

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - JANUARY 21, 2008**

### **PEACE TREE DAY- JUNE 1**

Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco recommends:

1. That the City of Vaughan annually endorse June 1 as Peace Tree Day;
2. That the City of Vaughan hold an official Peace Tree Day event annually on the Friday closest to June 1;
3. That this endorsement be sent to the Office of the Premier and the Office of the Chair of York Region asking both the Province and the Region to endorse and recognize June 1<sup>st</sup> as Peace Tree Day; and,
4. That a permit be issued at no charge for the use of space, tables and chairs and other services-in-kind, which include one staff member from the Recreation & Culture Department and from Corporate Communications for the purpose of organizing a ceremonial event to celebrate Peace Tree Day;

### **Economic Impact**

N/A

### **Communications Plan**

The annual Peace Tree Day event will be promoted, as per protocol, through our Corporate Communication Department.

### **Purpose**

To acknowledge June 1 as Peace Tree Day and to celebrate the values and principals associated therewith. Also, to choose a consistent day to hold the City of Vaughan's Peace Tree Day celebration.

### **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 endorsed Peace Tree Day in 2006 and 2007, and accordingly organized an official celebration. Due to the fact that on some years, June 1 will fall on a weekend and due to the fact that this event is coordinated in partnership with the York Region School Board, the York Catholic District School Board and the York Regional Police, this event should be held on a weekday to allow for the continued participation of the above noted groups. Additionally, holding the annual Peace Tree Day event on a consistent day allows for better planning of the event on behalf of the City and the external participants.

### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020**

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 annually endorse June 1<sup>st</sup> as Peace Tree Day and plan an appropriate celebration accordingly on the Friday that falls closest to June 1 as we will be working closely with the School Boards.

### **Attachments**

None.

### **Report prepared by:**

Cindy Furfaro-Benning, Council Executive Assistant

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Yeung Racco  
Councillor, Ward 4