaches the marker stop counting;
 - iv. If you reach the marker before you finish counting, 'one thousand and two' you are following too closely.

Keep a winter driving survival kit in your vehicle that includes:

- Ice scraper/snow brush
- Shovel
- Sand or other traction aid
- Tow rope or chain
- Booster cables
- Road flares or warning lights
- Gas line antifreeze
- Flashlights and batteries
- First aid kit
- Fire extinguisher
- Small tool kit
- Extra clothing and footwear
- Blanket
- Non-perishable energy foods such as chocolate, granola bars, juice or water
- Candle and small tin
- Matches