



Media Alert

Please Clear Snow

Reminder to Residents and Businesses to Remove Snow

Cambridge, Ontario. March 10, 2008...In light of the record snow fall this weekend, the City of Cambridge reminds residents and business leaders to clear the snow for safety purposes. As part of regular communications to the community, the City of Cambridge encourages people to make the appropriate arrangements to clear the snow from roof tops, vents, gas metres, fire hydrants and sidewalks.

Roof Tops

Several factors affect the amount of snow that can build up on a roof and it is recommended to seek a qualified service provider to assist. The large accumulation of snow, coupled with the forecasted thaws and possible rain on Thursday, will dramatically increase weight loads on roof structures.

Vent, Gas Metre Clearance

In addition to roof tops, the community is encouraged to inspect the sides of homes, industrial buildings and offices to be sure that gas metres and the external vent pipes of natural gas furnaces, fireplaces, water heaters and clothes dryers are unobstructed.

According to Union Gas, snow is not the only thing to remove; ice is also a factor. Check the gas meter and appliance vent pipes regularly to ensure there is no build-up of ice or snow. The company is asking the public to repair leaky seams in eaves troughs or downspouts and remove any icicles to ensure dripping water does not splash and freeze on the metre or vent pipe. If the metre or appliance vent pipe is covered with snow, remove the snow carefully with either a brush or a broom. Do not scrape the meter or vent pipe with a sharp instrument. Do not shovel, plow or blow snow up against the gas metre or piping. Be careful not to bump the gas metre with a snow blower. Never kick the gas meter or vent pipes in an attempt to clear ice and snow.

Fire Hydrants

Cambridge Fire Department (CFD) officials remind residents to keep their fire hydrants accessible. Winter storms can often hide fire hydrants under heavy snow making them almost impossible to find quickly in the event of an emergency. At least a 3 foot clearance of snow on all sides of the hydrant is recommended. In addition, be sure to clear snow from all fire exits. CFD further supports the information conveyed by Union Gas regarding heating system vent clearing. Blockage of these vents can cause carbon monoxide to back up inside the building resulting in a dangerous health situation.

Sidewalks

Residents are required to clear snow and ice from sidewalks abutting their property within 24 hours of a snow fall. Sidewalks should be cleared so that persons using wheelchairs, scooters, walkers, strollers, etc. can use the sidewalk safely. If residents cannot clear their own sidewalk due to health or mobility issues, they may contact Cambridge Home Support - Meals on Wheels at 519.740.9121 for assistance for a modest fee.

To report a concern related to the Snow Removal by-law within the City of Cambridge, contact 519.740.4613, Monday to Friday between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm. Callers are encouraged to leave a message if a staff member is not available. The call will be returned within 24 hours as per the City of Cambridge procedure.

-30-

The City of Cambridge is one of the fastest growing areas in the country. It is strategically located astride highway 401 in Southwestern Ontario, part of Canada's Technology Triangle. In 2007, the population reached over 124,000 people with a multicultural mix and a strong foundation of support services. Cambridge has a diverse economic base with leading industries in manufacturing, automotive, high technology, pharmaceutical, business and financial services and hospitality/retail. The Corporation of the City of Cambridge is an employer with a work environment that offers the opportunity to provide service to the community through creativity and innovation, and with opportunities for career growth and advancement.

For more information on the area or the corporation visit www.cambridge.ca
The City of Cambridge press room is located at <http://www.cambridge.ca/article.php?sid=176>

www.uniongas.com for more information on metre clearing.

To opt out of the news release distribution, please send an email to Linda Fegan
feganl@cambridge.ca