



The Corn Husk Chronicles

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October

Winter is Coming: How the Town Handles It

Winter in our region often means lots of snow and ice, and we know how important it is to keep our roads safe and accessible for everyone. For this month's newsletter, we're sharing how our snow maintenance works—from when we begin grading to how we prioritize roads, and how we decide whether to sand or clear snow. Here's a look at how we handle winter weather to keep things running smoothly!

Each Snowfall is Different

Winter weather can be unpredictable, and no two snowfalls are the same. That means our crews have to adapt their approach with each one. Sometimes, we get a heavy snowfall all at once, while other times, the snow falls slowly and covers the roads we've just cleared. There are also days when ice forms beneath the snow. No matter the situation, our crews are always working hard to keep the roads safe, but how we respond depends on the type of snowfall and road conditions.

About Priority Routes

Like a lot of other communities, we clear & sand roads using a priority system: Priority One, Priority Two, and then all other roads. As you'd expect, Priority One & Two roads are usually the first to be sanded or cleared. Sometimes, we need to change the order to deal with safety issues or if certain equipment isn't available, but our crews always do their best to handle each situation.

Priority maps are always available here: www.taber.ca/snow

- **Priority One** routes usually include emergency routes, main arterial roads, the downtown area (so people can access important services), and roads that have more traffic than Priority Two roads.
- **Priority Two** routes usually include playground zones and other main roads that have less traffic than the busy Priority One roads.

Continued on next pages...

Scheduled Meetings

The public is welcome to attend:

Council

Special/Regular Meetings:

October 15th: 3:30 pm @
Council Chambers

October 28th: 3:30 pm @
Council Chambers

Livestreams or recordings of Council meetings: www.taber.ca/livestream

Recreation Board

October 3rd: 5:30 pm @
Council Chambers

Library Board

October 10th: 7:15 pm @
Library Board Room

Municipal Police Commission

October 16th: 4:30 pm @
Council Chambers

Development Authority (MPC)

October 21st: 1:30 pm @
Council Chambers

*The above are subject to change.
See www.taber.ca/calendar for most
current meeting info.*

Upcoming Holiday Closures:

Our Town Offices will be closed
Monday, October 14th
for Thanksgiving

Happy Thanksgiving!

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Submission deadline is the 23rd of previous month.

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Winter is Coming: How the Town Handles It (Cont.)

• Remaining roads:

- * Other industrial and commercial service roads are done after Priority One & Two roads are cleared first.
- * Residential roads may be cleared after each snowfall when the snow reaches 5 centimeters or more. Our team uses our grader and loaders with snow blades as needed, but only after we've finished with the first two priority areas. The goal of this approach is to prevent snow and ice from building up to the point where it creates ruts, which can make driving difficult. Regular plowing and sanding in residential areas also help keep snow piles (windrows) manageable.

If it keeps snowing and Priority One routes get covered again before we've finished Priority Two, we go back to Priority Ones and clear them again.

A note on cul-de-sacs: Our equipment is sometimes too large to fit into residential cul-de-sacs without risking damage to curbs, hydrants, and other property, as the space can be quite tight. Parked cars in these areas also make it more challenging for our crews to navigate safely (and we definitely want to avoid any contact with your vehicles). For these reasons, our snow equipment usually won't clear cul-de-sacs unless there's a safety concern.

Sanding Versus Grading

How do we decide whether to use sand/salt or grade the road to remove the snow? It depends on a few factors:

- Temperatures before, during & after the storm
- How long the storm lasts
- How much snow falls
- Wind speed and direction

In general, here's how we decide:

- **Less than 5 cm of snow*** (or if ice makes driving dangerous): We use a sand-salt mix.
- **12 cm of snow or more*** (or if snow drifts are blocking traffic): We start clearing the snow on priority routes.

*If the roads are still safe for traffic, we might not clear them. This is because snow removal costs money, and the Town needs to balance keeping roads safe with being responsible with your tax dollars.

