

TO: Jeff Kobrock, City Manager, and Gardiner City Council

FROM: Chuck Applebee Director of Public Works and Wastewater

DATE: Feb. 1, 2007

RE: Snow Removal in the Arcade Parking Lot

The Gardiner Public Works has cleaned snow from the downtown area including the Arcade Parking Lot for at least the last seventeen years. This project is scheduled during the midnight hours so as not to interfere with the daytime business of the downtown area.

The Arcade Parking Lot is cleaned in two pieces (seventeen years plus) so as to give a place to park during the cleanup period. Because it is such a big lot cleaning starts with the Tiger Town end of the lot. Generally the Dennis' Pizza end of the lot is cleaned the next evening, although there are times due to the configuration of the parking lot that cleaning the Dennis' Pizza end doesn't have to be cleaned as frequently. In the Arcade Parking Lot prior to the start of midnight clean-up, eleven signs get placed at all entrances of the area to be cleaned during the daylight hours (3pm at the latest) indicating that one end of the lot will be cleaned and that cars will be towed if they are not moved. There is always one end of the parking lot in which to park cars while the other end of the parking lot gets cleaned.

In the past (seven plus years ago) there were winter no parking signs permanently installed in the Arcade Parking Area. The city made the change to temporary signs because they were more effective and noticed easier by the general public.

If vehicles remain interfering with the snow removal effort, Public Works contacts the Gardiner PD for vehicle removal, which starts at midnight. The Gardiner Police Department attempts to contact vehicle owners before the cars are towed.

Historically the first storm in which the arcade parking lot gets cleaned ends up with the largest number of vehicles getting towed. Other storms require towing but generally there are a much smaller number.

Regardless of the size of the storm the Arcade Parking Lot requires cleaning after every snowstorm at least on the Tiger Town end. Because of the size of the parking lot without cleaning huge piles of snow would remain, the lot would become very bumpy from snow build up, parking spaces would be lost, as well as snow piles would prevent the proper draining of storm water.

The night of Jan.17, 2007 11 signs was installed at 10 am in the morning. At midnight nine signs were still standing while two were knocked over.

On the night of Jan. 17, 2006 a Gardiner Public Works employee and a Police Officer assisted a woman resident who responded to being called to move her car by helping to jump-start her vehicle.

On the night of Jan. 17, 2007 approximately 18-20 vehicles responded to the snow removal effort by moving to the Dennis' Pizza end of the parking lot for snow removal.

In an effort to further notify the public, the city could send notices at the beginning of winter to landlords to notify their tenants of the snow removal effort. The city could also purchase at the cost of approximately \$1000 two additional larger signs to be placed at each entrance of the parking lots.