

# Town-Wide Windrow Clearing Program



**Budget Committee Meeting  
October 19, 2023**

# Agenda

Review of Existing Service Levels for Winter Maintenance



Other Municipality Scan



Current Subsidized Windrows Program












Town-Wide Windrow Clearing Program - Level of Service



Windrow Program – Common Complaints, Risks & Challenges

# 1. Review of Existing Winter Maintenance Service Levels

# Municipal Roads – Service Levels

	Primary roads	Secondary roads	Residential roads and laneways
<p><b>Salt/sand operations</b></p> 	<p><b>Salt</b> Early stages of snowfall</p> 	<p><b>Salt</b> Early stages of snowfall</p> 	<p><b>Sand/Salt</b> when icy conditions are noted</p> 
<p><b>Start plowing</b></p> 	<p><b>2.5 cm of snow</b></p> <p>About the depth of a hockey puck</p> 	<p><b>5 cm of snow</b></p> <p>About the depth of a key</p> 	<p><b>7.5 cm of snow</b> after snowfall has stopped</p> <p>About the depth of a tape dispenser</p> 
<p><b>Roads cleared</b> Average time for roads to be clear after snow has ended</p> 	<p>up to <b>6 hours</b></p>	<p>up to <b>12 hours</b></p>	<p>up to <b>24 hours</b></p>

## 2. Other Municipalities Scan

# Other Municipalities

Municipality	Richmond Hill	Vaughan
Program Size (No. of Driveways)	55,000	84,000
Windrow Timeline	13 hours	4 hours
Cost to Resident	Included in General Tax Levy	Included in General Tax Levy
Program Cost	\$4.5 M	\$2.1 M (2016 pricing)

# 3. Current Subsidized Windrow Program



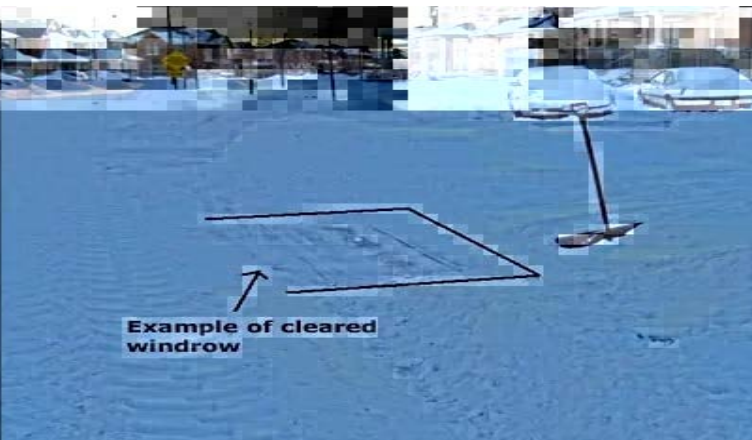
# What is a Road Windrow?



A road snow windrow is the pile of snow that is left at the bottom of a driveway after the snowplow has cleared the road.

Windrow clearing is not a mandatory service normally provided.

The Municipal Act does not require a municipality to clear snow windrows at driveways.





