



MEDIA RELEASE

Final Phases of Watermain Improvement in Summit Avenue Area Saves Tax Dollars, Reduces Inconvenience

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Welland – City of Welland residents recently experienced new watermain installation without the inconvenience of having driveways and sidewalks ripped up and lawns and boulevards turned upside down.

An area resident driving by as City staff and Ward 2 Councillor Barry Sharpe were walking up Barron Street to take a look at the watermain replacement progress, stopped to say how great it was that there was almost no disruption to properties in the area during the project. In fact, the only surface signs that any work had been done on Barron Street was small patches of new sod in a few areas along the road allowance where the directional boring equipment entered the ground.



Ward 2 Councillor Barry Sharpe

“I’m very impressed with the progress made by the contractor. I’m equally impressed with the extensive information regarding the project that was provided by City staff, including details on the significant savings to taxpayers by utilizing this innovative approach,” said Councillor Sharpe.

Councillor Sharpe wasn’t the only one giving kudos to City staff. One resident wrote to Mayor Goulbourne telling him, “I was really impressed with Mr. Keca’s dedication and professionalism towards his job! More importantly Mr. Keca always listened to our concerns. He is an asset to the City,” noted Mr. Di Tomaso in his letter. Mr. Keca was the City’s Construction Inspector for the duration of the project.

The Summit Avenue area watermain improvement initiative was completed in October by Avertex Utility Solutions Inc. of Orangeville, whose bid came in \$62,302 under the City’s allotted budget for the project and over \$140,000 and \$190,000 lower than the two other bids received. For this project Avertex used an innovative method of directional boring instead of the traditional open cutting method, which was the method proposed by the other two contractors. “By using directional boring, mature trees were preserved and sidewalks, roadways, and landscaping were pretty much left intact,” said David Tsang, Technical Services Supervisor in the City’s engineering department. “The cost savings went beyond the watermain replacement work done by the contractor,” continued Tsang. “Reduced landscaping costs and costs for refurbishing roadways, driveways, and sidewalks were realized with this less invasive process. We will certainly consider this type of construction for use in future projects.”

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