Cities of Markham and Richmond Hill Win Prestigious Municipal Infrastructure Award

Ontario Good Roads Association awards Visual Defence along with Markham and Richmond Hill with a John Niedra Award.

Oakville, ON, March 11, 2021 – Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) congratulates Visual Defence, the City of Markham and the City of Richmond Hill 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 Innovative Management Practices to the City of Markham and City Richmond Hill for their joint research and development project with Visual Defence for automatic pothole detection," said Dr. James Smith, Manager of Technical Programs and Research, OGRA.

"The City of Markham is honoured to be recognized by the Ontario Good Roads Association for our innovative data-focused approach to ensuring our road infrastructure is monitored and maintained," said Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti. "We have worked alongside Visual Defense to implement their Rover AI technology to quickly and thoroughly identify deficiencies and execute timely improvements. The City of Markham is committed to driving innovative change and using data to improve operations and services."

"Richmond Hill is committed to keeping our roads safe and to finding more efficient and effective ways to serve our residents every day. We were the first municipality to embrace this artificial intelligence solution, which continues to benefit our community, and we are extremely proud to be recognized by the Ontario Good Roads Association for our efforts. We are also pleased to have another opportunity to showcase our partnership with Visual Defence, one of Richmond Hill's innovative businesses." said Joe DiPaola, Acting Mayor, City of Richmond Hill.

"I would like to congratulate both cities for winning an award from the Ontario Good Roads Association." said Roy Tal, Chief Technology Officer of Visual Defence. "Both cities have made substantial contributions to the development of the ROVER AI technology, and continuously advocate the use of innovative technologies for better infrastructure management."

The award was announced virtually during OGRA's annual conference February 22-25, 2021. OGRA holds a yearly competition for municipalities to submit their innovative projects. For more information on OGRA's awards, visit 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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