

It's Muddy! It's Dusty! It's Spring!

We are experiencing SPRING ROAD CONDITIONS - Please Drive Accordingly!

Thankfully we are now experiencing lovely spring-like weather. Unfortunately the down side to this is the **annual spring break** up of our gravel road system as the frost comes out of the ground. At this time of year, our lovely country gravel roads can become soft, muddy and difficult to drive along. Special care is needed at this time.

There are **203.30 km of gravel-surfaced roads** in the Town of Erin. The Public Works/Road Department patrols our road system and performs maintenance daily at this time of year and warning signs and hazard markers (tigertails) will be placed to assist you. If road conditions deteriorate and become impassible, the road will be temporarily closed to prevent accident or damage to vehicles.

The “**half load limit**” on our municipal roads begins March 1st up to and including May 15th each year (By-Law # 00 – 46). Please abide by this to assist us in keeping our roads passable during spring thaw.

Also, once the snow disappears, we are left with the winter sand residue. During an ice storm there never seems to be enough sand, but once spring hits there is definitely too much sand along the sides of the roads and on the pavement. The works department does not remove the sand from the ditches. **Street Sweeping** begins in May, depending on the weather. It may take several weeks to complete as we have several villages and hamlets as well as many intersections to take care of. The roads crew also repairs residential lawn sods along urban streets that have been torn up by the snowplow over the course of the winter.

Each year, **maintenance gravel** is applied to specific sections of the gravel roads in our municipality. This usually begins in early May. This means that there may be a large volume of gravel truck traffic in specific areas of the municipality during the maintenance. This is only temporary and does not mean that your road has become a **HAUL ROUTE** for gravel trucks. This simply means that the trucks must use this specific road during the maintenance gravel process.

Once the maintenance gravel has been applied, **dust control** takes place. This application occurs at approximately the end of May, depending on the weather.

While Spring is very welcome after a long winter, it presents us with annual challenges that are an element of living in the country of Canada in the springtime. The spring break-up is only temporary but can be very frustrating to everyone involved.

Your care and patience is appreciated.

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