

PREVENTING FROZEN WATER PIPES

Article from www.houselogic.com

Pipes most at risk for freezing include:

- Exposed pipes in unheated areas of the home.
- Pipes located in exterior walls.
- Any plumbing on the exterior of the home.



Preventative Measures for Outside

A frozen garden hose can cause more damage than a busted hose; it can actually burst an interior pipe. When the water in the hose freezes, it expands, increasing pressure throughout the whole plumbing system. As part of your regular seasonal maintenance, garden hoses should be disconnected, drained, and stored before the first hard freeze.

If you don't have frost-proof spigots, close the interior shut-off valve leading to that faucet, open and drain the spigot, and install a faucet insulator. They cost only a couple bucks and are worth every penny. Don't forget, outdoor kitchens need winterizing, too, to prevent damage.

Exposed Interior Plumbing

Exposed pipes in the basement are rarely in danger of freezing because they are in a heated portion of the home. But plumbing pipes in an unheated area, such as an attic, crawl space, and garage, are at risk of freezing.

Often, inexpensive foam pipe insulation is enough for moderately cold climates. For severe climates, opt for wrapping problem pipes with thermostatically controlled heat tape (from \$50 to \$200, depending on length), which will turn on at certain minimum temps.

Under-Insulated Walls

If pipes traveling in exterior walls have frozen in the past (tell-tale signs include water damage, mold, and moisture build-up), it's probably because of inadequate or improperly installed insulation. It might well be worth the couple hundred dollars it costs to open up the wall and beef up the insulation.

"When nothing else works, say for a northern wall in a really cold climate, the last resort is to reroute a pipe," notes Abrams. Depending on how far the pipe needs to be moved — and how much damage is caused in the process — this preventative measure costs anywhere from \$700 on up. Of course, putting the room back together is extra.

Still Heading South for the Winter?

For folks leaving their houses for an extended period of time in winter, additional preventative measures must be taken to adequately protect the home from frozen pipes.

- Make sure the furnace is set no lower than 15° C.
- Shut off the main water supply and drain the system by opening all faucets and flushing the toilets.

How to Thaw a Frozen Pipe

Before doing anything, shut off the water supply to that section of plumbing (or the entire house if that's the only option) because the real trouble begins after the thaw. That's because the frozen water may be acting as a plug, preventing water from spilling out of the cracks in the pipes. When that plug is thawed, water gushes out. It's a good idea to be ready with a mop, bucket, and towels in case there's a plumbing leak.

Use a space heater, heat lamp, or hair dryer to thaw the frozen length of pipe. Wrapping freezing pipes with thermostatically controlled heat tape is also effective to quickly thaw a trouble spot.

"Hot Liquids Burn Like Fire!" Help share awareness for preventing scald injuries during **National Burn Awareness Week**

February 5 - 11, 2023



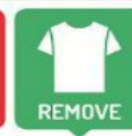
Establish a kid free zone around the stove or where hot food or drinks are prepared. Turn pot handles in and keep cords out of reach



A young child's skin burns 4 times as quickly and 4 times as deeply as adults at the same temperature.




Hot tea, coffee, tap water and soup are the leading causes of this injury. Take care with hot liquids around children.



February NEWSLETTER

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 Herbert Municipal Government Office

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COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Mondays, February 13 & 27;
6 pm in Council Chambers.

Public welcome or listen via Zoom;
check fb for link.

FRONT DOOR DROP SLOT:

Leave utility & tax payments, water
meter readings, etc.



LET'S TALK SNOW REMOVAL

Snow removal is a weighty subject. We reap the benefits of living in a smaller community whereby every residential street and virtually every back lane is eventually cleared upon the completion of the prescribed priority list, according to Snow Clearing Policy 5.8 (previously published). This is not the norm by many municipality standards, but it is undertaken by the Town at great expense.

If you're wondering where your tax dollars go, consider the resources required for all town-owned vehicles - the grader, pay loader, skid steer and dump truck being utilised for the operation plus maintenance staff expending not only regular work day hours, but numerous overtime hours, just moving snow to accommodate our ratepayers. Outside contractors can also become part of the equation in any given year, like this winter, which also factors into the overall cost of providing this service.

Be that as it may, if you call the office with a snow removal request, every effort is made to accommodate our ratepayers, but be patient. What you may consider as needing immediate attention isn't always possible for our staff to coordinate. All reported concerns will be addressed in due course.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Q: Am I responsible for cleaning the sidewalk in front of my property?

A: Yes. Residents should keep in mind that all snow removed from sidewalks and private driveways is to be kept on your property. As well, any corner properties with sidewalk frontages need to ensure both street and avenue sides are cleared. Snow should not be shovelled onto the street, into drainage ditches, placed on top, or in front of the culverts.

Q: Why is snow pushed in front of my driveway?

A: The grader blade is designed to push snow to the side, so it's inevitable for snow to collect at the end of driveways and along sidewalk curbs. The alternative is a windrow that's intentionally been created down the center of a street allowing for a traffic lane on either side. Regardless, the grader will make multiple passes down the street and windrows will inevitably be the result until cleared away.

Q: Why can't I push snow onto the street?

