

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - APRIL 20, 2010

PROCLAMATION - MAY AS ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH

Recommendation

The Chair of the Equity and Diversity Committee recommends:

- 1) That Council proclaim the month of May as “Asian Heritage Month” in the City of Vaughan; and,
- 2) That the “Asian Heritage Month List of Activities” as found in Attachment 1, be received.

Contribution to Sustainability

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council in the Green Directions, Vaughan, Community Sustainability Environmental Master Plan,

- 4.1 To foster a city with strong social cohesion, an engaging arts scene, and a clear sense of its culture and heritage.

Economic Impact

The cost of programs associated with Asian Heritage Month celebrations will be covered by the organizing/host group and agency.

Communications Plan

The proclamation of May 2010 as Asian Heritage Month and the List of Activities (Attachment 1) will be posted on the City website, in community centres, and at Vaughan Public Libraries.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to proclaim the month of May as Asian Heritage Month and to present an overview of the activities to be held in May across the City of Vaughan and York Region.

Background - Analysis and Options

In May 2002, the Government of Canada signed an official declaration to designate May as Asian Heritage Month in Canada. Asian Heritage Month is a time to honour and celebrate the achievements of East, South, Southeast and Western Asian Canadians, their descendants and their contribution to the social, economic, cultural and political life in Canada. The 2006 Canada Census identified approximately 20% of Vaughan's population being of either East, South, Southeast, and Western Asian descent. This geographical area includes countries such as, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, The Philippines, Vietnam, China, Korea, Japan, Cambodia and Indonesia. This month provides an opportunity to learn about and experience the history and culture of Asian-Canadians.

In honour of Asian Heritage Month, there are a number of activities throughout Vaughan that are presented on Attachment 1. Highlights are as follows:

- **Vaughan Public Libraries:** Each branch will have a variety of activities for all ages that include: Japanese poetry, Farsi information sessions, guest authors, origami workshops, Chinese brush painting and more.

- **York Regional Police:** Asian Heritage Month celebrations, performances and displays will be part of the festivities at the Safety Village.
- **Community Organizations:** Human Endeavours will be hosting an Asian Heritage Festival with performances and refreshments. Also, the Elspeth Heyworth Centre will be presenting a Dandiya Celebration – Stick Folk Dance. Both events will be held at the Vellore Village Community Centre.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, this report will provide:

- **STRATEGIC GOAL:**
Service Excellence - Providing service excellence to citizens.
- **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:**
Preserve our heritage and support diversity, arts and culture.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council, and the necessary resources to implement this program have been allocated and approved.

Regional Implications

N/A

Conclusion

In celebrating Asian Heritage Month, the City reaffirms its effort to build an inclusive community. More so, it is an opportunity to highlight Vaughan's rich diversity and celebrate and learn about the traditions and culture of our East, South, Western and Southeast Asian community.

Attachments

1. List of Activities for Asian Heritage Month

Report Prepared By

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Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Alan Shefman
Chair, Vaughan Equity and Diversity Committee

Asian Heritage Month in Vaughan and York Region

May 2010

List of Activities

Community Centres

Vellore Village Community Centre

Elsbeth Heyworth Centre presents:

Dandiya Celebration- Stick Folk Dance

April 24, 6pm - 11pm Cafetorium

Early kick off celebration in traditional Dandiya Costumes with stick folk dance and music. The 50th Birthday Celebration of the Gujrat State of India will also be celebrated. An evening of music, dance and refreshments for all.

Human Endeavour

South Asian Heritage Day and Awards Ceremony

May 8, 1pm - 5pm Cafetorium

Human Endeavour along with its partners celebrates South Asian Heritage Day and Awards Ceremony every year in the month of May, which has been declared the Asian heritage month in Canada. Heritage Day is Human Endeavour's most significant event as it shares the rich and diverse culture of South Asia and on that day the individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the South Asian community are recognized and honored.

Vaughan Public Libraries

Asian Heritage Month Film Fest

City-wide libraries will host a series of Asian films.

