



Winter is coming, and the Regional Municipality of Durham, Works Department is reminding Clarington residents that they need to drive according to conditions once the white stuff does arrive.

The Department is asking drivers to slow down when approaching snow plows or facing winter driving conditions. The winter maintenance crews from the Works Department work hard to keep the roads clear for motorists. They ask that motorists respect that snowplows must travel at reduced speeds. Watch for the blue flashing lights and remain at a safe distance back. Do not attempt to pass, as they may have reduced visibility.

“In order to help prevent slippery road conditions, the Region of Durham uses a preventative technique,” says Uldis Siksna, Manager of Maintenance Operations. “Throughout various areas of Durham Region, roads are anti-iced, which involves applying brine to dry roads before a storm. During a storm prewetted salt is applied with brine being sprayed onto the salt at the spinners. This helps to keep the salt on the road and reduces the bounce”

However, even with these precautions, drivers need to remember to drive safely as conditions can change quickly, from one area to the next, during the winter months.

“Bridges, hills, valleys, curves and sheltered or shaded areas require extra caution when driving, as these sections of road freeze quickly and remain frozen even after temperatures rise,” says Siksna.

It is important to prepare vehicles for winter driving. Start by changing to winter tires, which improve safety and increase traction on slippery snow-covered or icy roads. Keep an emergency kit in the trunk of your vehicle, with items such as blankets, a shovel, a flashlight, a

## **Drivers warned that winter is on the way**

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flare, food and a first aid kit. Also, begin using windshield washer fluid rated for -40°C ranges. Finally, be sure to check the weather and driving conditions before going out on the roads. Allow for extra driving time, or wait until conditions improve, if necessary.

These simple precautions are particularly important in the northern areas of Durham Region where freezing roads and snow may be experienced sooner than in the lakeshore communities.

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