

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - FEBRUARY 28, 2012**

**ONTARIO PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION – ANNUAL AWARDS  
ENGINEERING SERVICES**

**Recommendation**

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends that this report and the accompanying presentation be received.

**Contribution to Sustainability**

Not applicable.

**Economic Impact**

There is no economic impact as a result of this report.

**Communications Plan**

Not applicable.

**Purpose**

To formally acknowledge the Ontario Public Works Association (OPWA) annual awards presented to the City of Vaughan on January 26, 2012, at the OPWA Annual Conference and Award Luncheon:

1. 2011 Public Works Project of the Year Award (Environmental Category – Projects Less than \$2 Million) for Clarence Street Slope Stabilization and Sidewalk Replacement.
2. 2011 Information Technology Award for the Improvements to the Utility Management System.

**Background - Analysis and Options**

The Ontario Public Works Association is a non-profit organization of public works practitioners, that is a chapter of the Canadian Public Works Association (CPWA) and the American Public Works Association (APWA). It is the third largest chapter within APWA. OPWA's membership consists of approximately 520 public works practitioners employed by the provincial government, municipalities, consulting engineers and suppliers. The OPWA promotes professional excellence and public awareness through education, advocacy and the exchange of knowledge regarding public works in Ontario.

The OPWA has established an annual awards program to recognize outstanding individuals, groups and organizations, representing the best in the public works profession. On January 26, 2012, OPWA held its Annual Conference and Award Luncheon where 12 awards were handed out to various individuals and organizations. The City of Vaughan – Engineering Services Department received two awards in the following categories:

- 2011 Public Works Project of the Year Award (Environmental Category – Projects Less than \$2 Million) for Clarence Street Slope Stabilization and Sidewalk Replacement.

- 2011 Information Technology Award for the Improvements to the Utility Management System in the City of Vaughan.

2011 Public Works Project of the Year Award  
(Environmental Category – Projects Less than \$2 Million)

The OPWA Public Works Project of the Year Awards were established to promote excellence in the management and administration of public works projects by recognizing the alliance between the managing agency, the consultant/architect/engineer, and the contractor who, working together, complete public works projects. The City of Vaughan project, Clarence Street Slope Stabilization and Sidewalk Replacement was recognized as the 2011 Public Works Project of the Year Award (Environmental Category – Projects Less than \$2 Million).

This project commenced following the failure of the existing gabion retaining wall structure along Clarence Street (approximately 400m south of Wycliffe Ave). The failure occurred as a result of the meandering creek undermining the retaining wall structure, and also resulted in the collapse of the adjacent sidewalk. In order to carry out a repair that would not only merely reinstate the retaining wall and the sidewalk, Engineering Services staff undertook the challenge to relocate the channel away from the existing roadway embankment and to recreate a channel/floodplain condition. This would allow the channel to be self sustaining and provide long term protection for both the roadway and sidewalk.

A process was developed whereby all stakeholders (including but not limited to the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Toronto Region Conservation Authority) were engaged and worked collaboratively with the project team. The end result was that the project was delivered on time, with an accelerated construction schedule, while employing corporate strategic initiatives to meet stakeholder expectations. The proper planning of this project allowed Engineering Services to produce a product that is financially and environmentally sustainable for the City, reducing the impact to local area residents while enhancing and ensuring community safety, health and wellness.

The following Engineering Services Staff participated on the project team:

- John Zanchettin, Senior Engineering Assistant
- Gino Martino, Engineering Technologist – Capital

The project team comprised of City staff, URS Canada Inc. as the consulting engineering firm, and Dynex Construction as the general contractor.

2011 Information Technology Award

The OPWA Information Technology Award recognizes an individual, team or organization of the development, management and implementation of a creative idea, device, process or system that enhances the goals of Public Works in serving the public and protecting the environment. The City's Utility Management System was recognized for this award.

With a single staff person allocated to oversee approximately 4,000 permit applications submitted annually in the City of Vaughan, there was a need to review existing utility co-ordination business processes. As increasing the staff complement was not an alternative, a technology oriented solution was considered that would move away from the paper based format currently being used. Business processes were revised and an electronic Utility Management System (UMS) was developed in-house that utilized existing software to receive, process and retrieve permits. Engineering Services' staff contributions on this initiative were previously recognized in receiving the 2010 Ontario Good Roads Association – John Niedra Award for Innovative Management Practices.

Given the success of the new system and in the continuous improvement environment fostered by the City, further technological enhancements have been incorporated into the Utility Management System. These enhancements leverage the GIS data managed by the City, for the ongoing maintenance and inspection of the approved permit. This application has increased productivity while decreasing processing time. It has also helped reduce operating expenses for the utility companies and improved the level of service to the residents of Vaughan.

The following Engineering Services Staff made up the project team for the development of the UMS:

- Majid Chaoudhry, Infrastructure Coordinator
- Jimmy Yovanovski, GIS Technician/Information Processor
- Jennifer Simpson, Utility Coordinator

### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan**

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, the OPWA awards received by the City demonstrates excellence in service delivery; priorities previously set by Council.

### **Regional Implications**

Not Applicable.

### **Conclusion**

Staff recommend that this report and the accompanying presentation be received.

### **Attachments**

None.

### **Report prepared by:**

Vince Musacchio, P. Eng., PMP, Manager of Capital Planning and Infrastructure, ext. 8311  
Jack Graziosi, P. Eng., Director of Engineering Services, ext. 8201

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Jankowski, P. Eng.  
Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works

Jack Graziosi, P. Eng.  
Director of Engineering Services

VM:mc