



TOWN OF LAKE COWICHAN

Public Works and Environmental Services Committee
Tuesday, March 7th, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. – Council Chambers

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

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INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS (if applicable)

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. BUSINESS ARISING AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(a) Watermain Upgrades – Update and timelines for:

- (i) Wilson Rd;
- (ii) Park Rd;
- (iii) Greendale Rd;
- (iv) Ohtaki Footbridge; and
- (v) Greendale Trestle.

(b) Ongoing Items Still Being Addressed:

- (i) Sidewalks and Walking Trail for North Shore Road – Update.
- (ii) Water Treatment Plant upgrades – Update on engineering and tendering.
- (iii) Snow Removal Priorities Policy.

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4. DELEGATIONS AND REPRESENTATIONS

None.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

6. REPORTS

None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

8. NOTICES OF MOTION

9. PUBLIC RELATIONS ITEMS

10. MEDIA/PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

11. ADJOURNMENT

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Snow Removal in Lake Cowichan, BC

The Town of Lake Cowichan receives most of its precipitation in the form of rain. The Town does occasionally, when temperatures dip to freezing, receive it in the form of snow, which results in the Town having to adjust its normal operations to cope with snowfalls which have not been as common in recent years. Our works crew and equipment have to be mobilized for snow removal operations when temperatures dip to zero and the forecasts call for snow. We still have to ensure that the water and sewer systems are maintained and water main breaks repaired. We have to multi-task the public's priorities so all of its needs are met, which often results in our public works employees working over-time during business days and week-ends. Longer shifts and early starts for our employees become necessary.

First Priority

Clearing snow from all emergency establishments such as the fire station and ambulance station.

Maintaining all **main roads** (Sahtlam Avenue to Lake Cowichan School and Grosskleg Way to Palsson School, King George St., Cowichan and Stone Avenues) as soon as operators and equipment are mobilized.

The main concern is keeping the main roadways open to traffic.

Clearing snow from the main hills throughout Town.

Work is discontinued at nightfall.

Second Priority

Local Neighbourhood Roads (collector roads) will be cleared **after the main roads** (listed above) are completed. Through roads will be cleared first, and then cul-de-sacs. If the snow continues, or starts again, the crews will return to the priority main roads. When the snow stops it takes less than **48 hours** to clear all roads in Lake Cowichan, unless there is equipment failure. Road widening -- the snow is pushed back to the curb to make room for traffic, as well as the possibility of another snow fall.

Other Snow Clearing Facts

Why does the plough push the snow into my driveway?

Shovelling snow is hard work and it is understandable that you may be frustrated when the plough driver deposits snow into your freshly shovelled area. Operators are aware of the inconvenience and attempt to avoid the problem wherever possible. However, please keep in mind that it is not feasible for the plough to be lifted or stopped at each driveway as it passes.

Do I have to clear the sidewalk in front of my property?

During snowfalls, snow is required to be removed from sidewalks by 10:00 a.m. following the snowfall, by the home owner, commercial property owner or the occupier. The Town deeply appreciates the efforts of those citizens who regularly assist their elderly and/or disabled neighbours in this regard. Ensure that your garbage, organic and recycling containers are placed closer to driveway for easier access by your service providers. The Town uses a special sand mix for its roads and the use of salt is avoided.

Does the Town Tow Vehicles During Snowfalls?

We ask that residents park their vehicles in their driveways or on their property. Yes, the Town may tow vehicles during snowfalls from time to time in order to ensure routes are clear, especially for emergency traffic. Help the Town by doing your part so the roadways may be kept clear for all of us.

Tips for snow clearing:

Pile snow to the right side of your driveway, when facing the road, to prevent it from being pushed back onto your driveway by snow ploughs.

Please do not shovel snow onto the roadways, sidewalks or into the cycle lanes. Clear snow soon after it falls. It is more difficult to remove snow after it has been packed down.

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