

Busiest holiday period for Halton road crews

by Bob Burt
Halton Region staffers charged with keeping the county's roads system open and clear from ice, rain or snow recently had one of the busiest holiday periods they have had in recent history. According to engineer Jack Corbett and general foreman Stan Wilson, the four inch snowfall Dec. 19 marked the start of a busy two weeks. "Since then it has been go, go, go", Wilson said in an interview. The 30 outside regional employees and the 10 contractors who work with the region in road maintenance were called out almost every day including

Christmas and New Year's Eve and Christmas and New Year's Day. Several of the men worked 14 or 15 hours, slept for a few hours and then returned to spare off another man on a plow or truck. One man worked 50 hours overtime during the two week period and the crew as a whole worked between 300 and 400 hours in overtime during those two weeks. According to Corbett, Stan Wilson practically moved into the regional garage where the operation is coordinated during the past two weeks. Corbett noted many men missed Christmas

supper or Christmas morning in an effort to keep the roads in good shape. He explained that since Dec. 19 blowing snow, rain or falling snow hampered driving conditions almost every day. The crew has 170 miles of regional roads to maintain. About 140 of those are paved and the rest are gravel roads. Last winter staffers used 15,000 tons of mixed sand and salt plus 2,500 tons of straight salt. According to Corbett and Wilson the amount of salt and sand used in last year's relatively mild winter wouldn't be nearly enough to meet the needs this year if

this weather continues. Wilson said he couldn't guess at how much salt or sand would be needed for the balance of the season and noted it might well be that the brunt of winter has already passed. **Steady snow** He explained that it wasn't any one particularly heavy storm or an accumulation but rather steady snow, rain or blown snow that made it necessary to have men and machinery on the road almost every day. In addition to the men who operated machinery the two mechanics were called upon to work extra hours over the holiday to keep the machinery in good running condition. Wilson explained each machine is delegated to a certain part of the county. If one area is cleaned up before another, machinery will be used to help in the other area. "The new garage is worth its weight in gold at a time like this," Wilson said. He was referring to the new works garage just completed in the autumn. The spacious garage on Steeles Ave. at the Third Line is in direct contrast to the cramped quarters in Milton where the crew worked until the new one was built. "It's tough having to call men day after day on what is supposed to be their day off or a holiday, and asking them to work. Their wives answer and say 'ya, he's here,'" Wilson explained.

No time Wilson would continually tell the men to take tomorrow



EMPLOYEES DAVE DEFOREST and Clark Armstrong are shown beside a grader in the new county garage. Both men and equipment were taxed to the limit during the recent two week period of bad weather. (Photo by B. Burt)



GENERAL FOREMAN Stan Wilson and Lindsay Love are shown outside the county garage. The truck is being loaded with salt and sand ready to combat the next spurt of bad weather. (Photo by B. Burt)

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MILTON

NOTICE CREST FOR THE NEW TOWN OF MILTON

The Town of Milton is calling for submissions on a new Crest. The Crest can be either traditional or contemporary, should incorporate as much background of the New Town as possible and may or may not include a motto for the new municipality.

PRIZE \$200.00

All entries must be in the office of the Town Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on March 29th, 1974.

The Town Council reserves the right to reject any or all submissions. The successful submission will become the property of the Town of Milton and all rights of reproduction and use thereof shall become the property of the Town.

J. McGeachie
Clerk

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CONSUMER Buy-Line
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Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

Storing gasoline not recommended

With all the talk about the energy crisis and a possible gasoline shortage, some of my friends have suggested it might be an idea to stockpile gasoline. Is this safe?

No it isn't. There is a natural tendency to want to store an extra supply of gasoline for the snowmobile, or to keep five or ten gallons at the cottage for an emergency. It's hard to resist the temptation, but storing this highly volatile liquid can be quite dangerous. While even a small quantity is risky, a stockpile is equivalent to hoarding a bomb.

Pressures can release fumes

Storage of gasoline can be extremely dangerous. Gasoline fresh from underground storage tanks is always cool. As it is pumped to the surface at temperatures above 50°F it starts to warm up and expand. Remember last summer when your car gasoline tank overflowed on your driveway? This expansion also occurs in a warm garage or basement. High pressures, powerful enough to split the seams or dislodge the cap of an unapproved container, can build up, releasing the highly volatile fumes which can be ignited with a single spark. Even when stored in approved containers, gasoline vaporizes and the vapor can escape through a closure that has not been tightly closed. The vapor can be drawn by air currents to various sources of ignition such as furnace or water heater pilot lights, poor electrical connections or a lighted cigarette. Aside from the explosive nature of gasoline, it is also impractical to store because its quality can deteriorate resulting in poor engine performance.

Use only approved containers

If you must store gasoline, store it in a place separate from the house and under lock and key. Keep it away from ignition sources and small children. Children are fascinated by closed containers and have been the victims of tragedies because of their curiosity. All it takes is a spill and a source of ignition. All gasoline has to be stored in an approved container. Approved containers sold in Ontario are labeled either CSA (Canadian Standards Association) or ULC (Underwriters Laboratories of Canada) and are either plastic or metal. Older type rectangular metal unlabeled containers that are predominantly red in color, not more than ten gallons in capacity, will not leak in any position, have a carrying handle and bear a clearly legible warning that the contents are dangerous and flammable, may continue in use but are not recommended.

It is illegal to buy or sell a non-approved container for gasoline or naphtha.

Never, under any circumstances, use gasoline or naphtha as a cleaning solvent or fire starter. There are specific safe products on the market for these purposes, and for cleaning of paint brushes, removing floor wax, washing of grease off lawn mower or outboard or snowmobile parts.

Failure to recognize these safety rules too frequently results in disaster. Before storing gasoline check with your insurance agent. His company's liability can change if you are storing gasoline in a quantity, container or place that the company considers unsafe.

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