About our Equipment

- **Grader:** Contrary to what some may think, the Town of Taber doesn't own or use snowplows—we have one grader! Why? Snowplows need somewhere to push the snow, and it could end up in your driveway, on your lawn, or on the sidewalk. Snowplows work well on highways because they can push snow into ditches. Our grader, however, allows us to move snow exactly where we want, like the windrows in the middle of the street. It's a slower process, but it prevents large snow piles from blocking driveways and freezing solid. Plus, we can completely remove the snow rather than just pushing it aside; if we didn't clear the windrows, they'd freeze & even our equipment wouldn't be able to remove them! Why only one grader? To be smart with tax dollars! More equipment costs money, so we maintain balance with equipment we have & contract if/when it's needed.

- **2 Front-End Loaders:** These machines help lift snow piles into the hauling trucks. They also have big snow-push blades to clear intersections. Often you will see one clearing intersections while the other is hauling the

snowblower around.

- **Snowblower:** This is an attachment to our front-end loader that collects the snow from the windrows and blows it into the back of a truck. Fun fact: our snowblower can fill the back of a dump truck in just 14 seconds!
- **Dump trucks:** These trucks carry the snow out of town to a field near the Trout Pond. While the Town owns 5, we often contract local businesses to help us with hauling snow, because the snowblower is so fast filling them up.
- **Sanding Truck:** This truck spreads a sand-salt mix on the road to help cars get better traction on snow and ice. It is typically the first equipment you'll see us using during the winter. Be sure to keep your distance so your car doesn't get sprayed!
- **Tool Cat:** This is the smallest machine in our fleet, but it's powerful! It has 3 attachments—a snow blade, snow brush, and a snowblower. We use it to clear sidewalks and walking trails that the Town is responsible for—after we finish with priority routes, of course.

Our Crew

Our team may be small, but they're hardworking and dedicated! We have 10 members on our Roads & Walks Crew who maintain the roads during winter. They take care of over 85 kilometers of roads and 15 kilometers of pathways. They work alongside contractors (often late at night or early in the morning), to make sure your commute is as safe as possible. Your kindness and patience during the winter are always appreciated!

Full policies & priority road maps:
www.taber.ca/snow

Continued on next pages...

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Winter Road Maintenance FAQs:

When does sanding or snow removal begin after a snowfall? Does the Town clear roads on weekends or holidays?

Snow clearing starts within 24 hours after a snowfall ends, as long as it meets the set accumulation criteria for each priority route. This does not include Saturdays, Sundays, or statutory holidays—unless it's really needed. If you see snow being cleared on weekends or holidays, it's a bonus! Sidewalks & pathways will be cleared within 48 hours, but not on weekends or holidays. Parking lots are cleared during weekdays, with weekend clearing only happening if vehicles are getting stuck.

Why is the snow not cleared immediately after it falls?

Crews need to wait until a snowfall ends before starting to clear, especially if it's still snowing heavily. This prevents us from having to re-clear roads multiple times and helps make sure our efforts are efficient (and cost-effective). In some cases (very heavy snowfall), we may start when the snow is still falling for emergency route access.

Why does the Town create windrows in the street?

We make windrows in the center of the street to keep snow from piling up on sidewalks, driveways, and lawns. By placing snow in the middle, it helps keep streets clear & safe for driving while also making it easier for crews to remove the snow later (using the snowblower). This way, we avoid blocking homes & businesses with large snow piles, and it has the added benefit of removing the snow from the road completely, instead of just pushing it somewhere else.

What do I do if my street wasn't cleared?

If your street hasn't been cleared yet, we could still be working on others, or it might not be one of our priority routes. If you notice a safety issue, feel free to contact our Shop at 403-223-6018 (or email: pss@taber.ca). Please keep in mind that we need to clear priority routes first, so we really appreciate your patience, and your kindness to our crews!

Why do crews clear the downtown core at night?

Because the streets are empty! Think of downtown as a giant parking lot that needs to be cleared for safety and pedestrians. We clear the downtown core at night to avoid disrupting traffic & businesses during the day. By working at night, our crews can clear snow more efficiently & safely without getting in the way of vehicles or pedestrians. It also helps ensure the area is ready for everyone to use by the time the morning rush starts!

What happens if it keeps snowing after roads are cleared?

