

Dylan Reid

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Toronto Pedestrian Committee
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen St. W.
Toronto

Subject: Accessible pedestrian routes after heavy snowfall

The heavy snowfall of December 15-16, 2007 served as a reminder that the City of Toronto does not make adequate provision for ensuring safe and accessible pedestrian routes after heavy snowfalls.

Problems revealed included: lack of enforcement of the requirement for property owners to clear the sidewalks adjacent to their property, resulting in dangerous patches of sidewalk across the city; mounds of snow from snowploughing of roads blocking pedestrian crosswalks at intersections, and TTC stops; and pools of slush and brine at intersections making it difficult to cross the road comfortably.

These conditions create dangers for all walkers. In particular, however, they in effect make the city inaccessible to persons who have mobility impairments, or who need to travel with young children who require a stroller.

(See also attached items for information).

The attached report details the problems and hazards created by the current municipal policies regarding snow clearance of pedestrian routes, and provides a series of recommendations for addressing these problems.

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee recommends that the City of Toronto Public Works and Infrastructure Committee adopt the recommendations detailed in the attached report from the TPC, "Recommendations regarding the clearing of snow from pedestrian routes in the City of Toronto."

Yours truly,

Dylan Reid

Co-Chair
Toronto Pedestrian Committee