



Celebrating Municipal Excellence
2025 Nomination Form
Deadline: 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Nominee Information	
Name of municipality leading project:	Town of Wakaw
Additional municipalities included in nomination: <small>(please include the names of all partner municipalities)</small>	
Contact Name:	Dwane Burke
Contact role in project:	Local business and contractor liaison
Telephone #:	306-233-4284
E-mail Address:	dwaneburke@wakaw.ca
Name of Nominated Practice or Project:	Wakaw Business District Revitalization Project
Date of Project or Practice Initiation:	24-Sept-2024
Date of Project or Practice Completion: <small>(If ongoing, please indicate)</small>	26-Jul-2025
	Ongoing: <input type="checkbox"/>

Nominator Contact Information (if different than above)	
Name:	
Organization:	
Position:	
Mailing Address:	
Telephone #:	
E-mail Address:	

Please provide as much detail as possible. Winning practices are posted in the Best Practices Library as a reference or resource for others. Nominations that clearly outline the practice and all steps involved have a higher chance of being selected for an award.

The Practice

1. What issue inspired the nominated project or practice?

The Wakaw Business District is the community's downtown location incorporating two blocks at the East end of 1st Street South. The below ground infrastructure (sewer, water lines) were at the end of their 60 year life span, and the above ground infrastructure (road and sidewalks) was in very poor condition. This area, commonly known as "downtown", hosts a large number of Wakaw's businesses. Acting as the central location for business activity in the community, businesses, residents, neighbours and visitors had to conduct their activities in what was less than a welcoming area. Along with making the decision to address infrastructure responsibilities, Wakaw Town Council identified as part of its strategic plan the need to support local businesses by the revitalization of the area. Specifically, Council's economic and community development goals would be directly served by completing the revitalization project.

2. What has this project or practice done to address the issue?

The project involved a full replacement of water and sewer lines, the roadway, sidewalks, and light posts. This 4.1 million dollar project has resulted in the severely outdated road and sidewalks being replaced by fresh new concrete and pavement, along with sharp looking light posts.

The Process

This section should be the longest and most detailed part of your nomination. Include enough information, such as steps, resources accessed, and considerations to support a municipality interested in applying to a similar project or practice.

3. Indicate who had a direct role in this project or practice:

- Municipal Council
- Municipal Administration
- Other

Engineer consulting firm and contractors

4. What was the role of the municipal council and/or municipal staff in this project or practice?

Council approved and funded the project, hosted public gatherings to communicate the project with business owners and residents, and worked with the engineering firm to determine the project's details. Staff were responsible for the administration of the project, as well as working with the consulting firm and contractors before, during and after the project. Staff also liaised with business owners to support them through the project by answering questions, sharing information through updates, and problem-solve issues that arose during the project.

5. Were other groups were involved in developing this project or practice? If so, who were they and what role did they play?

Business/property owners were informed of the project early and often. This work included giving business/property owners the information needed and option to complete concrete work on their property. Knowing of this option in advance of the work being completed allowed these individuals to plan and budget accordingly.

6. What resources were involved?

1 million dollars, along with many hours of work from public works, office, and administrative staff.

7. How was the project or practice developed?

2023

1) October, the concept was shared with the local business community.

2024

1) Council explored options for the area of focus.

2) Council solidified the size and scope of the project.

3) Council approved the finances, following the necessary work of the CAO.

4) Engineer consulting firm contracted.

5) Public information night.

6) Phase 1 construction (below ground infrastructure) started September 2024.

7) Phase 1 construction completed November 2024.

8) Roadway prepped for winter.

2025

1) Phase 2 construction started May 5th.

2) Phase 2 construction completed July 28th.

3) Grand re-opening of 1st Street South August 16th.

The Results

8. What effect did this project or practice have on the community?

First, the project addressed both below ground and above ground infrastructure needs. The risk of water or sewer line problems has been drastically mitigated. The road reconstruction addressed roadway needs by removing significant swales, decreasing wear on vehicles. More importantly, the sidewalks are now much safer with the cracked and potholed formations being eliminated. Second, the sidewalks are now accessible to those with physical disabilities, and parents who use strollers and wagons with their young children. Third, the new canvas welcomes provides neighbours and visitors an aesthetically pleasing space that is much more comfortable to conduct business with Wakaw's businesses. Fourth, the revitalized project enhanced the sense of pride of community members.

9. Was a formal evaluation done after the project or practice was completed? Please explain.

No formal evaluation.

10. Describe any challenges faced.

Short timeline from concept to implementation. Funding approval had a short time frame, preventing infrastructure and development grants from being applied for. The entire project is funded by the Town of Wakaw.

Lessons Learned

11. What lessons were learned and what would you recommend doing differently?

Though staff were the liaison between businesses and the contracted engineering firm and contractors, and took on as much of the role to inform business as well as the public, it was learned that there is a point the municipality cannot be the liaison. It's at these specific times when the engineer consultant or the contractors need to take specific action and work directly with the businesses. We communicated this with the engineering firm for further supporting their work with future municipalities.

All nominations will be listed on the Saskatchewan Municipal Awards website as a resource for other municipalities. Be sure to include specific information.

Please submit your completed nomination package to:

E-mail: awards@municipalawards.ca (preferred)

Fax: Attn: Saskatchewan Municipal Awards Program

Mail: Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, Unit 305 – 4741 Parliament Avenue, Regina, SK S4W 0T9

Questions?

Contact Stephanie Bourassa at 306-525-4318.

***Thank you for submitting a nomination for the
19th annual Saskatchewan Municipal Awards.***





