Coram, NY – Suffolk County’s most famous weatherman did not disappoint. This morning at 7:25 a.m., before a crowd of nearly 350 spectators, Holtsville Hal awoke from his slumber and did not see his shadow, predicting an early spring for the Town of Brookhaven.

According to tradition, if a groundhog sees its shadow after emerging from his burrow on Groundhog Day, there will be six more weeks of winter weather; if not, spring should arrive early.

“Thankfully, after the past two winters, during which we saw record-breaking amounts of snow fall in Brookhaven, Hal has given us a sunny outlook for the remainder of the season,” said Daniel P. Losquadro, Superintendent of Highways. “With the exception of the approximately two feet of snow that fell in less than 24 hours last month, we have actually enjoyed a relatively mild winter thus far. If Hal’s prediction is accurate, hopefully we have seen the last of the snow this year.”

“I want to thank everyone who took the time to come out early this morning, including Councilwoman Valerie Cartright and Councilman Neil Foley, to take part in this fun, annual tradition,” Losquadro continued.

Holtsville Hal is just one of the more than 100 animals who call the Brookhaven Wildlife and Ecology Center Animal Preserve home. The center, which is open all year-round, includes a wildlife preserve, greenhouses, gardens, and jogging and exercise trails. For more information, visit www.brookhaven.org or call 631-758-9664.