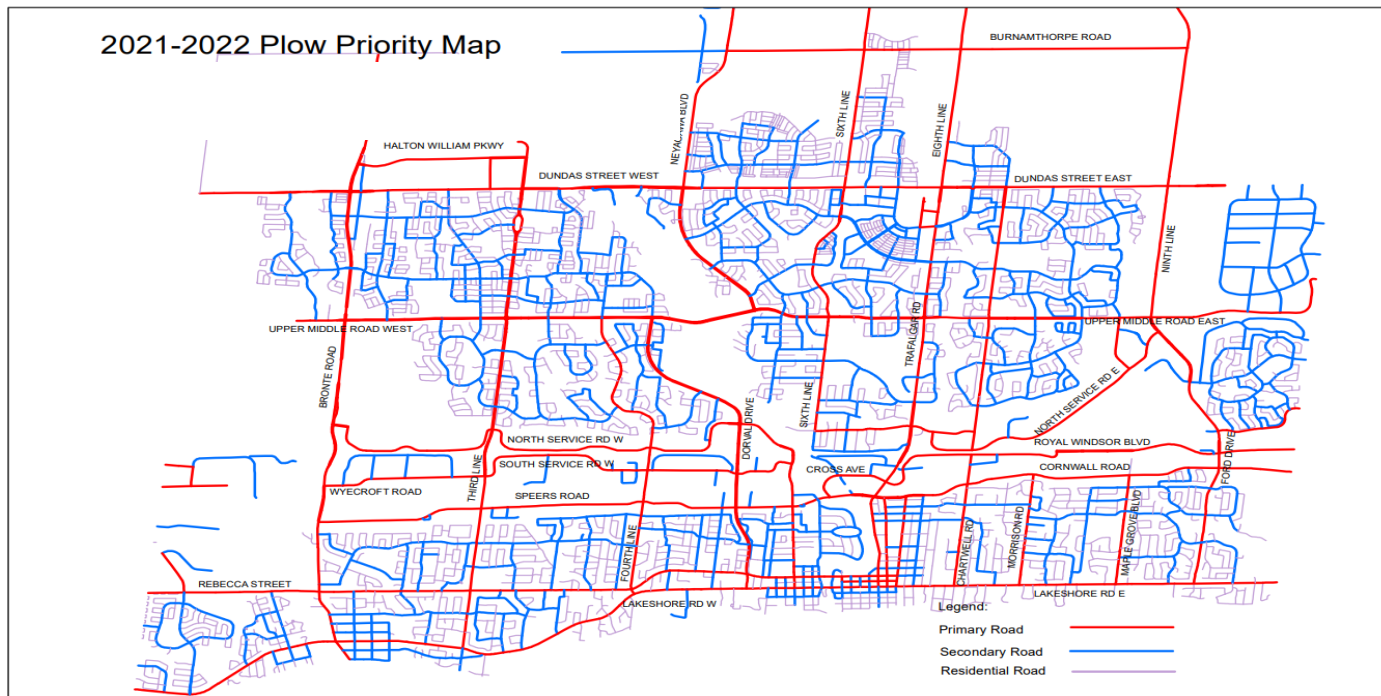
# Current Windrow Program

- Eligibility Criteria - Town's windrow clearing program helps seniors 65+ and people with physical disabilities or medical conditions that are unable to clear the windrow on their own.
- 2023/2024 User Fee - \$102 per driveway (plus HST)
- 2024/2025 User Fee - \$106.50 per driveway (plus HST)
- Annual Budget - \$67,300 annually based on 450 registrants

# 4. Town-Wide Windrow Clearing Program Level of Service

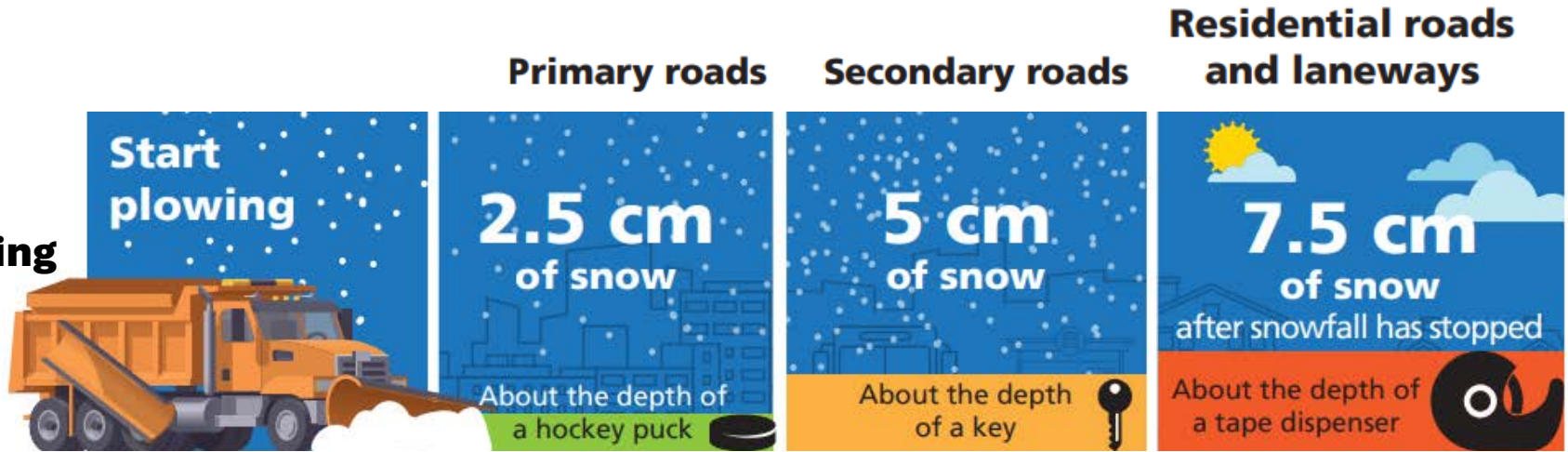
# What Town Windrows are Cleared?

