



Town of Hearst Wins Prestigious Municipal Award For Equipment Innovation

Ontario Good Roads Association awards Hearst with a John Niedra Award.

Oakville, ON, March 9, 2021 – Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) congratulates the Town of Hearst for winning a John Niedra Better Practices Award.

The John Niedra Better Practices Competition is a yearly competition hosted by OGRA. The awards showcase the ingenuity of municipal employees and recognize innovations, and achievements that improve the efficiency of municipal transportation and public works services, and operations.

“OGRA is proud to award the Equipment Innovation/Made In-House Solution John Niedra Award to the Town of Hearst. The Town created a bolt-on attachment without additional hydraulics or electronics for their motor grader to improve gravel shoulder drop-off repairs,” said Dr. James Smith, Manager of Technical Programs and Research, OGRA.

“Narrow shoulder repairs are inefficient and a safety concern for operators, traffic control persons and motorists alike. The device, along with minor modifications to a sanding truck, has streamlined repairs and vastly improved work safety. We are thrilled to receive the John Niedra Better Practice Award for In-House Solution and are proud to share this simple bolt-on solution with other municipalities.” said Luc Léonard, Director of Public Works and Engineering Services, Town of Hearst.

OGRA received six submissions in total for the John Niedra Better Practices Competition, including two for each category from municipalities around Ontario. The award was presented during OGRA’s annual conference held February 22-25, 2021. You can find out more about OGRA’s awards by visiting www.ogra.org.

About Ontario Good Roads Association

The Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) was founded in 1894. Based out of Oakville, Ontario, OGRA is governed by 15 board members with 17 staff supporting its membership. The mandate of the Ontario Good Roads Association is to advance the infrastructure and transportation interests of its members through training, advocacy and services. OGRA currently has more than 650 members, which includes corporations, municipalities, and First Nations. For more information, visit www.ogra.org

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