

## **Snow Clearing: North York District**

<b>Date:</b>	March 17, 2008
<b>To:</b>	North York Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Director, Transportation Services Division, North York District
<b>Wards:</b>	<b>North York District</b>
<b>Reference Number:</b>	p:\2008\ClusterB\TRA\NorthYork\ny08042 (7352)

### **SUMMARY**

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To report on a request to provide an update on the progress of snow clearing in the North York District area including a summary of complaints received to date.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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Transportation Services Division, North York District recommends that:

1. this report be received for information.

### **Financial Impact**

There is no financial impact associated with this report.

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### **DECISION HISTORY**

At the February 12, 2008, North York Community Council meeting, Councillor Minnan-Wong made a motion requesting the General Manager, Transportation Services Division, to provide a report at the next meeting of the North York Community Council meeting on April 8, 2008, on the progress of snow clearing in the North York District area including a summary of complaints.

## COMMENTS

### Snow Clearing Progress

Transportation Services Division initiated its winter maintenance services on November 1, 2007, and is scheduled to be completed as per previous years on March 31, 2008 (weather permitting).

The 2007/2008 winter season has experienced extreme winter conditions compared to the past number of years. As of March 17, 2008, a total of 196 cm of snow has fallen this season compared to 43 cm all of last winter. The all-time record for snow accumulation in one season is 207 cm. In February of this year, we set a new record as we received 71 cm of snow compared to average February snow accumulation of 27cm.

Transportation Services Division winter services consists of roadway salting, roadway ploughing, windrow clearing, sidewalk ploughing and salting, laneway salting, seniors sidewalk clearing and snow removal.

To date we have completed the following within the North York District:

- Roadway Salting ..... 105 rounds
- Roadway Ploughing ..... 19 rounds
- Windrow Clearing ..... 10 rounds
- Sidewalk Ploughing ..... 15 rounds
- Sidewalk Salting ..... 7 rounds
- Laneway Salting ..... 8 rounds
- Seniors Sidewalk Clearing ..... 8 rounds
- Snow Removal ..... 1 and partial round

Our winter maintenance service is based on a City Council approved level of service policy (Attachments 1 and 2). Throughout this winter season, our level of service has been in accordance with the policy. While our winter operation typically consists of salting and ploughing of sidewalks and roadways; this year, due to the very high accumulation of snow, it was necessary to also perform snow removal.

As announced by the Mayor on February 14, 2008, a managed snow removal operation was initiated by Transportation Services Division. The purpose of the snow removal operation was to ensure the roadways would remain passable for emergency services and transit, create storage capacity for future ploughing events and to address parking-related issues. It was anticipated that the snow removal would take between 12 and 14 days, however, within the North York District the majority of the snow removal was completed in 10 days.

The snow removal plan was based on the following priority: expressways, streetcar routes, arterial roads, narrow local streets (particularly those with on-street parking) and other streets and selected public lanes. Also included as part of the snow removal were the clearing of sidewalks and bike lanes where required.

Within the North York District, 19 dedicated snow removal crews worked 24 hours a day, for each of the 10 days that snow was removed. Snow was removed from a total of approximately 543 curb lane kilometres of roadway. The breakdown of snow removal by road classification was as follows:

- Expressways ..... 13 km
- Arterials ..... 145 km
- Collectors ..... 101 km
- Locals ..... 271 km
- Laneways..... 13 km

In addition to the snow removal that took place in February of this year, Transportation Services Division also removed snow during the week of March 10, 2008, following a 25 cm snow storm on March 8, 2008. In the North York District, the removal was focused on arterial roads to ensure all lanes were unobstructed and passable.

### Public Inquires for Service

During this winter season, we have received inquiries from the public requiring service. As expected, due to the frequency of snow falls and the record-setting accumulations, the number of requests for service increased compared to the previous year. However, the increase in requests for service was proportional in relation to the amount of snow accumulation. Transportation Services staff responded to all inquires and took action as required. The following table identifies the number of inquires by type for each of the last two winter seasons.

WINTER SEASON	SNOW (cm)	GENERATED SERVICE REQUEST DETAILS					TOTALS
		WINDROWS	SIDEWALKS	ROADWAY SALTING	ROADWAY PLOUGHING	OTHER	
2006/2007	43	239	275	66	193	86	859
2007/2008	196	1,587	1,451	703	260	418	4,419

## **CONCLUSION**

The winter of 2007/2008 has experience extreme winter conditions during which the Transportation Services Division has acted in accordance with City of Toronto policy. In light of the record snow fall amounts, the number of inquires and requests for service from the public increased compared to the previous year. All inquires were responded to by the Transportation Services Division in a reasonable time frame.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Myles Currie, B.A.  
Director

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment 1: Conditions for Winter Maintenance Operations (ny08042\_WinterMaintOps)
- Attachment 2: Guidelines for Initiation and Completion of Snow Removal  
(ny08042\_SnowRemoval)