

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - APRIL 30, 2007

PROCLAMATION - 2007 NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK AND KICK-OFF EVENT

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works, recommends that:

1. Council proclaim the week of May 20-26, 2007, 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 20-26, 2007 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 ther health, safety, comfort, and quality of life in the community.

Economic Impact

N/A

Communications Plan

Advertisements for the event will be placed in the local papers and on the City's website.

Purpose

To request that Council proclaim May 20-26, 2007 as "National Public Works Week" in the City of Vaughan, and present an overview of the City's Public Works Week event to be held at the Joint Operations Centre on Saturday, May 26, 2007.

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 2007, Public Works Week is the week of May 20-26.

The theme for this year is "Moving Life Forward", and is meant to call 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 plough trucks and/or 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.

In order to provide a public forum to educate, and get feedback from, residents about roads, water, and specifically the City's Greening Vaughan waste management initiatives, on Saturday May 26, 2007, 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. and it is intended to enhance the public's understanding of various practices and initiatives undertaken by the Public Works Department. As has been previously reported to Council, the Parks & Forestry Department will also host a "Mulch Give-away Day" at the same time.

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 sale of Green Bins at \$20 each (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 service courtesy of The Shredding Company
- A display and give-aways promoting energy efficiency hosted by PowerStream

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

The Public Works Days have all 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.

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".

Regional Implications

The Region of York is participating in the City's event on Saturday, May 26, 2007.

Conclusion

The 2007 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