

Snow, ice testing town crews, supplies

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The amount of sand/salt used between November 2013 and last month is about two-and-a-half times that used last year, according to Mr. Whitehouse.

Salt became useless during the December ice storm as it only works until about -15C, he said. The municipality had to use pure sand.

During the last three months, Whichchurch-Stouffville accumulated 180.9 mm of precipitation. Last year during the same period, the municipality compiled 153.9 mm of precipitation, according to www.theweathernet-work.com

Because the early part of the 2013 winter season (January to April) was relatively light, Mr. Whitehouse said despite the heavy snowfall in November and December and the ice storm, the department should be within budget. But if the winter continues on like this for the next six weeks, it could run over budget.

The actual cost of this winter is expected to be presented to council in April.

It's been an all-hands on deck kind of winter for the Town of Whichchurch-Stouffville.

Between this past November to January, the number of full call-outs for snow clearing is up by about 60 per cent, when compared to the same period a year ago, according to Paul Whitehouse, Whichchurch-Stouffville's director of public works.

A full call-out consists of 15 trucks – eight from Ferman Contracting and seven of the town's.

It is also taking about twice as long to clear the roads and sidewalks. A normal snow event can get cleaned up in about two to three hours. This winter it's taking roughly four or five hours each time, according to Mr. Whitehouse.

"Mother Nature is throwing everything at us this year and we will prevail. ... We will get through this," he said.



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