

---

# PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HIGHWAY DIVISION 2018 REPORT

Maybe it's my role as Highway Superintendent of Public Works, but when driving through different communities I can immediately determine whether a city or town has a healthy, well-organized Public Works Department. To many, it may be the sense that the town you live in or drive through is a 'nice' town or a 'pretty' town, to others it may just be a gratifying walk along a well-maintained path on a fall morning. Managing the Highway Division within Public Works is a house-keeping adventure on a huge scale - On any given day we may be fixing roads, putting up signs, repairing equipment, or clearing brush.

Members of the Highway Division are to be commended for their 2018 accomplishments and continued dedication to the maintenance of our infrastructure. The diversity and can-do approach as evidenced this year have been most appreciated. Major projects included:

- ❖ Sweeping up all town roads (including chip stone to recycle for the following year)
- ❖ Downtown pavement markings, crosswalks, line stripping parking spaces and signage
- ❖ Annual mowing of EMS and Scott Mitchell Landfills and rural roadsides
- ❖ Cleaned and inspected 300 catch basins
- ❖ Reconstructed several culverts and basins
- ❖ Paved roads including East Hill Rd, Vose Farm Rd, Cunningham Rd, and Arundel Rd.
- ❖ Completion of West Side of Union St.
- ❖ Graded all dirt roads including Bass Rd., Bogle, Slab, Carley Rd ext. and parking lots at the Recreation Department
- ❖ Paved numerous trench excavations for utilities and storm drainage
- ❖ Assisted Utilities with gate valves, fire hydrants and emergency repairs of water mains

- ❖ Annual tree removal on roadsides
- ❖ Maintained all street signs and were responsible for US flags on holidays.

In addition to the above, there are many other somewhat less glamorous tasks; We get calls to remove dead animals on the road, we pick up the road-side trash, and sweep the roads.

Improvements the Department will be undertaking include a continuation of our roadside maintenance procedures. Last summer we rented a Brush Hog to do roadside mowing, which allowed us to selectively remove some of the brush and heavy vegetation that has built up in recent years. The goal was to increase traffic visibility and safety, and additionally to allow for the beauty of the area's old stone walls to be seen again as well. Unfortunately, our mowing this year will be reduced due to a budget decrease.

The Highway Department as always is dedicated in serving the Town in emergencies of all kinds. Whether ice storms or winter blizzards, they always respond on time, 24-hours-a-day, seven days a week, to insure the safety to school buses, emergency vehicles, and the general public.

I would like to thank the many people and subcontractors who assisted us throughout the year, especially as we dealt with budget cuts and were short of a full-time member. The help of other Town departments and officials is most appreciated in day-to-day operations. The support of the citizens of Peterborough through their tax dollars is gratefully received. Community support and pride in the services provided are the greatest motivators for our members. We also recognize and thank the families of Department members who adjust to the many hours put in, often at inconvenient times, and continue to support the commitment of the members of the Department.

I want to thank Mark West who retired this year after 27 years of service. He will be missed.

Faithfully Submitted,

Ron Dubois, Highway Superintendent