

## The Blizzard of 1958

If you thought this year was a bad year for snow, the blizzard of February, 1958 was terrible. One storm had already dumped enough to pile up along the roads and fill the ditches. Then, the second storm hit the following weekend, February 15th, to add another 20 inches of snow. To add to all of this, the wind began to blow.

During that time, Duanesburg Central was closed for over a week of school. The "new" elementary school had a large snow plow at work in the driveway. At one point it got stuck, which added another day off for the students.

Because of the length of the storm with the drifting snow, many roads remained closed for days. Even with the county and town plows working constantly, the roads closed almost immediately after a plow passed. It was impossible to get from one place to another. People began to run out of food and heating oil.

There were several stories of how people were able to meet their needs. In one instance, a mother returning home from the hospital after having had a baby was escorted home by a town plow. In another instance, Wendell Salisbury, a local fuel delivery man, tried to follow a Schenectady County plow down Weaver Road and Schoharie Turnpike to get fuel to those residents. Since he was able to get down these roads, at least four residents of the road took it as a sign they could get to Duanesburg to buy food. They had an uneventful trip getting to Duanesburg but a much more difficult time returning home. A resident on Herrick Road had run out of heating fuel and his oil delivery arrived by helicopter.

In time the winds died down and the snow plow drivers were able to keep the roads open to traffic. The county had to use plows called Sno-gos, which blew the snow. As one resident remarked about the storm, "There have been greater snow-falls since 1958, but there has not been, in my memory, a combination of depth of snow, wind, cold and duration comparable to 1958."