	Included	Not Included
Applicability	55,000 residential driveways on primary, secondary and residential roads	Driveways on private roads, private laneways, industrial, commercial or high-rise properties are not included



# Start of Windrow Clearing

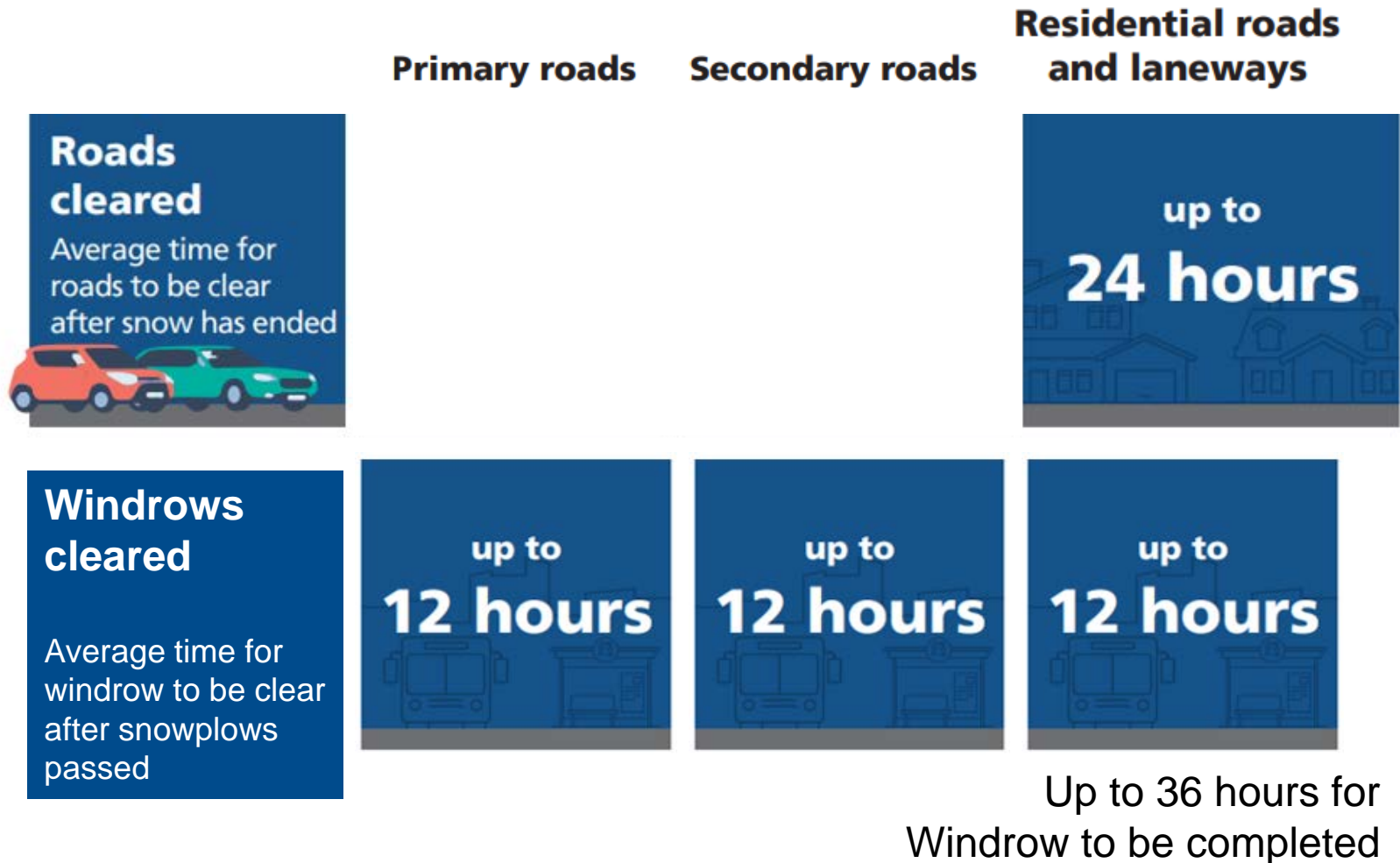
## Road Clearing



## Windrow Clearing



# Timeline to Complete



# Windrow Clearing Sample Timeline

	Road Plow Complete by:	Windrow Plow Begins by:	Windrow Plow Complete by:
<b>Route 1</b>	Completed by hour 6 (of the 24-hour window)	Approx. Hour 8	Hour 14-18 (6-10 hours duration)
<b>Route 2</b>	Completed road plow by hour 12 (of the 24-hour window)	Approx. Hour 14	Hour 20-24
<b>Route 3</b>	Completed road plow by hour 24 (of the 24-hour window)	Approx. Hour 26	Hour 32-36



# Clearing Width

	Service Level	NOT included
<b>Windrow Clearing Area</b>	Clear 1 car length width (approximately 3 m)	Edge-to-edge clearing of driveway windrows



Will be cleared



Will not be cleared



# Dealing with Snowbanks

	Service Level	NOT included
<b>Snowbanks</b>	Town-wide windrow clearing program will only push the snow to area between houses and will not shape the snowbank	Clearing of snowbanks or conducting any type of snow removal operations between houses



Snowbanks will not be cleared / shaped

# Clearing to Packed Snow Level

	Service Level	NOT included
<b>Snow Packed Condition</b>	Windrow cleared to packed snow level (1-2 inches) and will not be cleared to bare pavement	Clearing to bare pavement



Snow packed condition acceptable

# Summary of Windrows LOS

	Level of Service