If it continues to snow, crews will return to Priority One routes first to ensure they stay clear. Once those are safe, we'll move back to the other roads.

Does the Town use salt or sand on the roads?

It's actually a mix of both—sometimes called “pickled sand,” it's the exact same mix used on highways! In the spring, we use our street sweeper to clean up the sand left behind. The salt goes down our storm drains with the melting snow/ice.

How does the Town decide whether to clear the roads, sand them, or just wait for a chinook?

Our decision on winter road maintenance is based on several factors:

1. **Snow Accumulation:** If there's significant snowfall, typically over the set thresholds (see previous page for centimeter thresholds), road clearing begins to ensure safe driving conditions. Minor snowfalls might not require full clearing but could still need sanding for traction.
2. **Road Conditions:** If the roads are icy but snow accumulation is minimal, sanding is preferred to improve traction, especially on intersections and high-traffic areas.
3. **Weather Forecast:** If a chinook or warming trend is expected shortly, the Town may opt to delay road clearing, as warmer temperatures will naturally melt the snow (and it's cost-effective for tax dollars). However, this decision depends on how quickly the chinook is expected and current road safety.
4. **Priority Routes:** Main roads and emergency routes are always monitored, and decisions are made based on the need to keep those routes open and safe. Residential streets may wait longer if a chinook is forecasted soon.
5. **Public Safety:** Safety is the top priority. If conditions are hazardous, such as ice build-up or drifts, the Town will act promptly by either clearing or sanding the roads, regardless of upcoming weather changes.

Why do you only sand intersections and not full roads?

We primarily sand intersections, curves, and other high-traffic areas because these are where vehicles are most likely to stop, start, or turn, increasing the risk of skidding on ice or snow. Full road sanding is not always necessary or efficient, as vehicles tend to compact snow on straight stretches of road, which provides some natural traction. By focusing on intersections and critical areas, we conserve resources while still improving safety where it's needed most. Additionally, sanding every road in Taber would not be a responsible use of taxpayer dollars because of the costs.

Are alleys cleared of snow?

Alleys are generally not a priority for snow removal unless garbage trucks are getting stuck (then we will remove drifting piles mainly). If you use an alley to access your property, you are allowed to clear it yourself. However, this is done at your own risk, and the Town is not responsible for any damage caused to infrastructure during the process.

More info & priority road maps: www.taber.ca/snow

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How You Can Help During Winter:

We appreciate everyone's patience and willingness to help during winter snow removal. Here are a few ways you can help and make the process smoother:

◆ Move Your Vehicle Off the Street if Possible

Parking on the street during snow removal can slow crews down. Use your driveway if possible; it gives our crews more room to work. While not a requirement, it really does help us clear the roads faster.

◆ Remove Curb Ramps

If you have curb ramps in front of your driveway, now's the time to remove them! They must be taken out before the first snowfall of the season and can't be put back until the streets have been cleaned by the street sweeper in the spring (Traffic Control Bylaw Section 19.16). Curb ramps can block water from reaching the drains, which can cause flooding and icy patches when temperatures drop. They can also damage our grader, and if that happens, the resident would be responsible for any repairs— and we don't want that to happen to anyone!

◆ Don't Shovel Snow Into the Street

When you shovel your driveway or sidewalk, please keep the snow off the street (put it on your lawn). Pushing snow onto the road creates piles and slippery spots, which can be dangerous for drivers. It's also against the Nuisance Bylaw (Section 7) and makes it harder for our grader to clear the roads.

Shoveling snow into the street often leads to ruts and piles that make it difficult for people to access the road, causing them to get stuck. By keeping the snow on your lawn, you help keep the roads safe and prevent ice blockages in the gutters when the weather warms. Plus, when the snow melts in the spring, the piles can water your lawn and might even save you some money on your water bill!

◆ Give Equipment Plenty of Space

Stay out of the way of snow removal equipment and don't follow too closely for safety. Don't pass our equipment until it is safe to do so.

