

## ***Pittsford stands at the ready for snow***

The last major snow scare had the Town of Pittsford, and every other community along the eastern seaboard, on high alert. Even though the snow storm never came, the Town of Pittsford was ready. While weather reports can be unpredictable (because weather patterns can be unpredictable), the Town of Pittsford is not.

As the Rochester area borders the Great Lakes, lake effect snow and the threat of blustery winter storms will be something we need to endure for years to come. For this reason, the Town is always equipped for snow – whether it is 1 inch or 12 inches. With a snow plow fleet of 18, the Town is always prepared. Our plows work continually throughout a storm until snow is cleared and conditions are safe for residents. We also have a dispatcher who works around the clock to monitor the weather and road conditions.

When storms come our way, town crews work day and night to clear the snow. Each plow has the ability to clear approximately 24 inches of snow at a time. To ensure that roads are safe for residents, the Town also uses salt to de-ice the roads. To date, the Town has already used 5,000 tons of salt this winter.

Salt melts ice at temperatures down to approximately 10° to 15° F. The important variable is not the air temperature in this case, but the pavement temperature. Depending on whether the storm occurs early in the season or at the end of a particularly cold period, the pavement may be warmer or colder than the air, but even in the dead of winter, pavements are more often warmer than the air.

In frigid temperatures, the Town uses a mix of salt and sand. The sand helps give vehicles traction when the temperature plummets and salt is less effective. On extremely cold days (10 degrees or colder) the Town also treats the salt with a product called "Magic" that helps salt be effective down to -13° F.

In many cases, it is not the amount of snow that is troublesome but whether there is wind with the snowfall. The combination of significant snowfall and blowing winds is the storm that gives us the most concern since roads will tend to drift as fast as we can plow them. In this type of storm, the crews are forced to concentrate on keeping the main roads open even at the expense of your neighborhood streets.

As winter nears an end, I urge residents to continue to be patient on the roads while driving. No one can underestimate the importance of good tires and lowering your speed during winter conditions. At the town, we will continue to do our part in keeping roads safe for motorists. Should you have a question about our snow removal efforts, please feel free to contact me directly at [bcarpenter@townofpittsfor.org](mailto:bcarpenter@townofpittsfor.org).