<b>Applicability</b>	55,000 residential driveways on Municipal roads (Primary, Secondary, Residential)
<b>Service Initiation</b>	Initiate windrow clearing once 7.5 cm threshold is reached, AFTER snow event ends
<b>Windrow Timeline to Complete</b>	Windrows cleared within 12 hours after snowplows passed (i.e. Windrow will be completed in hr 36) <i>Windrow initiates after road plow (rolling finish timeline)</i>
<b>Windrow Clearing Width</b>	Clear 1 car length width (approximately 3 m)
<b>Snowbanks</b>	Snow will be pushed to one end of the driveway and stored in the space between the houses in the boulevard
<b>Packed Snow Condition</b>	Windrow cleared to packed snow level (1-2 inches) and not be cleared to bare pavement

# Townwide Windrow Clearing Program

- Program costs → \$2,593,000 / year (2023 costs)
- 37.2% increase of 2023 winter control maintenance budget
- Implementation timeline: 2025 / 2026

# 5. Windrow Program Service Level Expectations



# Common Complaints



Parking obstructs windrow



Concern about timeliness



Leftover windrow from clearing



Not bare pavement



# Additional Complaints





# Alternative Option – Expanding Existing Windrow Program

- Expand windrow program from 450 to 1,100 driveways (similar to Burlington)
- Eliminate all eligibility requirements
- Priority will be given to past registrants
- Same proposed service level for townwide windrows program
- Program cost estimated at \$130,000
- Ability to start program in January 2024 winter season
- 2023/2024 User Fee - \$118 per driveway (plus HST)
  - Current senior application starts Dec 1 @ \$102 (plus HST)

# Questions?