Farmingville, NY - On what was the 125th anniversary of the original "Ground Hog Day," Brookhaven Town's own prognosticating ground hog "Holtsville Hal" came out of his burrow this morning at the Holtsville Ecology Center and saw his shadow. According to legend, this means that we can expect six more weeks of winter. Highway Superintendent John Rouse read the declaration in front of a crowd that was gathered inside the Ecology Center due to the ice storm that hit the area this morning.

"Hal and I are in disagreement on this one," said Superintendent John Rouse. "By March 1st, we'll be planting our gardens and the winter will be past us. I think everyone has had enough of the snow."

"A prediction of six more weeks of winter is not what we were looking forward to from 'Holtsville Hal,'" said Supervisor Mark Lesko. "Our hope is that we can get through it without any more major snow storms."

Pictured left to right are Superintendent John Rouse, ground hog handler Greg Drossell, a volunteer at the Holtsville Ecology Center and Master of Ceremonies Wayne Covington from the Holtsville Civic.