Ansley Grove Library

Author Visit: Paul Yee

May 4, 1:30pm - 2:30pm

Children book author of *Ghost Train*

Chinese Brush Painting

May 5, 7pm - 8pm

Dufferin Clark Library

Asian Heritage Festival Kick-off

May 1, 11am – 4pm

Kicking off Asian Heritage Month activities will include performances, and martial arts demonstrations, activities for whole family and guests visit from creators of *The Legend of Ninja Cowboy Bear*.

A Splendid Chinese Morning

May 29, 10am - 12pm

Singing, folk dancing and martial arts

YR Community Services & Resources for FARSI speakers

May 27, 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Health, housing, communication and transportation in Vaughan.

Help My Kids learn better English during Summer for Korean Speakers

May 29, 1:30pm - 4pm

Helping newcomers understand the importance of reading and impact in school and community life.

Japanese Poetry with Vaughan Poetry Circle

May 8, 10:30am – 1pm

Sculpture Art Exhibit

May 1 - 31

Various Chinese artists

Origami

May 15, 7pm - 8pm

Origami Society of Toronto reveal secrets of paper folding and creations

Maple Library

Author visit: Kean Soo

May 13, 7pm - 8pm

Graphic novelist talks about *Jellaby* and world of graphic novels

Exhibition

Taiwanese Traditional Clothing

May 1 - May 31

Chinese Brush Painting

May 20, 7pm - 8pm

Taiwan Sublime – Photo Exhibition

May 17 - 31

Series of photographs taken by famous Taiwanese photographers.

Photos include celebrations, traditional arts, and Taiwan landscape.

Woodbridge Library

Group Discussion in Punjabi language

May 19, 2pm – 3:30pm

Healthy lifestyles and active living discussion lead by Social Services Network

Hindi Kavi Sammelan (Poetry Conference)

May 29, 2pm - 4pm

Hindi Literature and Culture Circle present free poetry readings in Hindi language by local poets

Indian Family Fun

May 15, 2pm – 3:30pm

Experience India, with Indian vocal and instrumental music by local talented musicians.

Samosa for everyone!

Pierre Berton Resource Library

Paper Trail Display

May 8 - 29

Asian Paper arts through the ages

Origami

May 12, 7pm – 8pm

Origami Society of Toronto reveal secrets of paper folding and creations

Get Inked!- Henna Body Art

May 19, 6:30pm - 8pm

Kleinburg Library

Taiwan Sublime – Photo Exhibition

May 1 - 16

Series of photographs taken by famous Taiwanese photographers.

Photos include celebrations, traditional arts and Taiwan landscape.

YRDSB / YCSDB

Exhibits and Asian/South Asian traditions will be on display in the foyers of many schools throughout the schools boards. Each classroom teacher will do an activity/project with the students as well as the school on a whole.

School Assemblies will include acknowledgements for Asian Heritage Month

Some schools will have an assembly which would consist of performances and speakers regarding Asian and South Asian cultures.

Every school varies in what they do and changes year to year with staff changes.

York Regional Police

Asian Heritage Month- Celebrations at Safety Village

May 15, 2010 11am - 1pm

Coordinated by the Diversity and Cultural Resources Bureau

Annual -Music, Performances, Art displays and refreshments.

Other Events– Region Wide

Taste of Asia 2010 – York Region

June 26 to June 27

Sat. – 12pm to midnight; Sun. – 12pm to 6pm

Kennedy Road and Steeles Avenue

The *Taste of Asia* is an annual multicultural event hosted by the Federation of Chinese Canadians in Markham (FCCM), the Association of Progressive Muslims of Ontario (APMO) and the City of Markham. Two days of non-stop multicultural performances and over 150 street vendor booths operated by different ethnic groups. The event was first introduced in 2002 and provides a platform for the community to promote the multicultural mosaic of Canada and create harmony between different ethnic groups through an event of mutual respect and co-operation.

Asian Family Engagement Day Community Living – York South

Wilclay Public School, Markham

April 25, 2010 2:30pm – 5:30pm

An afternoon for celebrations, performances, activities and families to connect.

Refreshments will be available for all.