

Cleaning up snow and preparing for a freeze

January 19, 2022

Environment Canada has issued a Special Weather Statement for today, January 19, 2022, as temperature highs are expected to be in the low to mid single digits. Late this afternoon, a cold front will push through the region which will cause temperatures to abruptly drop below freezing in time for the evening commute.

What does this mean after our recent snowstorm?

- City crews are continuing clean up efforts across the city as the warming temperatures may cause snowbanks to fall back onto roadways/parking lots.
- Residents are reminded to drive according to changing weather and road conditions as surfaces such as highways, roads and parking lots may become icy and slippery.
- Residents are asked to keep important areas of their home clear of snow, including:
 - o **Catch basins.** Residents that know the location of catch basins in front of their homes are being asked to clear them of any snow to assist with snow melt and prevent water pooling and/or freezing on the roadways.
 - o **Fire hydrants.** Residents that have fire hydrants in front of their homes are asked to clear a 1-metre space around the fire hydrants. Every second counts when our fire fighters are fighting a fire.
 - o **Furnace vents, intake valves and chimneys.** Take a moment and ensure your furnace vents, intake valves, and chimneys are free of snow. Blocked vents could cause carbon monoxide to build up in your home and cause carbon monoxide poisoning. Common signs of carbon monoxide poisoning include dull headache, weakness, dizziness, nausea or vomiting, shortness of breath, confusion, blurred vision, stinging or burning eyes and loss of consciousness. Carbon monoxide is odorless, colourless, and tasteless and can often go unnoticed in many homes. Residents that require assistance with smoke and/or carbon monoxide alarms can call Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services at 905-834-4512.

- **Sidewalks.** Keeping your sidewalks clear from snow and ice helps to prevent slip and fall accidents and it also helps those using walkers, canes, strollers, and wheelchairs. In Port Colborne, every owner or occupant of a building is responsible for clearing sidewalks bordering their property of all snow and ice within 24 hours of a snow event. This allows the safe passage of all pedestrians. Those who do not comply may face fines or have the snow and ice removed at the owner's expense.

Need to speak with our By-Law or Public Works departments? Call 905-835-2900, email customerservice@portcolborne.ca, or, if a non-emergency, complete our [online service request form](#).

Have an after-hours Public Works emergency? Call 905-835-2900 and press '9' to reach dispatch.

To stay up to date on city operations and response to winter storms and special weather statements, [subscribe to our news channel](#).