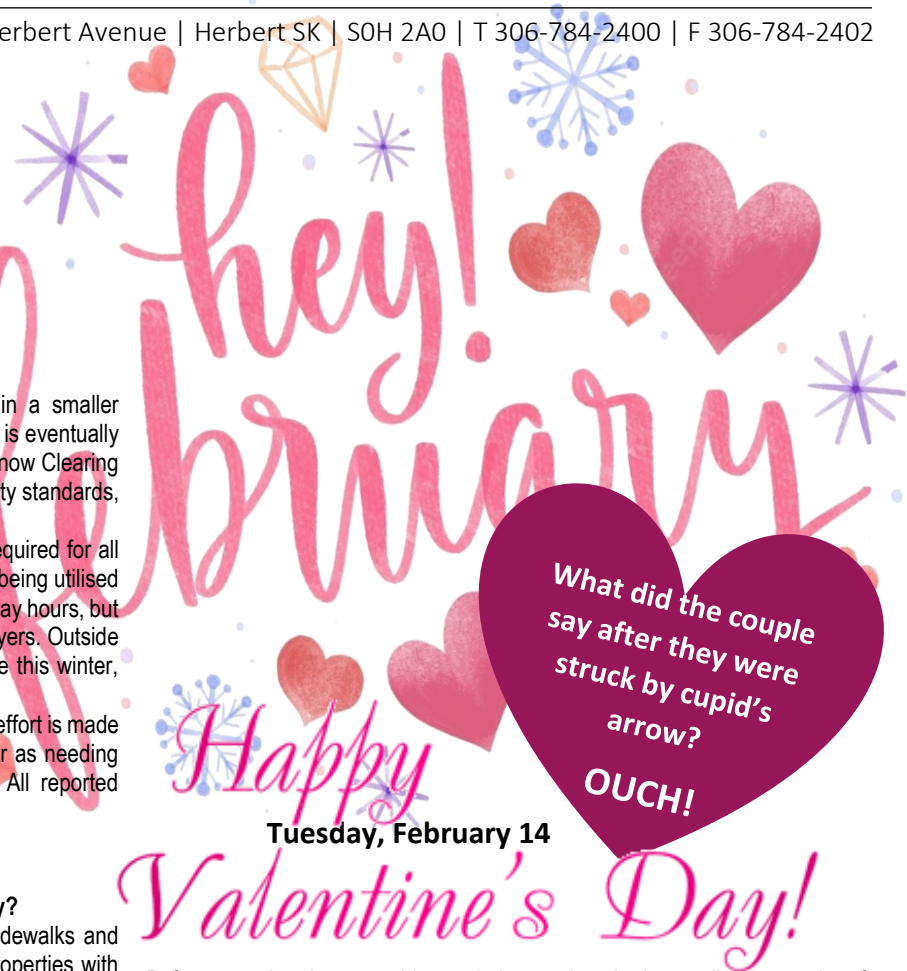
A: 2015-03 Public Place Bylaw (4.8) states: No person shall place, abandon, throw, or deposit any object, debris, ice, snow, or substance on any street, highway, or public place in the town whereby such object may cause danger, damage, or inconveniences to pedestrians or vehicles using the streets, highways or public place. The costs of and expenses of any removal which the town may incur shall be invoiced to the owner, as determined, who left the debris, ice, snow, or substance. Should the owner not pay the town for these services they may be charged to the tax roll of the property owner to be recovered in a like manner as with other taxes.

Q: Is there anything I can do to help my community with snow removal efforts?

A: Yes. There are several actions you can do to keep your neighborhood safe and help the operators do their jobs better, including: not parking on the street after it snows, if possible; shoveling snow from sidewalks before it turns to ice; not putting snow back onto the streets; removing snow around fire hydrants; driving slowly during a snow storm; and keeping distance between your vehicle and town equipment.

Q: I am unable to shovel the windrow from in front of my driveway. What should I do?

A: Town staff make every effort to clear private driveways of windrows, but occasionally a driveway gets missed. If the windrow is < 30 cm (less than 12 inches) it shouldn't pose much of an obstacle for most vehicles to drive thru; however, it's when the windrow is > 30 cm (greater than 12 inches) that it can be problematic.



Tuesday, February 14

Valentine's Day!

Before reporting that your driveway's been missed, please allow some time for the second operator, following behind the grader, to catch up and clear your driveway entrance. Clearly, if either the loader or skid steer do not return on a timely basis, a call to the office may be necessary.

Q. What if I am unable to clear the snow from my sidewalk because of my age/health or disability?

A: Unfortunately, snow removal services are not available from the Town. Residents will have to rely on family, neighbours, good samaritans, contact a local community group to lend a hand, or hire a local contractor with appropriate snow removal equipment.

Q: I've hired a snow removal service, but there's limited space on my property. Is there somewhere else that snow can be deposited?

A: Yes. The town has designated locations for large amounts needing to be moved. It's imperative that the contractor call the Town office to find out where those locations are as snow cannot be moved just anywhere because of drainage issues. Also, an empty lot doesn't mean that snow can be placed upon it, nor are back lanes meant for snow piles.

Q: Why doesn't the town have a residential snow-clearing schedule?

A: Implementing a schedule requires resources, time, manpower and the legal means to enforce vehicle removal should residents not comply. It's not a simple process and definitely not one the Town will be endeavouring to undertake now, or in the future.

Q: I park behind my house where the garage is, why don't the back lanes get cleared?

A: Back lanes do get cleared, but are one of the Town's last priorities for snow removal. There are a few exceptions whereby street parking isn't an option for some ratepayers; those lanes are already accommodated for on the priority list. If your lane isn't one of those, please call the town office and your request will be recorded. The time frame in which the request will be fulfilled is as time permits and under the direction of the Maintenance Manager.