◆ Keep Sidewalks Clear— For Safety

We really appreciate your help with shoveling sidewalks next to your home or business! While there are fines that could be issued for not clearing sidewalks of ice & snow adjacent to your property within 24 hours of a snowfall ending (see Section 7 of the Nuisance Bylaw available at www.taber.ca/bylaws), our goal is to educate, not punish. It's also a great way to be a good neighbor— it helps with safety and keeps walkways accessible for people with mobility issues, seniors, and children. Also consider shoveling snow for neighbors who may have difficulty clearing it themselves. A little friendliness goes a long way during winter!

◆ Report Areas Needing Attention (Kindly)

If you spot a road that needs snow removal (for safety issues), contact the Town Shop at 403-223-6018 or email pss@taber.ca. Please remember to be kind to our staff— they work as hard as possible during a snowfall & your patience is really appreciated!

◆ Adopt a Fire Hydrant

After a heavy snowfall, residents can help by keeping fire hydrants on their property clear of snow, with a 3-foot perimeter around the hydrant. This allows the Fire Department to quickly access the hydrants in an emergency, instead of losing valuable time digging them out of the snow. Your help could make a big difference when every second counts!

◆ Help us Keep Storm Drains Clear

You can help prevent flooding by clearing snow and ice from storm drains before the snow melts. When drains are blocked, water can back up onto streets and sidewalks, creating large puddles that may refreeze and become hazardous for drivers and pedestrians. While our crews work hard to clear them as quickly as possible, we always appreciate extra help from residents if you're willing to lend it! By keeping storm drains clear, you're reducing the risk of flooding and dangerous ice patches, helping to keep the community safe. Plus, it ensures that melting snow drains properly, preventing water from pooling near homes and potentially causing damage.

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DON'T LEAVE YOUR COMPOST OUT IN THE COLD



BI-WEEKLY COMPOST CART COLLECTION RETURNS NOVEMBER 1ST - MARCH 1ST

WANT CUSTOM COLLECTION NOTIFICATIONS? WE HAVE AN APP FOR THAT!

WWW.TABER.CA/RECYCLECOACH



SCAN ME




FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OPEN HOUSE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8TH: 5-7 PM

Taber Fire Department: 5207 A 49th Ave

Come meet your local firefighters and enjoy free hot dogs, chips, and drinks! Fun activities for all ages—bring the whole family for an evening of community fun!



Hot dogs generously donated by Taber IGA & chips generously donated by PepsiCo

Your Heartfelt Donation Helps Us Spread the Caring

Our fall fundraising drive will be underway soon, and we hope that you can help! We are keeping things simple again this year and during the week of October 15-19, we will reach out to our donors and gather pledges to continue our important fundraising efforts to support health care initiatives in the community.

Our goal is to raise \$160,000

Towards the purchase of a Central Monitoring System. This advanced system will enhance current monitoring capabilities, allowing staff to monitor more patients simultaneously and respond to urgent needs faster.

Donate Online through the Foundation website: www.tdhf.ca

Call the TDHF office 403-223-7232

Your donations will provide the best possible local healthcare in a positive, healing and compassionate environment.





TOWN OF TABER COMMUNITY HALLOWEEN PARTY

CANDY! PRIZES! DINNER!

OCTOBER 31, 5:30PM TO 8:30PM
TABER COMMUNITY CENTRE

ALL GHOSTS & GOBLINS WHO ARE 12 YRS OLD OR YOUNGER ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR THIS SPOOKTACULAR FREE EVENT

This event is only made possible by our generous community donations & volunteers. If you would like to donate or volunteer, call 403-223-5544 (3). "I donated to the 2024 Community Halloween Party" posters can be once again purchased at the Aquafun Centre or Administration office for \$30.00.

Thank you for your support!

RESOURCE TECHNOLOGY

PROGRAMS AVAILABLE ANYWHERE!
Some programs may include periods of face-to-face, hands-on training.

- Introduction to Surveying
- Power Engineering 3rd Class
- Power Engineering 4th Class
- Survey Theory and Calculations (part-time only)
Visit our website for full-time start dates. Part-time learners can begin in any month!
- Power Engineering 4th Class Lab Certification
Face-to-face in Peace River. Starts March 2. Visit our website for flexible options to accommodate your work schedule.



The education you want. The flexibility you deserve.

