



## CITY OF BATH

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### Bath Public Works Department

### Public Notice

**To: Downtown Merchants, Main Street**  
**From: Peter H. Owen, Director of Public Works**  
**Date: 12/5/07**  
**Re: Clearing of Downtown**

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Be advised that in accordance with City Ordinance, Chapter 15, Article 2, Section 15-20 (Removal of Snow), the following information is for your reference:

**... tenants or occupants of a building adjacent to a city sidewalk in the General Business Zone (C-1) are responsible for clearing the sidewalk of snow and ice and maintaining it for the duration of the winter months.**

To assist the downtown merchants the Public Works Department has made a practice of clearing sidewalks and implementing snow removal downtown after major storms. It has been our practice to implement snow removal after 8 to 12 inches of snowfall accumulation or soon as practical following a storm event. This, however, does not alleviate the responsibility of the building tenant/occupant to maintain the sidewalk by removing snow, accumulating ice or sanding the walkway in front of their building.

Some other important notes:

1. Recognizing the importance of mobility of patrons during the Christmas season the Public Works Department will make reasonable efforts to implement snow removal during lesser storms that impact the access to the downtown area during the three weeks leading up to Christmas. This will depend on the timing and extent of the snowstorm.
2. Decisions regarding snow removal will be communicated through Sarah at Main Street.
3. There are 52 miles of streets in Bath and it takes three hours to plow an individual route (there are ten drivers). Once the streets are completed the five schools, the police department, fire department, city hall and sidewalks are plowed out. For an average storm (3-6 inches) it will take 10-16 hours to complete this task. For larger storms (6-12 inches) and longer storms it will take 32 hours. Once the task is complete drivers are sent home to get much needed sleep. Then the task of clearing remaining sidewalks and snow removal is begun. This is why it may take several days after a significant storm to carry out snow removal downtown. It is simply a function of available resources and competing tasks that are required.
4. Please remove loose or moveable items that may be covered with snow from the sidewalk at night. Several items have been sucked into the sidewalk plow and caused extensive damage to the blowers. This causes the machine to be out of operation and removes our capability of completing the clearing of sidewalks.

Please feel free to contact Public Works or Main Street with your ideas. We are prepared for a long winter and intend to provide safe and convenient passage on the streets of Bath. We ask for your patience and consideration during the harsher conditions and assist us with your efforts to keep patrons safe.