

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE JANUARY 20, 2003

THE CITY OF VAUGHAN REDESIGNED WEBSITES

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Economic/Technology Development and Communications recommends:

That this report be received for information purposes only.

Purpose

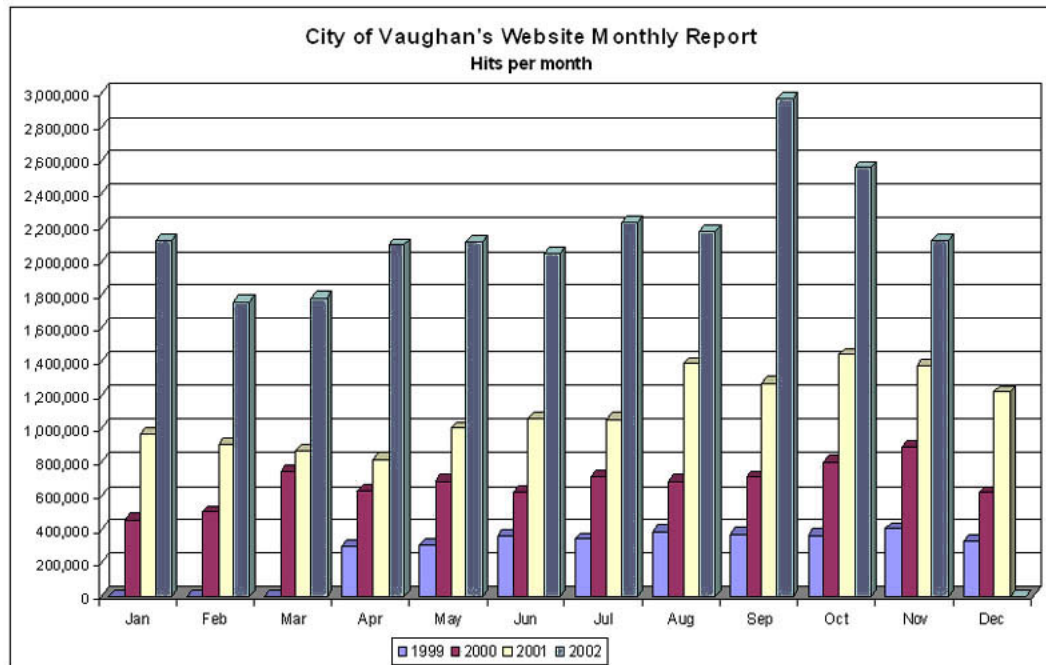
To inform Council:

That the City of Vaughan Internet Websites (The city's main official website, Frosty Facts website, and Vaughan Business Directory website) have been redesigned.

That the official launch and presentation will be conducted at the January 27, 2003 Council Meeting.

Background

The City's websites have grown at a very rapid pace. Since 1998, the number of web files has increased from 200 to more than 9,000. The City's websites consistently receive more than two million hits per month with 25,000 - 30,000 users per month. The City's websites have been recognized as an efficient resource for the delivery of e-government services, for promoting the City, and for communicating with residents and the business community.



The redesigned City websites have been created in-house by the Web and GIS Development Division of Economic and Technology Development, with the assistance of Corporate Communications, ITS and other departments.

Staff have used an innovative approach to the creation of this redesign, and have committed significant resources to this project over the past several months. New features include:

- Fresh “feel and look”
- Smart page layout methodology
- Pilot Content Management application (i.e. allowing Council members and their Administrative Assistants to modify their profiles and messages)
- Improved site navigation
- New content/silos, such as expanded Council Member section, Health, Education and Tourism.

Using Web (Internet/Intranet) and GIS technology, the City of Vaughan will further improve the effective delivery of a wide range of services to residents, businesses and the general public – all with a “click” of a mouse.

The combination of Web and GIS technologies – along with recent trends such as .NET, G.NET, and Web Services – will generate a tremendously powerful synergy to build e-government and Smart Vaughan networks.

In the near future, we will begin to introduce the e-government / Smart Vaughan Networks functionalities as the next developmental stage of this ongoing project. The City’s Web and GIS Development Division will concentrate on:

- E-government, providing better service to residents, businesses, visitors, and City employees
- Increasing efficiency and accuracy
- Reducing operating costs
- Increasing Smart Collaboration among stakeholders
- Development of Online Services
- E-Democracy, with improved public access and utilization.

In the year 2003, we have scheduled several new projects and initiatives based on available funding and resources, including:

- In March, we will be launching a new intranet to meet the Corporation’s internal and inter-departmental requirements. It will be comprised of new applications and content, such as Corporate news releases and announcements, staff directories, document retrieval applications for By-Laws and Extracts, etc.
- Towards the middle of this year we will be launching a new GIS internet website to deliver general geographic related information to our communities
- In the last quarter, we will be implementing a Content Management System for our intranet, allowing non-technical users to participate in the process of content publishing
- Vaughan Business Alliances System
- Vaughan E-Forum (E-Democracy)

Conclusion

The City of Vaughan internet websites have been redesigned and improved and will be available for public use by month's end following the official launch and presentation to be conducted at the January 27, 2003 Council Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Miele
The Commissioner of Economic/Technology Development and Communications