

LAC LA BICHE COUNTY  
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES - INFORMATION UPDATE

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**A. PRIORITIES FOR SNOW REMOVAL AND ICE CONTROL**

Lac La Biche County Council by policy have determined that the priorities when County staff are conducting snow and ice control operations (plowing and sanding) are as follows:

1. Plow and Sand Arterial and Connector Roads which are the more heavily traveled roads and usually are paved or oiled.
2. Plow and Sand School Bus Routes, urban intersections and hospital routes which are usually, paved oiled and/or local gravel roads.
3. Plow and Sand roads adjacent to Fire Halls and roads in the Hamlets and Subdivisions.
4. Plow Fire Department water pick up points.
5. Plow other local roads, forest roads and winter ice roads under County jurisdiction.
6. Plow roads to graveyards.
7. Plow approaches to private driveways.
8. Plow private driveways.
9. Plow Walking Trails

Due to the geographic area of Lac La Biche County it is not feasible to remove all the ice and snow from all roads. The County will endeavor to remove snow accumulations so that a person may travel on the road using adequate care and attention when considering the road and weather conditions. The priorities for snow removal are as described above.

County staff will also remove as much ice as is possible to allow a safe and careful driver to safely use the roadways. Primary areas of focus will be higher speed roadways, intersections with stop conditions at the bottom of steep hills as well as sharper curves. Motorists should take adequate precautions when using the roads in winter to ensure that they are driving according to road conditions. This includes driving at a slower rate of speed and allowing for longer stopping distances because of ice on the road.

**B. DRIVEWAY SNOWPLOWING PROCEDURE FOR 2010 – 2011 WINTER SEASON**

**RURAL AREAS ONLY**

Anyone who is a property owner, or resides within Lac La Biche County, and requires the services of the Lac La Biche County Transportation Services Department to clear the snow in their driveway, **must purchase a specified flag in advance**. Landowners/occupants are responsible for ensuring that the driveway is clear of all obstacles and that it is wide enough for the grader. Prior to any flags being issued a Snowplowing Agreement, which contains a “Hold Harmless” clause, must be completed.

The charge is **\$25.00 per flag per clearing (G.S.T. included.)** This means one (1) flag will be needed for each snow removal requested. The flag allows for a **maximum of 15 minutes of snow clearing**. No minimum time frame is specified for snow clearing. The area to be cleared of snow is that portion of property from the main roadway to the residence (normally called the driveway). No additional snowplowing will be performed, regardless of the amount of time taken to snow plow the driveway. Snowplowing will only occur if the specified flag is placed at the gateway to your property. The grader operator will pick up the flag prior to the commencement of each snow removal operation. To ensure efficient performance of our snow removal and ice control, please contact our office at 623-1747 when the flag has been placed.

After a major snowstorm, opening of roads will take approximately (4) days, therefore plowing of driveways would not normally occur until the fifth (5) day or later. Other arrangements should be made if the driveway must be plowed sooner.

**NOTE: the approach and driveway must be at least 16 ft. wide and have a clearance of 18 ft. high, with no obstacles, otherwise the County grader may not clear your driveway.**

### **C. PLACEMENT OF SNOWPLOW FLAG FOR COUNTY TO CLEAR DRIVEWAY**

The flag signifying a request for service must be placed on the left-hand side approach shoulder near the property line (left hand side of the approach when facing the driveway from the road.) Flags must be attached or pinned to a stake in a manner to facilitate retrieval by the motor grader operator. Flags placed in other locations may not be noticed by County Equipment Operators. Snowplowing of any driveway may not occur without the proper flag. Remember, the **\$25.00** fee provides for snowplowing from the main road to the residence only.

### **D. CLEARING OF DRIVEWAYS BY LANDOWNERS OR OTHERS**

When private operators use a tractor or other equipment to clear a driveway of snow they often push the snow into the ditch on the opposite side of the driveway. No harm is done if this operation is done with due consideration for traffic using the road and care is taken not to scrape the existing gravel off of the road. All persons engaged in this activity must ensure that they clean **ALL** lumps of snow off of the road surface. Small lumps appear large to a nervous motorist and they may take evasive action because of these lumps of snow. All persons performing such tasks on County roadways are required to clear all of the snow they have deposited on the road surface to avoid any possible legal liabilities from leaving debris on the road surface.

### **E. SNOW RIDGE ACROSS DRIVEWAYS**

During normal snow plowing operations a ridge of snow is sometimes left across driveways. Often, because of the nature of our operations, this ridge cannot be immediately removed. The main priority is to ensure that all main roads and bus routes are open. The equipment operators are then able to remove the ridge when the approaches and driveways are cleared.

### **F. CLEARING OF SNOW ON SECTIONS OF PUBLIC ROAD**

From time to time County residents take it upon themselves to clean snow from County roadways. There are a number of reasons that this is done. The grader beats are structured such that it takes 3 to 4 days for an operator to clear all of the roads in his area. Snow clearing sequences are rotated so that a specific resident should not always be last on the list of roads cleared. Some residents do not wish to wait for the grader to clear snow from their road and opt to do the work with their own equipment. Operators of this equipment must take extreme care that they do not remove gravel when removing the snow. It is preferable that the private equipment owner leave some snow on the gravel. The grader operator must perform clean-up operations in most cases and he can blade the road surface so that the maximum desirable amount of snow is removed. The operators of the private equipment must ensure that they remove any debris from the driving path to avoid possible legal liabilities. No payment will be made to the equipment owner for this work.

### **G. SNOW CLEARING OF DRIVEWAYS FOR DISABLED CITIZENS AND SENIOR CITIZENS**

#### **RURAL AREAS ONLY**

Disabled Citizens and Senior Citizens over the age of 65 years of age shall receive snowplowing services free of charge subject to the following:

- i. a Senior Citizen and/or Disabled citizen must be living permanently in their own house on their own land;  
or
- ii. a Senior Citizen and/or Disabled Citizen who is renting a residence and is living in the residence on a full time basis.

**Snow Plow Flags can be purchased at Lac La Biche County Administration Office at RR 135 and S.H 663, Plamondon Co-op and E-J's General Store in Rich Lake.**

Please contact Helen at Lac La Biche County Administration Office at 623-6736 should you have any questions or concerns on these issues.