

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - APRIL 18, 2006

PROCLAMATION - 2006 NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK AND KICK-OFF EVENT

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works, in consultation with the Commissioner of Community Services, recommends that:

1. Council proclaim the week of May 21-27, 2006, 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, 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 21-27, 2006 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 our health, safety, comfort, and quality of life in the community.

Economic Impact

The cost for Parks and Forestry staff for this event are estimated to be approximately \$1,000, however, the Parks and Forestry Department will make every effort to absorb this cost in their approved 2006 Operating Budget. There is no economic impact on the Public Works portion of the 2006 Operating Budget as the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Purpose

To request that Council proclaim May 21-27, 2006 as "National Public Works Week" in the City of Vaughan, and present an overview of the 2006 National Public Works Week Event to be held at the Joint Operations Centre on Saturday, May 27, 2006.

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 2006, Public Works Week is the week of May 21-27. The

theme for this year is “The Heart of Every Community”, and is meant to reflect the all-pervasive nature of Public Works in the community.

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. The City will also hold its annual Public Works barbeque at the JOC for all Public Works, Engineering and Parks and Forestry employees.

Staff thought it would again be beneficial to provide a more public forum to educate, and get feedback from, residents about roads, water, and specifically the City’s Greening Vaughan waste management initiatives. As such, on Saturday May 27, 2006, the Public Works Department will host a Public Works Week 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.

Last year, the Public Works Department invited the participation of other City departments that engage in related activities. As such, the Parks & Forestry Department joined with Public Works and hosted their “Mulch Give-away Day” at the same time. For 2006, Parks & Forestry has indicated that they are willing to host another mulch give-away day at this event and will make every effort to absorb the estimated overtime costs of \$1,000 in their approved 2006 Operating Budget.

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 (Goodwill)
- The Region’s Household Hazardous Waste facility will be open to accept materials.
- The promotion of Kraft Paper Bags (City of Vaughan and Region of York)
- The sale of Blue Boxes at \$6.00/each (City of Vaughan – Public Works)
- The sale of Backyard Composters \$17.00 (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, pending Council’s approval of the overtime funds)

Although there will be some costs to advertise and host this event, it is anticipated that some of the costs will be shared between Public Works and the Region.

Last year, the Public Works Day was very well attended. As such, it is important to build on last 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.

In addition to the above, staff are also looking at opportunities to promote Public Works Week in other public forums, such as having a display set up in a retail mall. This would provide an opportunity for promoting the Greening Vaughan initiative as well.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council, and complies with Vaughan Vision A-3 "Safeguard Our Environment" and D-4 "Communicate Effectively".

Conclusion

The 2006 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
Director of Public Works

Respectfully submitted,

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

Brian T. Anthony,
Director of Public Works