

OEAC-25-13

April 1 2025 OEAC Salt working group report

On March 20th 2025 we meet with Mike Harrington manager of the Parks and Roads department with the City. It was a productive meeting in a number of areas.

-the City has agreed to explore ways of distributing educational information about the negative side of the overuse of road salt. Suggestions may include how much salt to use and when, urging quicker use of shovels and property design suggestions to improve drainage from sidewalks and driveways.

-The City is willing to explore the timing of applying road salt, addressing issues such as, does cul-de-sac and other low traffic volume roads need to be salted before the snowfall? Salt applied with no snow fall is not good as the salt get ground into a fine powder, becomes wind borne and may travel farther.

-We believe that a common misconception about road salt being the cheaper way to clear roads of snow may be incorrect. The City is willing to explore the damage salt does to infrastructure and to see if a dollar value can be attributed to that damage.

Some of the group members have reached out to the Ontario Salt Pollution Coalition to seek out information and common ground.

The working group is also exploring different methods of engaging the public with awareness of the damage salt does. An example being that airborne salt damages the buds on trees.