

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - MAY 5, 2008**

### **PROCLAMATION - 2008 NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK**

#### **Recommendation**

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works, recommends that:

1. Council proclaim the week of May 18-24, 2008, as "Public Works Week" in the City of Vaughan; and
2. Council adopt the following resolution:

*WHEREAS Public Works services provided in our community are an integral part of our citizen's everyday lives; and*

*WHEREAS the support of an understanding and informed citizenry is vital to the efficient operation of public works systems and programs such as water distribution, wastewater collection, street maintenance, and solid waste collection; and,*

*WHEREAS the health, safety and comfort of this community greatly depends on these facilities and services; and*

*WHEREAS the quality and effectiveness of these facilities, as well as their planning, design, construction, and maintenance is vitally dependant upon the efforts and skill of Public Works officials and staff; and*

*WHEREAS the efficiency of qualified and dedicated personnel who staff the Public Works Department is influenced by people's attitude and understanding of the importance of the work they perform,*

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council proclaim the week of May 18-24, 2008 as "Public Works Week" in the City of Vaughan, and request that all citizens and elected officials recognize the contributions which Public Works make every day to their health, safety, comfort, and quality of life in the community.*

#### **Economic Impact**

N/A

#### **Communications Plan**

The Public Works Event being held on May 24, 2008 will be advertised in the local papers, the City web site, and on mobile signs throughout the City. In addition, a media release will be issued.

#### **Purpose**

To request that Council proclaim May 14-24, 2008 as "National Public Works Week" in the City of Vaughan, and to present an overview of the City's Public Works Week event to be held at the Joint Operations Centre on Saturday, May 24, 2008.

## **Background - Analysis and Options**

Since 1960, the American Public Works Association has sponsored National Public Works Week. The purpose of National Public Works Week is to celebrate the hard work and dedication of the many thousands of men and women in North America who provide and maintain the infrastructure and services collectively known as public works. For 2008, Public Works Week is the week of May 18-24.

The theme for this year is "The Future Is Now". The theme's dual purpose is both a celebration and a caution, as it reminds us of how far public works has progressed, and yet, how far it has to go in assuring the highest quality infrastructure possible.

The American Public Works Association has stated that, "The future is now, and public works professionals must lead the way in addressing the issues that have been out-of-sight/out-of-mind for too long." Public Works Week is but one means of calling attention to the importance of Public Works in the community, and its role in ensuring these essential services are available for future generations.

Once again, the City's Public Works Department will be participating in the 'York Region Area Municipalities Challenge', where area municipalities challenge each other in Municipal Works equipment operating contests. As part of the event, the Mayors of the area municipalities also compete against each other, driving trucks and/or other equipment through an obstacle course. This event takes place on May 21 at the Town of Richmond Hill's facility on Elgin Mills Road. The City will also hold its annual Public Works barbeque at the JOC for all Public Works, Engineering and Parks and Forestry employees.

On Saturday May 24, 2008, the Public Works Department will host its Public Works Week event at the Joint Operations Centre located at 2800 Rutherford Rd. This event will provide a public forum to educate, and get feedback from, residents about various road maintenance, water distribution, wastewater collection, and "Greening Vaughan" waste management initiatives. It will be held at the north-east employee parking lot (rain or shine) from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and it is intended to enhance the public's understanding of various practices and initiatives undertaken by the Public Works Department.

The event itself will be multi-faceted, and as a result, has the potential to draw a number of people. The event includes:

- A reuse event, whereby residents will be encouraged to donate their gently used items to a charitable organization (Goodwill)
- The Region's Household Hazardous Waste facility will be open to accept materials
- The promotion of Kraft Paper Bags (City of Vaughan Public Works and Region of York)
- The sale of Blue Boxes (City of Vaughan – Public Works)
- The sale of Backyard Composters (City of Vaughan – Public Works)
- The sale of Green Bins and Kitchen Containers (City of Vaughan – Public Works)
- The promotion of "Greening Vaughan", as well as other waste management initiatives (City of Vaughan – Public Works)
- Displays about Water Quality & Roads Maintenance (City of Vaughan – Public Works)
- The Mulch Give-Away (City of Vaughan – Parks & Forestry Department)
- York Region displays pertaining to Waste Management and 'Water for Tomorrow'
- The use of free on-site document shredding services
- Displays and give-aways promoting energy efficiency hosted by PowerStream
- Emergency Preparedness information (City of Vaughan - Vaughan Fire and Rescue)
- Promotion of city wide environmental programs (City of Vaughan - Economic Development)
- Free mulch give-away (City of Vaughan - Parks & Forestry Department)

Each year, the Ontario Public Works Association presents the “Bruce Brunton Award” to recognize municipalities who actively participate in, and engage the public in, Public Works Week and its events. Earlier this year, the City of Vaughan received an Honourable Mention award in the category of municipalities with 150,000+ population for its 2007 Public Works Week programs.

### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020**

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council, and complies with Vaughan Vision 2020’s Objectives, specifically “Lead and Promote Environmental Sustainability”, and, “Value and Encourage a Highly Motivated Workforce”.

### **Conclusion**

National Public Works Week provides a venue by which municipalities across North America can inform, educate, and in some cases, give back to the public, initiatives borne by Public Works departments.

To date, the Public Works Events have been well attended. As such, it is important to build on previous year’s successes, and use this as another opportunity to promote not only the Public Works Week theme, but also promote the City’s Greening Vaughan program as well.

### **Attachments**

N/A

### **Report prepared by:**

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Respectfully submitted,

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Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works

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