



# NORTH GREENBUSH NOTES

Jim Greenfield Town Historian 283-6384

## The 1987 October Snow Storm

For those who lived in the capital district in 1987, the word "October Storm" brings back many memories.

Sunday, October 5 was supposed to be a typical fall day when people could be outside enjoying nice weather and perhaps raking leaves. However, North Greenbush residents woke up to a blizzard which broke records for the earliest snowfall in October, most snow for the month. North Greenbush measured over eight inches.

The main problem was that leaves were still on the trees and the wet, heavy snow brought down power lines and tree branches which clogged roads. Most state, county and town roads were impassable by late afternoon. The radio announced that Rensselaer County was "closed" because of the weather. Personally, I was able to return from central New York and "plow" halfway into my driveway.

By Monday, things started to improve. It was sunny and in the 60's. Although power was out, people with grills

starting cooking meat from their freezers so as not to lose their food.

True Value got a shipment of generators and chainsaws but they sold out within a day. The Defreestville Fire Department sign said "31 hours, 80 alarms and still counting".

Clean up started immediately. Town plows were busy clearing the roads. All other available trucks were used to pick up storm debris and Highway Superintendent Frank Guliano had to scour the area for additional trucks to help with the backlog. I remember seeing logging trucks on my street cleaning up branches I'd piled up at the edge of the road. Most power was restored by the end of the week.

An unintended consequence of the storm was seen in the results of the election one month later. Supervisor Rocco Fragomeni lost his reelection bid to Dan Borden by 11 votes. He attributed the loss in part to the slow removal of brush left from the October storm.