

December 2019 Public Works Report

Roads

- This entire month has been dedicated to the relocation of snow piles and cutting back trees in the right-of-ways that had either blown over or broken off from the weight of frozen snow. The loaders and grader spent many hours pushing back the banks along roads and intersections, along with winging and benching those banks.
- The airport took longer than usual to open due to the massive volume of snow to be moved, the TV145 tractor being repaired, and the lack of staff, but we did get it opened after some long days and nights, and I thank airport users for their understanding and patience. Snow piles will continue to be pushed back for wingspan clearance and removed as time allows.
- After a larger dent was made in the snow removal, 12/28-12/29 saw significant rainfall, which caused ditches and any low area around the island to fill with water and overwhelm multiple culverts. Much of 12/29 was spent plowing slush, opening storm drains downtown, and directing water the best we could. The Town's gravel roads became dangerous due to ice cover, and the sanding trucks did the best they could to keep roads somewhat drivable. Unfortunately, the flooding caused damage to some areas, but no roads were washed out, and overwhelmed culverts were opened so water could find its way. The Town's culvert steamer was ready and on stand-by, but thankfully every culvert we dealt with was only blocked with snow and not frozen.
- Wren Works halted dock operations before the holidays. With their vehicles and equipment gone until Spring, the Town crew will keep the dock scraped off and sanded as much as possible.

Parks

- I hope to have the entire Big Bay Town Park parking area cleaned out early next month as it has not been pushed back yet and has considerable snow cover, but there is access to the beach and a small parking area plowed out. Camping reservations for July and August weekends are filling up fast, don't delay and plan ahead.
- Joni's Beach was underwater after the rainfall but thankfully drained away quicker than expected. We will move the snow pile on the beach when time allows.
- A skating rink at the Rec Center is still on the to-do list, however temperatures and time constraints have not made this possible yet.

Misc./Admin

- Andy Stogbauer, our contract mechanic, returned on a part-time and as needed basis, and has been most welcome in the shop.
- Overall the trucks and equipment have held up under harsh storage conditions and heavy workloads all month.
- Thank you to Evan Sr., Evan Jr., Evan Ralph, Nelson Construction, and Greg and Brandon Nelson for their help and assistance with snow removal and related efforts to keep equipment going and roads open and safe. It was an eventful month.

Happy New Year
Respectfully Submitted,
Ben Schram
Public Works Director