

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - MAY 2, 2005**

### **PROCLAMATION - 2005 NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK AND KICK-OFF EVENT**

#### **Recommendation**

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends that 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, sewers, street, 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 15 – 21, 2005 as "National 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 our health, safety, comfort, and quality of life.

#### **Economic Impact**

There is no economic impact on the 2005 Operating Budget as the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

#### **Purpose**

To request that Council proclaim May 15 – 21 as "National Public Works Week" in the City of Vaughan, and present an overview of the 2005 National Public Works Week Kick-Off event to be held at the Joint Operations Centre on Saturday May 14, 2005.

#### **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 public works professionals. For 2005, Public Works Week is the week of May 15 to May 21. The theme for this year is "Public Works is Everywhere You Look", and is meant to reflect the all-pervasive nature of Public Works in people's everyday lives.

Traditionally, the City's Public Works Department has participated 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 plough trucks and other equipment through an obstacle course.

Although this tradition will continue, staff thought it would be beneficial to provide a more public forum to educate, and get feedback from, residents about roads, water and specifically waste management initiatives. As such, although one day early, on Saturday May 14, 2005, the City of Vaughan will host a Public Works Week Kick-Off event at the Joint Operations Centre located at 2800 Rutherford Rd.

This event will be held at the northeast employee parking lot (rain or shine) from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This event is intended to enhance the public's understanding of various practices and initiatives undertaken by the Public Works Department.

The Public Works Department has invited the participation of other City departments that engage in related activities. As such, the Parks Department will be having their mulch give-away day at this event. In addition, the Region of York has arranged to have a charitable organization (Goodwill) at the City's event to receive "gently used" items.

The event itself will be somewhat 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 (Region of York)
- The opening of the Region's Household Hazardous Waste facility in Vaughan (Region of York). Residents will be directed to the Region's new HHW depot on the west side of the Joint Operations Centre.
- The promotion of Kraft Paper Bags (Region of York)
- The sale of Blue Boxes at \$5.00/each (City of Vaughan – Public Works)
- The sale of Backyard Composters \$17.25/ea (City of Vaughan – Public Works)
- The promotion of new leaf and yard collection requirements and other waste management initiatives (City of Vaughan – Public Works)
- A display about Water Quality (City of Vaughan – Public Works)
- The Mulch Give-away (City of Vaughan – Parks Department)

Although there will be some minor cost to advertise and host this event, they will be shared between Public Works and the Region.

It is intended that this event will grow over time, and will not only encompass Public Works Week, but will 'morph' into a formal Environmental Day as well.

#### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007**

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council.

#### **Conclusion**

The 2005 National Public Works Week Kick-Off event provides a venue by which the City can inform, educate, and in some cases, give back to the public, initiatives borne by public works departments.

#### **Attachments**

None

**Report prepared by:**

Caroline Kirkpatrick, C.E.T., M.C.I.P.  
Manager of Solid Waste Management

Brian T. Anthony, CRS-S, C. Tech

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Robinson, P. Eng.  
Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works

Brian T. Anthony,  
Director of Public Works