



ROADS, PARKS AND FLEET DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

TO: MAYOR J. LEHMAN, AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

**FROM: D. FRIARY
DIRECTOR OF ROADS, PARKS AND FLEET**

**NOTED: A. BOURRIE, RPP
GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT (ACTING)**

M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RE: SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE SNOWFIGHTING AWARD

DATE: APRIL 29, 2019

The purpose of this Memorandum is to inform members of Council that the City of Barrie has been recognized with a Safe and Sustainable Snowfighting award for best practices in protecting public safety and the environment during winter road maintenance.

The City received the award from the Salt Institute, a non-profit trade association that promotes the benefits of salt to ensure winter road safety. The Safe and Sustainable Snowfighting Award represents the highest acclaim for public safety and protection of the environment. Recipients must meet or exceed nearly 70 different criteria covering storage, equipment, safety, environmental protection, and service. Barrie is one of only seven local and state agencies in the U.S. and Canada receiving this recognition for 2018.

The City's Roads, Parks, and Fleet Department strives for continuous improvement in providing winter maintenance for the safety of the travelling public while reducing risk to the environment. The City's Salt Optimization Strategy, Salt Management Plan and Winter Operations plan provide the policy and framework for initiatives to reduce the use of salt to protect the environment while providing safe roads and sidewalks for the public. A highlight of some of the initiatives are listed below:

- Implementation of night shift for winter maintenance on residential streets;
- Pilot of various types on de-icing agents to determine best performance;
- Review and refinement of salt application rates for varying conditions;
- Annual review, rationalization and reduction of priority streets receiving salt in salt vulnerable areas to protect sources of raw drinking water;
- Installation of Road Weather Information Systems to provide accurate forecasting of weather and road conditions;
- Increased use of direct liquid applications (salt brine) to reduce salt use;
- Training and reinforcement of best management practices;
- Monitoring of chloride levels in watersheds;
- Annual calibration of electronic spreader controls; and,
- Infrastructure design guidance to reduce winter maintenance and salt use.

Additional information can be found on the City's website at:

<https://www.barrie.ca/Living/Getting%20Around/Roads-Sidewalks-Maintenance/Pages/Winter-Control.aspx>

