

January 2022

Hello Rutland,

Welcome to winter! The increasing need for snow removal prompts the topic for this newsletter. I will begin by admitting it; most of my past experiences with snow have been only in “playing” in it. However, recently I learned how to operate and maneuver a big snow blower. I soon realized that I should have started with learning how and why NOT to blow snow onto the roadway and around the driveway culvert. While the practice of putting snow back onto the roadway is obviously hazardous to motorists, I learned that it is also illegal per \*Wisconsin statute. Drainage during the spring thaw (I hope you aren’t ready for that quite yet) can also be impeded by built up snow and ice around culverts.

We are very fortunate in Rutland though... Our road patrolmen, Nels Wethal and Dennis Wendt, are highly skilled and knowledgeable about keeping our 47 miles of Rutland roads efficiently maintained and drivable despite what Mother Nature dishes out. Take New Year’s Eve for example, our dedicated road patrolmen were out when the sudden freezing rain began in the late afternoon and worked straight through the second blast of snow cover. Thank you Nels and Dennis for being exceedingly dedicated to our Town of Rutland!

I believe you will find the following information interesting and helpful. \*When an asphalt road fails, inadequate drainage is often the cause. Inadequate drainage combined with traffic action can cause potholes, cracks and pavement failure. One dollar spent on drainage will save two dollars on maintenance. So, when you see Nels and Dennis working around culverts in the spring, you will know why and how important it is to keep culverts free from blockage. Rutland residents can be part of the solution by not piling snow back into the roadway and into culvert areas.

I hope we all can embrace our Wisconsin weather by enjoying the winter beauty and also the recreational opportunities of the season. Please consider sending any “winter wonderland” pictures of Rutland to us for placement on our website picture gallery.

Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Deana M. Zentner  
Rutland Chairperson

\*Transportation Information Center, UW Madison, Department of Engineering. Bulletin No. 4

\*Wis. Stat. 346.94(5) prohibits anyone from placing or causing to be placed upon a highway any foreign substance which is or may be injurious to any vehicle. This prohibits anyone from plowing, shoveling, or blowing snow onto a road. (Wisconsin Towns Association January 2022 publication)

