

Good Sam Volunteers Prevent 700# of Wet Road Salt From Reaching Hawkes Lake

Once salt finds its way into our waterways and aquifers there is no way to remove it, so on Sunday, Dec. 21 when my husband, Randy, and I drove into the lower parking lot and saw two large areas thick with road salt, we knew it should be quickly removed or the rain/snow mix would carry it into Hawkes Lake.

Joined by Jim VerBout, Caroline Harmening, Jacob Hutson, and Sam Shin, from the Youth Ministry, our hearty crew removed fourteen bags of heavy, frozen and wet salt from the surface of the lot. The next day they were picked up by Good Samaritan's snow removal service and will be reused. (Our plowing company adheres to snow and ice control best practices and some of the management have their voluntary environmental certification level I in snow and ice control best practices. If one of their trucks spills more salt than required, they are to shovel it up and re-use it).

One teaspoon of road salt will permanently pollute 5 gallons of water according to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. If a lake with all its living organisms could smile, I am sure that Hawkes Lake is ecstatic to have avoided an enormous gulp of salty water.

Salt and salt products play a valuable role in our winter safety, but how much is enough and what kind of salt product is effective? At church there is concern for ice on the sidewalks and steps leading into the building. You will find containers of ice melt outside each door. It should be applied sparingly to icy surfaces.

Sue Nissen

