



Media Release – For Immediate Release Thursday, August 29, 2019

County Announces Landscaping Program Winners

Valard Foundations is the Best Landscaped Lot Award winner in the County of Grande Prairie's third annual Landscaping Recognition Program.

The organization's landscaping makes use of native vegetation, demonstrates effective year-round landscaping and features plenty of trees, shrubs and perennials to enhance the look of their business, located in Clairmont.

Ten commercial and industrial businesses throughout the County were nominated for awards. The judging committee considered a number of factors, including each nominee's use of landscaping design principles from the County's Land Use Bylaw.

"Valard Foundations is very proud to have been included in the commercial properties chosen for this award – we shoot for high standards in everything we do, including the exterior appearance of our property," said Corporate Communications Manager Carrie Willemsen. "Valard is a long-term member of the business community – we started our company in Grande Prairie 40 years ago. That means we consider our presence here to be important and valuable – the recognition by the county is something we take particular pride in."

"The County of Grande Prairie encourages the business community to show pride in their properties," said Planning and Development Director Nick Lapp. "The emergence of this recognition program shows that many companies are making a significant effort to have aesthetically pleasing grounds that employees can enjoy and are welcoming to visitors."

The People's Choice Award winner in the program is Horizon North Transportation.

Nominations for both awards opened June 10 and closed August 15. The public selected the People's Choice Award winner by voting on the County's Facebook page.

Award winners receive free advertisement in local media outlets, a feature in the *County Connections* newsletter along with a plaque and banner to display in their businesses. Valard Foundations will receive a barbeque lunch for their staff and are featured on a County banner that will be displayed at events throughout 2019 and 2020.

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