

Snow Removal – North York District

Date:	March 31, 2009
To:	North York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services Division, North York District
Wards:	Ward 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 23, 24, 25, 26, 33, 34
Reference Number:	<i>ny09024</i>

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to respond to a request on the number of complaints received regarding removal of snow during the 2008 and 2009 winter season.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact associated with this report.

DECISION HISTORY

At the May 6, 2008, North York Community Council meeting, Councillor Minnan-Wong made a motion requesting the General Manager, Transportation Services Division, to report back to the North York Community Council in April 2009 on the number of complaints received regarding the removal of snow.

COMMENTS

Snow Clearing Progress

Transportation Services Division initiated its winter maintenance services on November 1, 2008, and is scheduled to be completed as per previous years on March 31, 2009 (weather permitting).

The 2008/2009 winter season has experienced extreme winter conditions similar to that of the 2007/2008 season. As of March 31, 2009, a total of 187.1cm of snow has fallen in the North York District compared to the 196cm received last winter. During December 2008 and January 2009, the North York District received a total combined snow

accumulation of 137.9cm compared to the average December/January snow accumulation of 60cm.

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 the following within the North York District:

- Roadway Salting 133 rounds
- Roadway Ploughing 21 rounds
- Windrow Clearing 9 rounds
- Sidewalk Ploughing 9 rounds
- Sidewalk Salting 11 rounds
- Laneway Salting 9 rounds
- Seniors Sidewalk Clearing 9 rounds
- Snow Removal 12 days

Transportation Services winter maintenance service is based on a City Council approved level of service policy. The level of service provided this past winter has been in accordance with the policy. While the 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.

Given the significant snowfalls in December 2008 and January 2009, on January 15, 2009, 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.

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. The snow removal was successfully completed in 12 days.

Within the North York District, 10 dedicated snow removal crews worked 12 hours a day, removing an average of 750 truck loads for each of the 12 days that snow was removed for a total of 9000 truck loads. 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 20 km
- Arterials 145 km
- Collectors 101 km
- Locals 271 km
- Laneways 13 km

Public Inquiries for Service

During this winter season, the North York District received inquiries from the public requesting winter service. Notwithstanding the frequent snow falls and the record-setting accumulations during the months of December and January, the number of requests for service, as noted in the chart below, decreased by over 50 percent compared to the previous year. This significant decrease was as a direct result of increasing the level of service for sidewalk salting and ploughing and significant improvements to our roadway salting and ploughing operations by introducing salt/plough combination units. In additions, improvements were made to our snow-rid equipment for driveway clearing, retractable ploughing blades for on street parking streets and GPS was installed on all winter equipment. The following table identifies the number of inquires by type for each of the last three 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	1587	1451	703	260	418	4419
2008/2009	187.1	922	410	58	189	369	1948

CONCLUSION

The winter of 2008/2009 has experienced extreme winter conditions during which the Transportation Services Division has acted in accordance with the City of Toronto policy. While there were record snowfall amounts during the months of December and January, the number of service requests significantly decreased compared to the previous year.

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SIGNATURE

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