



## **A WORD ABOUT WINTER IN GRANVILLE VILLAGE:**

Snow and ice removal is an annual operation which varies in cost each year. During the 1989/90 snow season we began using rock salt for snow and ice control. The Granville Service department maintains approximately 25 road miles. The Service Department has three trucks applying rock salt to Village roads.

Winter traveling can, at times, be quite challenging for drivers; it is a challenge, as well, for the Village of Granville Service Department (GSD) in its battle against Mother Nature. As you can imagine, keeping miles of roadways and bridges safe and passable is a large task. GSD employee's work hard to treat the roads even in the worst weather conditions.

Since life does go on, even in the snow, most businesses and schools attempt to continue their operations. That is why the Village of Granville makes safety of the traveling public its first concern during snow and ice storms.

Granville Village usually experiences an annual snowfall of approximately 30 to 40 inches. The severity of winter storms determines to a large extent the methods we must use to keep our streets clear of snow and ice and the relative effectiveness of those efforts. Nevertheless, those who may not be fully aware of or understand its operation sometimes question its efforts. Some questions about our snow removal program recur. We've listed those below and tried to answer them in ways we hope you'll find beneficial.

### **Why Does A Truck Move So Slowly While Plowing Snow And Spreading Salt?**

The driver must adjust his or her vehicle speed according to various weather conditions. If traveling too fast, salt will not stay on the road. Before you decide to pass a truck, ask yourself, "Is this pass really necessary?" Passing a snow plow truck can be extremely dangerous. There is never a safe time to pass, but if you must, do it with extreme caution.

### **What Is A Safe Distance To Follow Behind A Snow Plow Truck?**

The normal safe following distance between two vehicles (two-second rule) should be doubled during inclement weather. When following a truck, your headlights should be on low beam. And remember every truck has blind spots, which reduce side and rear visibility. In addition, following too closely increases your chances of loose material flying up and hitting your vehicle.

### **Is It True That Bridges Freeze Before Road Surfaces?**

Yes, because the air below bridges tends to cool the bridge faster than the normal road surface. Also, be cautious of shaded areas that do not receive sunlight and drifted areas along the road.

### **What Is Black Ice?**

Black ice is a thin layer of transparent ice not always visible on the roadway but very slippery.

### **When Does The Village Remove Snow?**

As it begins to accumulate. First we concentrate on major streets, bridges, hills, hazardous intersections and school areas. Then attention is given to residential areas.

### **Why Do Residential Areas Get Plowed Last?**

Granville Village must keep major streets open to allow busses and emergency vehicles a way to get to all parts of the Village. As soon as we are certain major streets, hills, and bridges are clear, equipment is immediately moved into residential areas.

### **How Much Equipment Is Plowing At Any One Time?**

Granville Village keeps three vehicles on the road at all times during severe weather. When snow begins to accumulate, we immediately go to two 12-hour shifts and plow around the clock to try and stay ahead of the weather, or at least, keep up.

### **What Does It All Cost?**

The Village of Granville expects our snow removal cost to be between \$50,000 and \$100,000. The cost of everything keeps going up, for the Village as well as for individuals and families.

### **How Much Salt Do The Crews Use?**

Anywhere from 500 to 900 tons, depending on conditions. Granville Village makes every attempt to reduce salt usage where possible. Not only because of its high cost, but also for ecological reasons. It damages trees and runs off into our streams. When the temperature drops below 20 degrees, salt becomes less and less effective. It is dormant at zero or below and does little or no good.

### **Why Are Some Residential Streets Always Plowed First?**

Drivers are instructed to continually change the sequence in which they plow residential streets so a particular street is not always the last to be plowed. But then, it's not always first either.

### **Why Do The Plows Push Snow Onto The Sidewalks And Into Driveways?**

Snow and ice must be removed from the street so emergency vehicles such as Fire, Medics, and Police can get through if needed, and so water from melting snow can run into storm sewers when a thaw comes.

Unfortunately, no one has found an answer other than pushing the snow off to one side of the street. ... Which means onto sidewalks and driveways.

### **Yet I'm Supposed To Keep The Sidewalk In Front Of My House Clear Of Ice And Snow?**

Yes, it's supposed to be cleared within 12 hours after a snowfall. Otherwise, children going to school, the elderly, anyone ... can slip and be badly injured.

### **What About The Snow Emergency Parking Ordinance?**

It is in effect when the Village Manager declares a snow emergency. This allows the Village snowplow crews to better clear the roadways. It also allows passage by emergency vehicles. Streets designated for snow emergency parking bans have the appropriate signs placed along them. Please observe any signs posted on your street. Everyone, where at all possible, is urged to remove their cars from the street altogether. This allows snowplow crews to clear the street better without the added fear of striking someone's car.

### **BE A SMART DRIVER.**

**Leave Early**, and expect any trip to take twice as long as normal.

**Plan Your Route** to avoid steep upgrades and lightly traveled roads where deep drifts have a chance to form.

**Slow Down.** Slick pavements mean reduced traction and loss of control. On snow or ice, there is no way the posted speed limit is a safe speed.

**Increase Following Distance.** It can take from three to ten times farther to stop on winter-slick pavements than on a dry road. Therefore, you must allow a much bigger

gap between yourself and the car ahead of you. Stop Gradually by pumping your brakes and using your transmission to slow the car. Never slam on your brakes in ice or snow.

### **STAY OFF THE ROAD WHEN TRAVELER'S WARNINGS ARE ISSUED.**

When police and weather officials issue winter storm alerts, they mean business, and they are talking to you. If you are at work and road conditions suddenly become impassable, stay where you are. As much as you might want to get home, you won't accomplish a thing by getting yourself stuck in a snowdrift halfway there. And don't bet your life on a four-wheel drive vehicle. In a full-scale blizzard, you are not much better off than someone in a conventional car is.

### **WINTERIZE YOUR CAR BEFORE THE SNOW STARTS TO FLY.**

Great many motorists find themselves stuck or stranded each winter because of car trouble that could have been avoided by simple preventive maintenance.

Sometimes there is no way to stay out of trouble on icy winter roads, but many drivers who wind up waiting for a tow truck or a rescue team have no one to blame but themselves

### **Okay... Who Do I Call If I Have A Problem With Snow Removal**

Call the Village of Granville Service Department at 587-1880 (Township residents call 587-0229).

### **Is There Anything I Can Do To Help Us Make It through The Winter?**

You bet. First, try to keep your car off the street. If you cannot, please observe the snow emergency no parking signs when in effect. Second, if there is a snow emergency, don't drive unless absolutely necessary. And finally, even though we've supplied phone numbers to take calls on snow removal, try not to call unless it's a real emergency. If we send crews off their regular routes on special efforts, it slows down overall cleanup. Your street will be plowed as quickly as possible. Thank you for your understanding. We hope you've found this information interesting and helpful.

Terry L Hopkins  
Granville Village Service Director