



SIGN OF THE SEASON: Acton snow plow operator Ed Hillier holds some of the white stuff Canadians are used to seeing every winter - road salt.

Snow plow operators get ready for winter

BY KAREN WETMORE
The Acton Tanner

The Town's public works department is preparing for another snow-filled winter.

Fourteen trucks, two graders and other snow removal equipment are being checked out for any mechanical difficulties. The 24 public works staff are being trained how to handle different weather conditions, from freezing rain to a major blizzard.

A mountain of 5,400 tons of sand sits in the public works yard, next to a storage building holding 700 tons of salt. The amount of salt used on roads over a winter could amount to 2,000 tons, said Ted Drewlo, manager of public works for Halton Hills.

Six snow plow drivers got in some early practice sanding and salting the area roads last Thursday and Friday morning.

"Straight salt is used for the main routes. We use sand at inter-

sections, on hills and at curbs for better traction," Drewlo explained.

Different combinations of sand and salt are used depending on the weather situation. Since each winter is different, the works department bases its budget on an average of 16 snow storms per year. The snow removal budget for 1995 is \$388,000, up \$12,000 from 1994.

"Budget increases are usually dependent on the costs of materials such as sand and salt." The small amount of snow which fell after early March of 1995 ended winter early. Because of this, the works department has only used \$252,000 of the year's budget to date.

"Normally the first few storms of the winter aren't as bad. I'm fairly confident we'll be under budget this year," Drewlo said.

This is good news for the Town, as the actual cost for 1994's snow removal operations escalated to or \$61,000 over the budget estimates.

Santa parade 'is for the kids'

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

"No matter what happens, this parade is a go."

Bill Spielvogel, organizer for the Acton Santa Claus parade at least the past 10 years, wouldn't have it any other way.

The retired fire fighter says plans are on schedule for this Saturday's parade (1 pm) down Mill Street. Heck, even the white stuff has fallen on cue.

"I just love the Santa Claus parade," Spielvogel beams. "It's an honour for me to do it, and it's for the kids. There's nothing nicer than going down the street and seeing the kids and parents. I'm quite proud

that Acton has a good parade."

Spielvogel, 60, took over the parade reigns from the Wise Men organization. At the time, the late Phil (Scotty) McCristall was chair of the committee and subsequently retired, so Spielvogel took over.

"I wanted to keep the Santa Claus parade alive. Hey, I'm still a kid at heart," Spielvogel laughs. "The fire fighters deserve some credit for the success of this parade. They're behind me. I do it for them as well and I enjoy it."

He says the parade has gradually enlarged over the years and predicted the trend will continue.

Spielvogel guarantees an excellent day, weather-wise for the parade.

The Santa Claus parade costs over \$4,000 to run, so Spielvogel will be on the phone soon after this year's event lining up next year's sponsors. This year, he mailed out envelopes to 200 local businesses.

Confirmed are the seven bands that have participated the last few years, including our own Acton Citizens' Band, Arthur High School and the Ajax pipe band from Guelph.

"I would do it all my life," Spielvogel says. "Every year I say I'm going to retire but the guys won't let me. I figured I retired as a fire fighter, so I could retire from this, but they said this stays with me."

Public libraries celebrate 100 years

The first annual Mayor's Dinner in support of the public library will be held this month at the North Halton Golf and Country Club.

Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson is acting as patron of the dinner, which marks the 100th anniversary of the Public Library in Halton Hills. A special evening has been planned, which the Library Board hopes will become the cornerstone of four years of celebrations.

A former resident of the area,

columnist Stephen Brunt will be the guest speaker. The author and *Globe and Mail* sports writer is a noted and entertaining speaker.

Many local dignitaries and members of the business community, as well as all library supporters, are invited to attend the gala event, planned for Nov. 25.

There will be a draw for a Robert Bateman print. Many local artisans have donated works to a silent auction. Over 20 pieces of art

and sculpture will be on display for bidding, with winners announced at the close of the event. Bill McKeown will act as master of ceremonies.

The library was established in Georgetown in 1895 and in Acton in 1898. To mark 100 years, the Library Centennial Committee has planned events through 1998.

Tickets for the Mayor's dinner (\$50) and Bateman print raffle are on sale at the Acton library.

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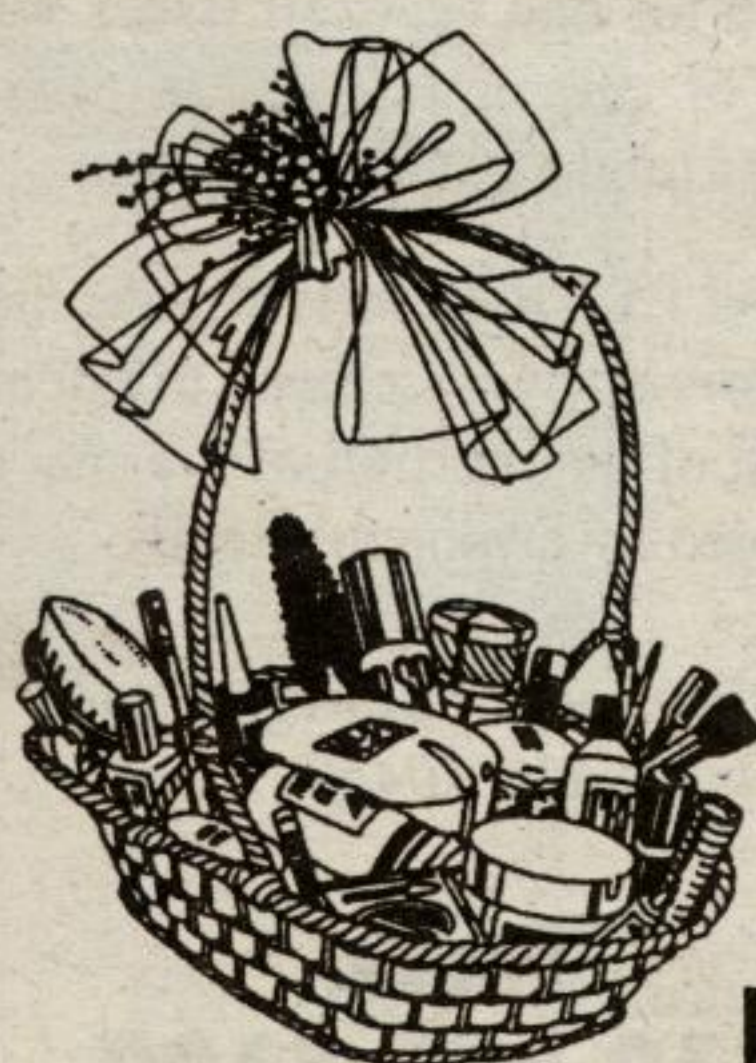


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