

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MARCH 26, 2007

PEACE TREE DAY- JUNE 1, 2007

(Referred from the Council meeting of March 19, 2007)

Council, at its meeting of March 19, 2007, adopted the following:

That the following report of Councillor Yeung Racco, dated March 5, 2007, be received and referred to the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

Report of Councillor Yeung Racco, dated March 5, 2007

Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco recommends:

1. That the City of Vaughan endorse June 1, 2007 as Peace Tree Day;
2. That a permit be issued at no charge for the use of space, tables and chairs at the Concord Thornhill Regional Park on June 1, 2007 for the purpose of organizing a ceremonial event to celebrate Peace Tree Day;
3. That a copy of the resolution be issued to the City of Vaughan's Community Relations Committee and all educational institutions throughout the City of Vaughan; and
4. That Corporate Communications staff issue a news release.

Economic Impact

N/A

Communications Plan

Corporate Communications will issue news releases in support of June 1, 2007 being Peace Tree Day in the City of Vaughan.

Purpose

To acknowledge June 1, 2007 as Peace Tree Day and to celebrate the values and principals associated therewith.

Background - Analysis and Options

The Peace Tree is based upon a movie of the same title wherein three little girls of different religious backgrounds seek to enjoy the festive celebrations of the others. Upon facing resistance from their parents, the girls go about convincing their parents that it is all about peace and thus the Peace Tree is born.

The Peace Tree is a symbolic representation of the importance of embracing and celebrating diversity. As the City of Vaughan continues to grow and expand, our community has witnessed increasing diversity and this is a tremendous asset to the City - one that should be celebrated and acknowledged at every opportunity.

The City of Vaughan did endorse Peace Tree Day in 2006, and accordingly organized an official celebration on June 1, 2006.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

A-2: Serving our citizens through the promotion of community, safety, health and wellness

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Regional Implications

N/A

Conclusion

In light of the City of Vaughan's efforts to recognize and promote diversity and to work in partnership with groups to that effect, Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco recommends that the City of Vaughan once again endorse June 1st as Peace Tree Day and plan an appropriate celebration accordingly.

Attachments

N/A

Report prepared by:

Cindy Furfaro-Benning, Council Executive Assistant

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Yeung Racco
Councillor, Ward 4