

For Immediate Release

Cambridge Public Works Commended for 'Innovative Service Delivery Practices'

Cambridge, Ontario. February 24, 2010...Cambridge Transportation and Public Works crews were in the spotlight recently when they took top honours for 'Innovative Service Delivery Practices' at the Better Practices Competition.

Championed by the Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA), the Ontario Roads Coalition (ORC) holds a competition each year to recognize and promote best practices in municipal transportation. The competition is divided into three categories: Innovative Service Delivery, Innovative Management Practices and Equipment Innovation.

Alex Piggott, Manager of Operations - Support, entered the City's enhanced pothole patching program initiated in 2008 for consideration. The hot mix asphalt program came about when crews were experiencing issues with the traditional cold mix approach to road repair.

"The old system wasn't giving us the results we needed. Crews reported that they patched high traffic roads with cold mix, only to return and patch the same pothole again, in some instances within a very short timeframe," says Piggott.

A number of cold mix options were explored by staff and results were not satisfactory. To solve the very common problem with cold mix not staying in place, the Public Works team switched to using hot mix asphalt for patching potholes year round. It not only worked well, but it saved money and had a positive impact on the environment.



"We reduced overall costs including material costs by reclaimed asphalt that was a by-product of performing road maintenance," he says. "This environmentally conscious component is a guiding philosophy for our municipality."

The cost benefit analysis on the new approach showed that while the hot mix might cost a little bit more to purchase, there were significant savings in equipment and labour in addition to the recycling benefits.

(Photo - Alex Piggott (left) and Lead Hand Rick Ritter accept the award at a ceremony in Toronto.)

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About Cambridge

The City of Cambridge is one of the fastest growing areas in the country. It is strategically located astride highway 401 in Southwestern Ontario, part of Canada's Technology Triangle. In 2009, the population reached over 126,000 people. With a multicultural mix and a strong foundation of support services, Cambridge has a diverse economic base with leading industries in advanced manufacturing, automotive, high technology, pharmaceutical, business and financial services and hospitality/retail. The Corporation of the City of Cambridge is an employer with a progressive work environment that offers the opportunity to provide service to the community through creativity and innovation, and with opportunities for career growth and advancement.

About the Corporation of the City of Cambridge

The Corporation of the City of Cambridge is a dynamic organization filled with dedicated people who deliver vital municipal services to you. Services that residents, businesses, visitors and people like your family and friends enjoy. We're a comprehensive team of professionals: engineers, financial specialists, skilled trades, administrative experts, customer service, communications - and the list goes on.

We're proud to be part of the systems that bring you the array of services that citizens in Cambridge need:

- Parks and recreation
- Activities and programs like pools, seniors' centres, community centres, arenas and other facilities
- Sports programs and all the needs related to playing fields, like indoor soccer, baseball diamonds and other amenities
- Events
- Farmers' Market
- Cemetery services
- Road programs
- Leaf pick up services
- Winter maintenance services
- Water and sewer services
- Fire, emergency and related services
- By-laws and enforcement
- Tax administration
- Licensing for businesses, lotteries, marriage, dogs, and other services like applications for birth, death and marriage certificates, notarizing or commissioning of documents
- Archival research
- Economic Development and business support programs
- Tourism support to share opportunities to showcase the festivals and help bring visitors in to support retail and other elements of the economy
- Administration of committees, steering groups and advisory groups
- Planning and development services
- Traffic and parking services
- Ensuring the best security, police, transit, garbage, water processing service, utilities, animal control are in place.
- Libraries and galleries
- Centre for the arts
- Accessibility matters
- Council services including things like supporting the up coming needs of our residents for the Oct 2010 municipal elections

It's a multitude of services and we continue to refine and review them to ensure we deliver the services in the most effective, efficient, and proactive ways.

In 2010 we are undergoing a corporate service review. This is a further check and balance system to seeking improvements - like better technologies to simplify processes or realigning how we operate. The comprehensive review is happening this year with a view to providing a report to Council for consideration. The report will be available by year end and will be addressed by the newly elected council for the 2011 budget.

For more information on the area or the corporation visit www.cambridge.ca

The City of Cambridge press room is located at

http://www.cambridge.ca/the_office_of_the_chief_administrative_officer/corporate_communications_marketing

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