Apply today! www.northernlakescollege.ca



Community Centre \$2 Drop-Ins

See the full schedule and information on punch cards:

www.taber.ca/dropin

WATER SAVING TIP #30

Use your water meter to check for hidden water leaks. Read your meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, there is a leak.

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Taber Public Library

*October is “**Kick it Back to the 90’s**”. A number of \$100 gift cards to be won as easily as borrowing a board game, CD, DVD, or video game in the month of October. Sorry only for **teens**!

- Sat Oct 5 **World Card Making Day** -Why not stop by the library between 10 am and 12:30 to make a card. All supplies and instruction included to make one card unless you want to work on your own project.
- Sat Oct 5 **Eagle Spirit Nest Community Association Craft Day** is a red dress beaded pin made in honor of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. From 10 am to 2 pm in the Quiet Room. All supplies and lunch will be provided but Pre-registration is a **MUST**. There is a very limited supply available. Please call or stop by to register.
- Sat Oct 5 **Ukulele Jam** at 1:30 pm. For players of all ages and abilities to come play, sing or listen.
- Sat Oct 12 **Craft Day with Shai** – This month’s craft will have a Thanksgiving theme. Open to all ages beginning at 11 am.
- Tue Oct 15 **Community Art** begins. Come by to view the art of local people in both our glass display cases and on the walls until Nov 30.
- Wed Oct 16 – **Senior Speaker Series** at 10:30 am. The topic this month is **Drumming** and how it is beneficial to your health.
- Wed Oct 16 “**The Truth About Residential Solar in Alberta**” A short presentation followed by a Question and Answer period from Tim with **Firefly Solar**. Find out if it really is worth it to install and government grants available. Some swag to hand out as well. This begins at 7:00 pm in the Program Room.
- Fri Oct 18 **Family Movie** is “**WISH**” and it will begin at 6:30 pm. Popcorn will be provided. You are welcome to bring your own snacks.
- Sat Oct 19 **Story Time with Mrs. Croft** will have a Fall theme. Begins at 11 am and some snacks are provided.
- Sat Oct 19 **Ukulele Jam** at 1:30 pm. For players of all ages and abilities to come play, sing or just listen.
- Wed Oct 30 **Tara’s Terrifying Tales** at 6:30 pm. Join us for some truly terrifying stories – some true, some not in this spooky setting. Open to teens and adults
- Thur Oct 31 **Book Worm Book Club** at 11 am. New members are welcome to join.

Fall Tree Chipper Program

The Town’s twice-annual Tree Chipping Program is back! **Please note that this is NOT an alley cleanup.** We will be coming to each area to collect tree branches for chipping and leaves, which should be placed in containers or compostable/paper bags. See the collection dates for each area below. You have the entire week to set out your yard waste, and we will collect it the following week.

Important: Only tree branches and leaves will be collected. Any other items left in the alley will not be picked up and may result in a fine.

For more information:

- 2022-2024 Waste Collection Calendar (online: www.taber.ca/wasteschedule)
- Get notifications through our free Recycle Coach app: www.taber.ca/recyclecoach

Area	Dates branches can start being left out	Date collection starts
#1	October 7-13	October 14
#2	October 14-20	October 21
#3	October 21-27	October 28

What happens to the tree branches and leaves?

The tree branches and leaves collected in the Tree Chipping Program are repurposed in eco-friendly ways. Branches are chipped into mulch for landscaping in various parks and greenspaces around town, and leaves are composted. By participating, you help reduce waste and support a healthier local environment!

What if I have branches/leaves after the pickup week?

You can drop off yard trimmings year-round, free of charge, at one of our compost sites:

- Taber Transfer Station compost drop-off
- Compost drop-off on the north side of 80th Avenue, east of the turkey plant

You can also place leaves, grass clippings, and small branches in your green compost cart (no stumps, rocks, sod or dirt are allowed). Cut branches to a small size.

Community Grant Application Deadline

The Town’s Community Grants Program serves to provide funding and waivers for community-based organizations for recreation, culture, or other activities!

The deadline is October 15th to be considered for the 2025 budget: www.taber.ca/communitygrants

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