

Report of the Highway Department

This past year, being my first year as the elected Road Agent for the Town of Fremont, has been one filled with excitement, challenges, and much appreciation for the town I both live in, and serve. As Road Agent for the town, I was broken in quickly when shortly after my election, the town experienced a severe flood. There were road closures due to waters reaching extreme levels, which also took out power lines causing around the clock assessment.

The Highway Study Committee was formed to assess our roads and determine where improvements needed to be made. This has been a great tool for helping to decide what direction Fremont should head in order to keep our roads well maintained and safe. The Committee has studied reclamation, overlay, sealing, highway garages, budgets, equipment purchases and many other less notable topics. Every member of the Committee has put much time and effort into the Town and has been great to work with; their knowledge and support has aided in the successfulness of this year's accomplishments.

Some of the projects we have completed this year are:

- 4 culvert replacements/repairs
- Shirkin Road (Epping end) re-ditch and shimmed
- Beede Hill Road drainage repair
- Beede Hill Road sealed
- Whittier Drive shimmed
- Brush cutting at various sites
- Drainage at various sites

Unfortunately, some of these projects that were completed, I realize are only bandaids for a larger wound. None the less, improvements were made with the available budgeted funds.

Fremont has many subdivision roads that were built 20 plus years ago and have not seen any sort of maintenance other than cold patching. Many of our main roads are in poor shape and the longer we wait to improve them, the more costly it will be. Twenty years ago, I worked for the Town under the previous Road Agent, and even then, we performed reclamations and overlays. I cannot understand why this important procedure is no longer being performed.

The current budget that we have to work with only allows for general maintenance and bandaids. More in-depth work needs to be done to our town's roads in order to keep them in good working order and safe.

I have truly enjoyed working for you this past year and hope to receive your continued support in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Pitkin
Road Agent