



Lining up the pavers to strike off joint, on 401 near Odessa.

CRUICKSHANK WINS MTO PAVER OF THE YEAR AWARD

In February, we were honoured to be named the MTO's 2014 Paver of the Year for our work on a fifteen-kilometre stretch of Highway 401 near Napanee. Yet as proud as we are of this accolade, we won't be resting on our laurels. Every one of our customers should expect the same high level of quality achieved on this project — and our goal is to meet those expectations.

How will we do that? By following a path similar to the one that led us to success on this project.

That path began in August 2013, when the job closed, and a month later our Kingston crushing crews started producing the aggregates. Next, our quarry operators loaded and our truck drivers began hauling material to the portable asphalt plant, which was near the project site, and then the Kingston and Morrisburg paving crews, as well as a milling crew, got to work. The quality control team was there from the beginning to the end.

"One of the biggest keys to the success of the project boils down to how all of these people were focussed on quality right from the get-go," says Dan Byvelds, our VP of Construction Operations. "If you talk about quality long enough — as each of these teams did on this and past jobs — you're going to get results for our customers like this."

The tone for that quality is set right at the beginning by our mix designers, who take the time they need to develop a mix that meets every one of our customer's technical requirements, gives the placing crew the best opportunity to achieve strict quality parameters, and ensures we can maintain productivity.

From there, the baton is handed off to the milling and placing crews, who know attention to detail is critical. The smoother the milled surface, the better the chance at achieving consistent compaction and surface smoothness. Similarly, the more care taken in hitting visual parameters as well

as concentrating on ride and finishing, the better the chance at having a tight mat and a smooth ride.

"Only when all of these bases are full can we hit the grand slam for our customers, as the team did on this project," says Dave Read, our COO.

Outside of hitting the technical grand slam, another key to the success of this project — like any other — was establishing a solid relationship with the owner and the contract administrator. "That was crucial," says Byvelds. "We had a very good working relationship with them every step of the way during the project, and that always helps a project flow as smoothly as this one."

Work wrapped up in July 2014, and right away it was obvious that that working relationship, along with the attention to detail and quality shown by our crews, had led to one of the smoothest sections of Highway 401 in the province, one of the key factors the MTO took into consideration when naming us Paver of the Year. The other factors included night paving, completion, workmanship and mix quality.

Although we're always committed to achieving results like this, winning this award sets the bar just a little bit higher for what our customers should expect from us. As Dave Read said after the awards ceremony, "We have to make this outcome a standard for everything we do. Attaining top quality results for our customers and the acknowledgement that goes with it only comes if you strive and drive to achieve it. Let's do it again." ■