

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - APRIL 20, 2010

PROCLAMATION - 2010 NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works, recommends that Council proclaim the week of May 16-22, 2010, as "Public Works Week" in the City of Vaughan, and 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 distribution, wastewater collection, street maintenance, 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 16-22, 2010 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 their health, safety, comfort, and quality of life in the community.

Economic Impact

N/A

Communications Plan

The Public Works Event being held on Saturday, May 15, 2010, and will be advertised on the City's web site, the Public Works Spring newsletter, and on mobile signs throughout the City. In addition, a media release will be issued.

Purpose

To request that Council proclaim the period of May 16 - 23, 2010 as "National Public Works Week" in the City of Vaughan, and to present an overview of the City's Public Works Week event to be held at the Joint Operations Centre on Saturday, May 15, 2010.

Background - Analysis and Options

In 1960, the American Public Works Association started a public information campaign to make the general public more aware of the work public works departments did, as well as promote the "often-unsung heroes" of our society, the professionals who serve the public good every day with quiet dedication.

Since its beginning, agencies, municipalities, and regions have used this week to educate and inform the public about the essential role that public works plays in the quality of their community life. Equally important are promoting the choice of public works as a career choice for the working force of the future, and recognizing those who currently serve in these crucial public roles.

2010 is the 50th anniversary of National Public Works Week, and the theme for this year is "Public Works: Above, Below, and All Around You!". These words are meant to remind residents to look around them and see the infrastructure that public works departments construct and maintain to ensure the quality of life which people enjoy today.

On Saturday May 15, 2010, the Public Works Department will kick-off National Public Works Week a day early with its annual "Public Works Week" event at the Joint Operations Centre located at 2800 Rutherford Rd. This event will provide a public forum to educate, and get feedback from, residents about various road maintenance, water distribution, wastewater collection, and "Greening Vaughan" waste management initiatives. It will be held at the north-east 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.

The event itself will be multi-faceted, and as a result, has the potential to draw a number of people. The event includes:

- The sale of Blue Boxes, Green Bins, In-house Kitchen Containers and Backyard Composters (City of Vaughan – Public Works Department)
- The promotion of Kraft Paper Bags for leaf and yard waste material (City of Vaughan - Public Works Department)
- The promotion of "Greening Vaughan", as well as other waste management initiatives (City of Vaughan – Public Works Department)
- Displays about Water Quality & Roads Maintenance (City of Vaughan – Public Works Department)
- GIS and Survey displays (City of Vaughan - Engineering Services Department)
- The Mulch Give-Away (City of Vaughan – Parks & Forestry Department)
- Promotion of city-wide environmental programs (City of Vaughan - Economic Development Department)
- Emergency Preparedness information (City of Vaughan - Vaughan Fire and Rescue Services)
- A York Region display pertaining to Waste Management
- The York Region's Household Hazardous Waste facility (located at 2840 Rutherford Rd.) will be open to accept both household hazardous waste materials and specified electronic waste materials
- A display from "Dongara" depicting what happens to the City's residual waste (Dongara)
- The display of a waste collection vehicle (Miller Waste Systems)
- A reuse event, whereby residents will be encouraged to donate their gently used items to a charitable organization (Goodwill)
- Displays and give-aways promoting energy efficiency (PowerStream)

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 trucks and/or other equipment through an obstacle course. This event takes place on May 19 at the Town of Richmond Hill's facility on Elgin Mills Road. In both 2008 and 2009, the City of Vaughan's Public Works Team took First Place overall, and won the Miller Cup.

As part of Public Works Week, the City will also hold its annual Public Works barbeque at the Joint Operations Centre for all Public Works, Engineering and Parks Operations employees.

Each year, the Ontario Public Works Association presents the "Bruce Brunton Award" to recognize municipalities who actively participate in, and engage the public in, Public Works Week and its events. Earlier this year, the City of Vaughan received an Honourable Mention award in the category of municipalities with 150,000+ population for its 2009 Public Works Week programs.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council, and complies with Vaughan Vision 2020's Goals and Objectives. The Public Works Week event ties into the Goal of "Service Excellence" and its Objective of "Lead and Promote Environmental Sustainability".

Participation in APWA and OPWA related events also ties in the Goal of "Staff Excellence" and its Objectives of "Support the Professional Development of Staff", as well as "Value and Encourage a Highly Motivated Workforce".

Conclusion

National Public Works Week provides a venue by which municipalities across North America can inform, educate, and in some cases, give back to the public, initiatives borne by Public Works departments.

To date, the Public Works Events have 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 environmental initiatives as well.

Attachments

N/A

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