

**Message from Town of Dansville Highway Superintendent**  
**Ray Acomb**

**Snow Removal**

The law regarding the desposition of snow in highways, shoulders or ditches is as follows:

“Section 1219” of the Vehicle and Traffic Law and Section 214 of the Highway Law and New York State specifically prohibit the placing or leaving of snow, ice or other substances upon any highway ( which includes pavement, shoulders and ditches ).

As a result, should these practices occur, Police Agencies will be notified of such occurrences with the intent that summonses will be issued to those responsible.

Any vehicles left on the side of the road will be towed at the owners expense because they hamper snow removal.

Pushing snow across highways is illegal and violators will be prosecuted.

**Mailboxes**

During and after significant snow storms, Highway Agencies, in the course of plowing, receive phone calls regarding damage to mailboxes, either from snow plows directly or from the force of snow being thrown by the plows. If such damage is indeed caused by snow removal, it is not done intentionally, but is the unfortunate consequence of snow removal.

As far as the particular agencies replacing damaged mailboxes, it must be pointed out that there is no statutory or legal authority which grants a property owner or resident along a public highway any right to place a mailbox in the highway right-of-way.

That the mailbox is on town, county or state right of way is a courtesy to the postal service.

Thus, when the necessity of keeping the highway open conflicts with the individual's reception of the mail, the latter must stand aside. The owner might even be compelled to remove the box under Highway Law #319.

From past experience, we have found that plastic mailboxes do not withstand the abuse of snow from plows hitting them and are not recommended.