

Secondary roads proving problematic works dept. admits

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Despite his staff's best efforts, Spear admits they have been "having a heck of a time with the secondary streets."

While many residents are complaining about the ice and snow build-up still on those streets Spear said he doesn't like their condition either.

He said back-to-back snowfalls a couple of weeks ago, that dumped 50 cm of snow on the town, and the fact he didn't have the staff to get to them was the cause of the build-up. In the meantime, the traffic packed down the snow, then it got cold and the result is ice-packed patches on some of the roads.

"We can't peel them off," said Spear, who added residents have also been voicing their concern about potholes.

The sidewalks—the Town is to clear some 126 km of them— have also been another challenge, Spear said.

"When the snow falls to the depth it is, if the snow is higher than the blades the blades can't push it anywhere," said Spear.

He said a snow blower attachment for the three machines the Town has to clear the sidewalks, which was rarely used in past years, has been "a godsend" this year, Spear said.

But he added with only the one machine capable of doing the job, they have been behind on clearing the sidewalks. A recent delivery of another snow blower should make a big difference, he said.

All the snow this past month has meant that Town crews are not only plowing it, they're also having to haul away piles of it in dump trucks.

Spear said during a snowstorm the primary, arterial roads are the first priority, next are the secondary streets followed by cul de sacs. Also on the list to be cleared are 22 municipal parking lots and the sidewalks.

Homeowners aren't responsible for clearing the sidewalks, although the Town asks them to. The Town clears sidewalks on roads that have more than 1,000 vehicles per day on them and streets where schools are located.

Even when its not snowing, Spear said the crews are often out clearing drifts or sanding and salting the roads in the rural area.

So far this year (to Feb. 8) the Town has spent \$233,300 clearing snow.

Tax payment dates set for 2008

Save up your pennies—the Town of Halton Hills has set its tax payment dates for the first half of the tax bill in 2008.

An interim levy allows the Town to collect property-related taxes prior to the setting of the final tax rates and provides the funds to administer programs, facilities and services. For those registered on the 10-payment plan, taxes are due on Jan. 29, Feb. 27, March 27, April 28 and May 28. For those not registered, tax dates for the first half of the bill are due Feb. 27 and April 28.

Properties with a farm designation can defer their payment until Sept. 26. The final tax rates (and the subsequent payment dates) will be set later this year.



With all the snow this winter, the Town of Halton Hills Public Works Department has resorted to piling snow from the streets in the back of the works yard, on Trafalgar Road, to make more room to plow the streets.

Photo by Ted Brown

Police blotter

Vehicle stolen from Oak Street home

Halton Police report a \$22,000 2008 Honda Civic was stolen from an Oak St., Georgetown home sometime late Friday or early Saturday. The plate on the black four-door car was BCPD 926.

Also taken was a Dell computer and multimedia projector, valued at \$4,000, that were in the car.

Police report a 2002 Mini Cooper, valued at \$17,000, was stolen from the driveway of a Gooderham Dr.

residence sometime between 5 and 6 a.m. Saturday. The plate on the green car was 167 X4P.

Police report a vehicle in a driveway and a garage at a Dublin Line residence were entered sometime late Friday or early Saturday.

Several CDs were taken from a shelf in the garage. They were later found lying near the road several metres from the house.

A green Sears Craftsman snow blower valued at about \$1,300 was stolen Thursday evening or Friday morning from the back of a pickup truck parked in the driveway at an Elizabeth St. Georgetown home.

A Ministry of Correctional Services badge and identification were taken late Friday or early Saturday from an unlocked vehicle parked at a Watson Rd., Georgetown home.



Blaze causes \$50,000 damage

Approximately \$50,000 damage was caused by a blaze at a King St., Georgetown home Sunday morning. Heavy smoke filled the home and flames could be seen by firefighters when they arrived at about 8:35 a.m. They quickly extinguished the fire that was primarily contained to the attic area. At press time the cause of the blaze was still under investigation.

Photo by Taylor Sparling

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