



## Operational Services Division Snow Clearing Plan Summary 2006/2007

### Overview

According to Environment Canada, since 1966 the average annual snowfall in Brandon is approximately 112 centimeters with a ground cover average of generally somewhere between 20 to 25 centimeters. The months of heaviest snowfall are December, January and March where the averages are anywhere between 16 to 23 centimeters. On average, the operation plans to have between 2 and 3 significant snowfall events during any one season.

### Objectives

The main objective of the operation is to try and ensure a level of continual traffic and pedestrian flow through the community.

### The Plan

Snow clearing and developing plans to do so is challenging in the fact there are numerous environmental conditions, out of the department's control, that can have a significant impact of the even the best laid out plans. Factors that are considered in setting out an approach are; amount of snowfall, expected duration, wind conditions, time of year, ice versus snow quantity, events, equipment availability (breakdowns), etc. The approach to each snow event will be different and will require the plan to be adjusted according to the conditions the department faces.

In order to meet our objective, we have divided all streets in the City into various ratings;

#### **Priority 1 (P1)**

- These include all main arterials, bus routes, and collector streets.
- The plowing of snow in these areas is the main emphasis of our snow clearing program following a snow event. Some snow clearing on the P2 routes may take place at the same time, depending on the severity of the storm.
- Depending on conditions, the goal is to clear these streets in approximately the first 14-24 hours after the end of a snow event.

#### **Priority 2 (P2)**

- These areas include all remaining residential streets.
- Snow clearing in these areas will take place at the same time or immediately after the P1 routes are cleared, depending on the severity of the storm.
- Snowfall accumulations in the range of 2-5 inches are usually left to pack on these streets and accumulations that exceed this amount are usually cleared.
- Depending on condition, the goal is to clear these streets in approximately 24 - 48 hours after the end of a snow event.

#### **Priority 3 (P3)**

- These routes include all public rear lanes throughout our city.
- The emphasis is the make every effort to clear the snow in these areas at least 1 day ahead of scheduled garbage pick ups.

#### **Driveway Aprons**

- There are over 6800 driveway aprons located throughout the City.
- Driveway aprons will be cleared in conjunction with the clearing of snow on the streets. **Note: front end loaders will come behind the snow plows and remove the ridge of snow. This maybe delayed by approximately 2 hours after the street has been cleared depending on the number of aprons in any specific area.**



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- We do not use drop down clearing gates to clear ridges because they significantly slow down the speed in which snow can be moved and they have proven costly to maintain as they are susceptible to damage.

### **Salting and Sanding**

- The use of sand or salt and the amount is also dependant on the temperature, the amount of snow, the wind conditions and the time of the year.
- Sand / Salt trucks are scheduled for duty on a 24 hour / 6 days a week basis throughout the winter and respond to general road conditions as well as issues that are identified by the Police and the general public.
- Sidewalks and paths are not sanded or salted.

### **Walk Paths and Sidewalks**

- Walk paths are cleared in conjunction with the P1 and P2 routes.
- Sidewalks are generally cleared after the P1 and P2 routes are near completion.
- One side of all residential sidewalks are cleared in the vicinity of 1<sup>st</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> from Victoria Ave. to Pacific Ave. Private business owners are responsible for clearing the sidewalks adjacent to their businesses under City By-Law.
- Sidewalk clearing outside of this perimeter is confined to clearing the sidewalks that are adjacent to bus routes and school zones only.
- The ridge of snow left adjacent to driveways as a result of clearing the sidewalk is not cleared.

### **Staff and Equipment**

- The Operational Services Division has a pool of 54 permanent and seasonal employees that may participate in snow clearing after a snow event. These staff members are pulled from the various departments depending on priorities and issues that may arise in the normal course of doing business.
- All employees involved in snow clearing are trained annually in the safe operating practices involved in clearing snow.
- The equipment generally available for snow clearing includes:
  - 3 Graders
  - 9 Plow Trucks
  - 11 Front End Loaders
  - 11 Trucks for Hauling Snow
  - 3 Sanding Trucks
  - 3 Sidewalk Plows

### **Council and Resident Inquiries**

- We are available to answer questions related to the specifics of any snow event by calling 729-2284 or 729-2285. If no one is available to answer, leave a message and someone will get back to you on your specific question.