

# NH Public Works Association

## President's Column:

Do you have a new years resolution to get more involved? There are many opportunities: get legislatively active, participate in meetings and the plow rally, and join mutual aid.

This year promises to be another lively legislative year. There are bills related to every part of our jobs: class VI roads, solid waste disposal, drinking water, wetlands, hazardous materials, cemeteries, road agent designations, road and bridge standards, driveway permits, mosquito control, and the state retirement system. I encourage all of you to stay actively involved in the legislative process to ensure that what occurs at the statehouse is best for our communities and our profession.

In 2008 we are planning our annual meeting on May 6, our technical sessions, and the NHLGC annual meeting. Our agendas are still being developed. If you have a topic that you'd like to hear, or present, please contact a board member.

Also, we have just started planning the plow rally to be held in September. This is an important event and it takes a lot of coordination. Would you like to participate in the rally? We need organizers and judges for the events. We also need volunteers on the day of the event to move tables, set-up signs, and help to ensure everything runs smoothly.

2008 seems like the perfect year to join mutual aid. Contact Kathy DesRoches, 862-2826, at the UNH T<sup>2</sup> Center for information. Remember, it's not just for highways but also for water, waste water, and building inspectors.

Happy New Year! Looking forward to seeing you at a NHPWA event!

*Sincerely, Ken Daniels, DPW Director, Enfield*



## What's Wrong with this Photo?



*Section 2A.16 Standard of Location. Guidance: Signs should be individually installed on separate posts or mountings except where: (A) One sign supplements another, or (B) Route or directional signs are grouped to clarify information to motorists, or (C) Regulatory signs that do not conflict with each other are grouped, such as turn prohibition signs posted with one-way signs, street name signs posted with a stop or yield sign, or a parking regulation sign posted with a speed limit sign.*

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# Guess the Invention!

Submitted by: Chum Cleverly, DPW Director, Bow

The Public Works department in Bow has developed innovative ideas to solve problems around the public works garage. Can you guess what this was used for?



**Cold Patch Box**  
This reinforced wooden box for cold patch has a floor made from an old workzone sign. The box was made so patch could be kept inside during cold months but handling and cleanup was kept to a minimum. The box has spring "U" bolts as handles for lifting (with a machine) and can be placed in any size truck. The patch stays warm in the garage and will stay usable for the trip to the mid-winter pothole.

## Good *Leadership* is an Art

Most leaders want to be good ones, but they might not know what steps to take to ensure that they are. People naturally want to follow people who are good at what they do. Being a leader is an art. It is the art of getting people to do what you want them to do without being manipulative. Practice these tips to become an effective leader:

- Communicate to each employee how their job contributes to the big picture, and what they can gain from the experience.
- Create goals *with* the employee and motivate them to accomplish those goals.
- Exude enthusiasm and stay positive. Employees need solutions, not more problems.
- Learn the specific things that motivate each employee.
- Reward employees for excellent work performance.
- Make each employee feel important.

Source: *Good Leadership is an Art*, Nevada Milepost, Winter 2006, pg. 10

# City of Manchester Uses a Portable Snow Melter

*Submitted by: Peter Capano, Chief Inspector, City of Manchester*



One of the newest weapons in the City of Manchester's Highway Department's snowfighting arsenal is busy this winter. Residents and commuters have no doubt seen the tall steam plume from the Trecan model 135 portable snowmelter on Bedford Street beside the Notre Dame Bridge. The 42 foot long snowmelter features two diesel burners, used to melt snow, which is then discharged into the city sewer system.

Many years ago the practice of depositing snow directly into the river was banned. Over the last decade, the construction of Fisher Cat Stadium, the closure of the landfill, and the extension of the airport runway at South Willow Street, has caused the city to lose almost all of its snow storage locations. The snowmelter fills this void.

The Trecan 135 was chosen because it is the largest portable model. It can handle up to 135 tons of snow per hour, spewing out as much as 540 gallons of water per minute.

Trekan, a Nova Scotia company, makes larger units, mostly used at major airports. Their first model was sold to LaGuardia Airport in 1959 and most of the units made since are still in operation.

When in use, the snowmelter runs continuously as snow removal operations dictate. Cleaning Elm Street for example, requires pushing snow into the center of the road and then using a large snowblower to load it into trucks. The snow is then dumped onto Bedford Street and a front end loader drops it into the melter in 2-1/2 cubic yard doses (a dump truck holds

approximately 15 cubic yards of snow).

As the operation begins, 500 gallons of water is heated to 145 degrees by two burners that together can generate 24 million BTU's. This takes 15 minutes. As each bucket of snow is added, the melter loses two degrees. When the water temperature drops to 40 degrees, operations cease until the burners reheat the water.

Sand, bricks and other heavy debris are collected at the low point in the snowmelter's tank. This material is removed through an access door by the city's vector truck.

The machine's tender must be careful to stay away from the steam plume. The plume contains the exhaust from the burners to increase heating efficiency and can cause the tender to lose consciousness if the steam is inhaled.

Visibility is limited in the plume, a fatality could occur if the loader operator is unaware of a problem with the tender.

The City purchased the snowmelter in 2004 at a cost of almost \$350,000. It is expensive to operate, burning diesel fuel at a rate of 170 gallons per hour. However, fuel costs are offset substantially by reduced trucking costs as the snowmelter travels to the worksite instead of having to haul the snow to a remote storage site.

With an expected lifespan of more than 25 years, the snowmelter, with minimal routine maintenance, will be helping to remove snow in Manchester for years to come.

NHPWA  
c/o LGC  
PO Box 617  
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## CALENDAR

- **Workzone Awareness Week:** April 7-11, 2008.
- **Mutual Aid (NHPWMA) Conference:** April 25, 2008, NHDES, Concord.
- **Public Works Association (NHPWA) Annual Meeting:** May 6, 2008
- **Public Works Week:** May 14-24, 2008.
- **Mountain of Demonstrations:** May 22, 2008, Gunstock, Gilford.



This is a quarterly publication. For submissions, contact:

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## Join NHPWA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Optional Information:  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pager: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cellular: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Membership \$25.00  
Group Membership \$100.00  
Membership term expires June 30, 2008.  
Detach and mail this form along with payment to:

**NHPWA**  
**c/o LGC**  
**PO Box 617**  
**Concord, NH 03302-0617**