



CONTACTING US

Severe weather conditions and other factors may delay our ability to clear all of Essa's roads of snow and ice. Even when all our equipment is at work, heavy or drifting snow may re-cover streets before repeat clearing is possible. We ask that you give us time to manage the snowstorm but if you feel that our crews have missed your street, contact the Public Works Department at 424-9917, extension 114.

Visit our Web Site at
www.essatownship.on.ca

TIME TO COMPLETE OPERATIONS

Based on a 7.5cm (3") snowfall
(once it has stopped snowing):

- It takes approximately 6 - 8 hours to plow the entire Township
- It takes approximately 9 hours to spot sand the entire Township once the plowing is completed
- Sidewalk clearing takes approximately 24 Hours to complete.

PRIORITIES

The Township of Essa has assigned a priority for each road/street and sidewalk in the Township for snow clearing purposes. The priority for snow clearing is as follows:

1st (Category I)

Roads that are considered arterial in nature such as sideroads, 5th Line, 10th Line, Scotch Line, Cecil Street, Centre Street, King Street, Elizabeth Street, and Margaret Street in Angus.

2nd (Category II)

Non arterial roads are completed once category 1 roads have been cleared.

During or after a snowfall, major roads and routes are cleared to ensure that emergency service vehicles can travel safely. In an ongoing snowfall, snow clearing crews will concentrate on the category 1 streets/roads.

Drainage of Water Over Sidewalks

The Township devotes a great deal of resources to keep our sidewalks clear of snow and ice after a snow fall. Frequently, residents discharge water from sub pumps and eavestroughs across sidewalks. **Under By-law 2015-11 this is prohibited.** This practice contributes to unsafe conditions and could expose the person(s) responsible for such action to liability and damages.



The Township plow knocked off my mailbox and/or its support post. Why?

Quite often, the mailbox is not securely attached to the post or at the prescribed height (at least 42" higher than the road shoulder). In addition, the support posts do deteriorate or rot over time. It is required that metal mailboxes be mounted securely on a sturdy 6" wooden post using long screws. The Township does not put up or replace any mailboxes that are knocked down as a result of snow coming off the end of the plow/wing. The only time a mailbox would be repaired or replaced is if there is clear evidence of the plow or wing striking the box. Plastic mailboxes will not be replaced by the Township as they are generally not designed to withstand the winter conditions experienced in this area of the province.

My driveway gets filled with snow to great depth every time the plow comes around, but my neighbor across the road gets almost nothing. Can't you take the snow somewhere else?

Most calls come from residents with driveways that are the first ones to the right of an intersection or are the first driveway when entering the bulb of a cul-de-sac. The reason for the problem, is that when a snowplow turns to the right it sweeps a much larger area of the road than when it is travelling in a straight line. The snow also does not discharge from the plow when it is turning hard right because the plows are angled from left to right on the truck. Turning right effectively makes the plow push all the snow ahead instead of moving it from the centre of the road to the side. The first driveway encountered after the plow straightens out usually gets more snow than others in the immediate area. If there is enough room, we can sometimes get rid of some of the snow before the driveway is reached. Another point to understand is that a fixed snowplow cannot carry snow around to where desired. The plow moves snow from the centre of the road to the side of the road - period - the driver cannot change that. In addition, the prevailing winds are usually from the north or west. Consequently, more drifting of snow will take place on these sides of the roads/streets especially in open areas of the Township, resulting in higher snowbanks.



SNOW CLEARING

Piling snow to the right side of the driveway can aid in reducing the amount of snow pushed back into the driveway. Standing in the driveway and looking at the street determines the right side.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

My street gets no snowplowing while the next street over, which is a residential street the same as mine, gets plowed every time it snows. Why?

Chances are the next street over is a Category 1 and they are given priority by Council policy. Rural roads receive sand only at stop signs, intersections, hills, and curves.

Why do we sand a road and then come along and plow it off?

In a continuing snowstorm, we apply a salt/sand mixture to the road surface early in the storm. This causes a melting action that prevents snow that falls later from freezing to the road surface. When the plow does come along, the road gets cleaned down to near the pavement and we do not get a frozen snowpack that is very difficult and expensive to remove later. In addition, it is hard to predict how much snow will fall and when the storm ends.

WINTER PARKING RESTRICTIONS

Overnight parking is not allowed on Township streets from November 1st to May 1st between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. This makes sure we can completely clear streets of snow and that large emergency vehicles can get down the street/road.

There is always a car parked on the street and the plow makes a mess trying to get around it. Can't you have it towed away?

If the plow happens to come across a parked car or cars that are causing problems during winter operations, we can request that the proper authorities remove the car or cars that are parked in such a way as to prevent the snowplow from passing. The Township of Essa will determine if the vehicles are removed or ticketed. By-law enforces the parking restrictions during prohibited hours. Concerns about parked cars should be directed to By-Law 705-424-9917 Ext. 122.

CLEARING OF SNOW ON YOUR PROPERTY

The Township devotes a great deal of resources to keep our streets and sidewalks clear of snow and ice after a snow fall. Frequently, residents push, throw, or otherwise deposit snow and ice from their property onto the street, road, or sidewalk not realizing that **this action contravenes municipal By-law 2005-96**. This practice contributes to unsafe driving and walking conditions, could expose the person(s) responsible for such action to liability, and increases the cost of providing winter road maintenance.

You can make a difference. When you are clearing snow from your driveway, please keep this snow on your property. Your efforts in helping us make winter driving and walking safe for everyone are appreciated.

DAMAGE TO SOD

Sidewalk plowing presents many challenges. It is difficult to tell exactly where the edge of the sidewalk is and when the ground is not frozen some sod damage may occur. Significant damage to Township owned trees, sod, and pavement will be repaired in the spring. Please call the Public Works Department at 424-9917, extension 114 when you notice the damage and your address will be added to a list for repair.

To facilitate the removal of snow from sidewalks and to prevent damage to improvements, residents are required not to place cars, basketball nets, fences, posts, hedges, shrubs, driveway curbs and other obstructions on the road allowance. The Township will not be responsible for damage to items placed on Township property by property owners.

The Township is not liable for damages to basketball nets that are placed on Township property. Please ensure they are removed to provide adequate space for snow clearing.



YOUR CHILDREN'S SAFETY

Please ensure that your children do not play where snow is piled at the side of the road or in courts. The snowplow operators may not see children playing in the snow. Do not dig forts into snowbanks. Do not stand in the path of snow being blown or pushed by a sidewalk machine or snowplow.

RECYCLING/GARBAGE BINS SET OUT DURING WINTER MONTHS

When putting your recycling and Garbage bins out for collection, please place your garbage at the end of your driveway; within 8 feet from the road and 2 feet from your mailbox. (On the right-hand side when you are facing the street).

NOT ON THE SNOWBANK.