

DIRECTOR'S DISPATCH

How Scugog Public Works is Working for You

Welcome to our newsletter to share how the Township of Scugog Public Works and Infrastructure team is working hard for the residents and businesses of Scugog.

Stay Back, Stay Safe

Snowplow operators play a very important role to keep our roads clear of ice and snow so that we can all travel safely. Please respect the snowplows and give them plenty of space so that both you and the operators can travel safely.



You should never pass a working snowplow as it is very dangerous for both a driver and the plow operator. Sightlines and visibility are often reduced by the snow being plowed. Operators have experienced several near misses recently with drivers passing with very limited visibility or on hills all of which can create severe or even fatal collisions. One operator even reported a near accident when someone tried to pass on the right as he was making a right-hand turn.

Drivers who endanger other people while passing, or attempting to pass a snowplow, can be charged with careless driving under the Highway Traffic Act. So please be patient when you are behind a snowplow, it is not worth risking your life or the life of others to get to your destination a few minutes quicker.

Winter Operations Continue

There may have been less than average snowfall in January and February, but the constant freezing and thawing cycles are keeping our team busy salting and sanding roads as well as patching potholes.

We had a significant snowfall on January 25th and 26th and our crews did a great job cleaning up the roads. And less than a week later they provided an additional service by clearing the snowbanks in our downtown core.



Township Crews Out in the Early Morning Hours to Clear Snowbanks

How You Can Help Keep Roads and Sidewalk Clear

- Clear your sidewalk of ice and snow within 24 hours.
- Keep cars off the street (even if it's not actively snowing).
- Do not blow or push snow onto or across the road as this is a contravention of the Highway Traffic Act and creates safety hazards for driving or walking.
- Clear snow away from hydrants so they are available in an emergency.
- Clear snow away from catchbasins to prevent flooding issues.
- Do not place snow or ice in a ditch or anywhere it may obstruct a culvert or other drainage outlets.

Warmer Weather Brings Pothole Season Early



While many of us are enjoying the milder weather this winter, the warmer temperatures mean that pothole season has arrived early this year.

Each year potholes return in force on roads across the Province and Scugog is no exception. Potholes are the worst during this time of year when daytime thaws result in water seeping into cracks in pavement and then the water freezes and expands when temperatures drop again overnight.

The Township of Scugog maintains over 800 lane kilometers of road, that's a lot of ground to cover.

And every spring it is a challenge for staff to keep up with all the potholes. It is challenging because crews are still busy with winter maintenance operations and the weather is not ideal for road repairs. For the asphalt patches on paved roads, we need

the roads to be dry if we want the patches to last. And grading gravel roads to repair potholes is not effective when there is frost in the road as we are more likely to pull chunks of frozen road up than fill the holes.

To combat the state of the roads, crews are out monitoring water levels, temperatures and applying gravel and cold patch asphalt throughout Scugog. However, it will take time and good weather conditions to be able to address all the potholes.

Weight Restrictions on Roads

To reduce damage to Township roads, every year the Township enforces weight restrictions. For 2023, weight restrictions began on February 21st and will be in effect until approximately May 15th. Weather conditions will determine the actual end to the enforcement season.

The load restrictions are needed to reduced damage to roads from heavy loads when road bases are still frozen and the pavement surface is weakened. By restricting the weight of vehicles to no more than 5,000 kilograms or five tonnes per axle there is less damage to our roads.



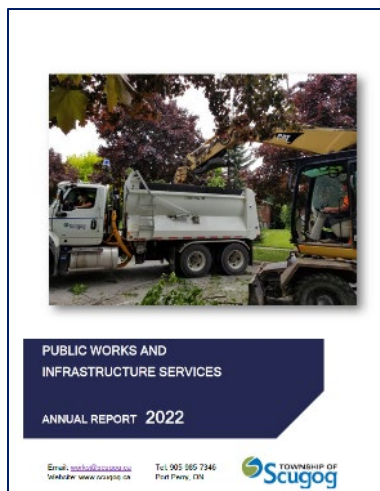
Public Works 2022 Annual Report

Want to more about what Public Works and Infrastructure Services does each year?

Please see our 2022 Annual Report is now available at:

<https://www.scugog.ca/en/township-office/Public-Works.aspx>

The report highlights how PWIS is finding efficiencies and improving operations:



- We have significantly reduced the use of cold mix asphalt for patching roads and now use more hot mix and large area road patching to reduce the number of potholes across the Township.
- We continue to increase investment in our gravel and hard surfaced roads and have been successful in improving the overall condition of our roads.
- We have reduced the use of sand by 34% and salt by 67% through better oversight and technology.
- We have reduced the repair costs for vehicles and equipment through increased investment in replacement and preventive maintenance.

- We are investing in outdoor recreation facilities.
- We continue to seek funding opportunities from other levels of government to support projects.

Have Your Say on Roy E. Carter Park's New Playground



Existing Roy E. Carter Playground to be Replaced

The Township of Scugog is looking for your input into the replacement of the playground at the Roy E. Carter Park on Crestview Avenue in Blackstock. Based on the available budget, only the playground and swings are being replaced at this time.

Please go to My.Scugog.ca to review playground options and let us know your favourite design and colour scheme. The survey will be available until March 13, 2023.

The construction is planned for late summer, early fall 2023.

Carol Coleman, P.Eng.

Director of Public Works and Infrastructure

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Service Requests, Feedback and Information: [My Scugog Connected: myscugogconnected.ca](http://myscugogconnected.ca)

Project Updates and Engagement: [My Scugog: My.Scugog.ca](http://My.Scugog.ca)

Email: works@scugog.ca

Website: www.scugog.ca

Telephone: 905-985-7346