

## **Parksville Snow and Ice Control Update**

**Parksville, BC** – Since Saturday evening, Parksville's crews have been on snow and ice control around the clock and will continue to do so until the roads are passable.

The snowfall on Saturday night was dense and heavy with 8 inches in six hours. This is the worst kind of snowfall to control and it is completely different snow than in 2008. Crews attempted to lift as much snow as possible from the roads to bare pavement in an effort (forecast -5C) to avoid the roads becoming skating rinks. However, some of the local roads were left compacted and ploughed complete with salt. The City's priorities when the snowfall first hits are arterial roads and highways, major collector roads, minor collector roads and local roads (within 3 days, weather permitting). The ploughing priorities of routes adjacent to facilities are emergency service facilities, bus routes, steep hills and school areas.

The City performs other snow clearing duties such as the Parksville Fire Department, BC Ambulance driveway, Parksville Community and Conference Centre, Parksville Civic and Technology Centre, City parking lots and all other City owned lots as required.

Snow clearing from sidewalks is the responsibility of the adjacent property owners who are required to ensure that snow removed from the sidewalks is not deposited on the adjoining roadway. During periods of heavy snowfall, in areas of heavy pedestrian traffic, adjacent to City-owned property, City crews will support public sidewalk clearing through use of snow blowers and other snow removal equipment as availability of equipment and personnel allow.

Wherever possible, drivers are asked not to park vehicles on the streets during periods of snowfall as this impedes the travel of plows and may result in a vehicle buried by snow. During the plowing of streets, a windrow of snow may be formed across driveways. Unfortunately this is unavoidable, especially during heavy snowfalls. As the City does not have the equipment or personnel for a private driveway/access clearing program, it is the owner's responsibility to open access to the adjoining roadway. Clearing of private roads and parking lots is the responsibility of the property owners who are required to ensure that snow removed from their property is not deposited on the adjoining public sidewalks or roadway.

The City has been trucking snow from the downtown road parking areas to behind the curling rink. Snow has been removed from Craig Street, Middleton, Hirst and Jensen Avenues and weather permitting will be removed from Memorial, Harrison, Morison and Alberni. Over the next 24 hours, crews will clear drainage inlets in anticipation of the forecasted rain.

For more information on dealing with the challenges of winter, please refer to the City's website at [www.parksville.ca](http://www.parksville.ca). For more information, contact the Department of Engineering and Operations at 250 248-5412.