

2016 Road Foreman's Report



The year of 2016 was a year of change within the highway department. Wayne Preston, the Road Commissioner for the past 43 years and Bruce Cassidy, who has made Monkton's highways his main priority for 23 years, decided that it was time to enjoy life outside of this rigorous work schedule and have pursued the next chapter in their lives, retirement. I feel confident that I can speak for all of the town's people when I say, thank you for your dedication and years of service. We are very fortunate that both Wayne and Bruce will continue to serve us on a part-time basis. They both deserve to watch the snow fall from the warmth of their homes this winter.

I would like to thank all the residents of Monkton who continue to support our highway budget each year. We strive to keep the level of service to your utmost satisfaction. Last year's winter was a mild one when it came to snowfall, and the price of fuel remained at a reasonable rate, which helped to keep costs down. In the upcoming year there will be a few slight increases as the price of hot mix, gravel and salt continue to rise.

As many of you have already noticed, we have been making every effort to keep traffic moving smoothly on our gravel roads during Vermont's infamous mud season. We did some gravel road reconstruction on some of the most troublesome areas. We fixed approximately 1,200 feet on Rotax Road and roughly 900 feet on Piney Woods Road. The reconstruction consisted of digging the salvageable gravel off the top of the road for reuse. This allowed us to keep the total gravel cost down. We then used road fabric specifically designed to keep water from coming up into our subbase. After laying the road fabric, we added 15-18 inches of compacted subbase, only to top with the gravel we had stripped off the road prior to the construction process. We still had to add new gravel to help with finish grading and reconstruction of the driveway curb cuts that we had disturbed. For those of you who had your driveway affected during this process, I want to thank you for your patience; we strive to leave them in better condition than when we started. One by one we hope to eliminate the soft spots that appear each spring.

I applied for and received a Class II grant, which allows for some much needed repaving on Monkton Road. We will be adding a 1 inch shim with a 1 inch overlay, for approximately one mile. I also received a water quality grant to help with the water runoff into Cedar Lake. We are planning on ditching about 800 feet on Monkton road, up the hill from Fern Glade, which is a private drive. This project will consist of stone lining our ditch to prevent the washing of silt and debris into the waterway that directly enters Cedar Lake. During this project we will be upsizing both of the culverts that cross Fern Glade and Monkton Road. Your patience during these projects, on one of our most traveled roadways, will be greatly appreciated. I will continue to apply for grants that will improve both our water quality and highway system.

Lastly, I would like to remind the members of our community to do what they can to deter water runoff from driveways and curb cuts, as this creates a hazard when the water freezes on the road. Also, please remind private snowplow contractors to keep from pushing snow across the road and into our ditches, especially near culverts. If anyone has any questions or concerns, I can be reached at the town garage.

Thank you,
Logan LeCompte
Road Foreman