



**OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT  
MEMORANDUM**

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**TO: MAYOR, A. NUTTALL AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

**FROM: D. FRIARY, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS**

**NOTED: B. ARANIYASUNDARAN, P. ENG., PMP, GENERAL MANAGER OF  
INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT**

**M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

**RE: SAND AND SALT OPTIMIZATION FOR WINTER MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS –  
2022/23 SEASON (T06-WIN)**

**DATE: DECEMBER 14, 2022**

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The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide members of Council with an update concerning the sand dome located at the Operations Centre on Ferndale Drive North. A structural inspection was carried out this fall, and it was determined that the condition of the building will not allow for it to be used this winter season.

The City's residential routes for winter maintenance are maintained to a snow packed condition by plowing and with the use of sand for traction. Without a building to store winter sand this season, salt will be used instead of winter sand during the more moderate temperatures at the beginning and end of the winter season to maintain roads to the approved level of service. Salt will be used only when it is required, and at a very low application rate, to continue to minimize impact to the environment. As the winter progresses, and more severe weather persists, salt stores will become depleted and create room for sand storage in the salt building. This can allow for sand to be used in residential areas during the colder months when salt becomes less effective, as per the City's usual practice.

The limited availability of covered storage means it will not be feasible to continue the recycling of street sweepings for reclaimed winter sand, which was a primary program for avoiding significant annual costs related to street sweeping disposal.

While the existing sand dome remains out-of-service, staff are currently working on a holistic plan to implement the Operations Master Plan, which includes the redevelopment of the Operations Yard at 165 Ferndale Drive North. This redevelopment will include the proper infrastructure to adequately store winter control materials and reinstate cost saving operational measures. Council should expect an update next spring regarding the phased action plan to address the City's rapid growth and construct the infrastructure required to adequately provide the operational public services required to keep our community safe and clean.

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) has indicated that regardless of whether the predominant winter control material applied is sand or salt, a management approach is required to ensure the protection of public safety on the City's roads while minimizing environmental impact. Road Operations will continue to follow the City's Winter Operations Plan and Salt Optimization Strategy, as approved by Council, as the most efficient and environmentally responsible method of winter maintenance.

The City's Winter Control Operations will continue to meet Council approved level of service and Ontario Regulation 239/02, as amended: *Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal Highways*.