

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - MAY 11, 2010

PROCLAMATION - NATIONAL ACCESS AWARENESS WEEK - MAY 30 TO JUNE 6, 2010 “ABILITIES SHINE TOGETHER”

Recommendation

On behalf of the Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee, the Chair recommends:

1. That the week of May 30 to June 6, 2010, be proclaimed National Access Awareness Week in the City of Vaughan; and,
2. That the *Abilities Shine Together* schedule as found in Attachment 1, outlining the activities and events scheduled to be held during National Access Awareness Week (May 30 to June 6, 2010), 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 culture and its heritage.

Economic Impact

The costs associated with the promotion and delivery of the accessibility initiatives outlined will be covered by the 2010 Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC) operating budget.

Communications Plan

The Recreation and Culture Department in cooperation with the VAAC will communicate and inform the community as it relates to its programs, initiatives, and the celebration of the National Access Awareness Week (NAAW) through the City website, media, advertising, and the distribution of flyers to community centres, Vaughan Public Libraries and elementary and secondary schools in Vaughan. Outreach to community groups, cultural organizations and businesses will take place via the distribution of posters/flyers.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to proclaim May 30 to June 6, 2010 as National Access Awareness Week in the City of Vaughan, and to present the *Abilities Shine Together* list of activities and events scheduled to be held across the City of Vaughan, as set out in Attachment 1.

Background - Analysis and Options

National Access Awareness Week was established in 1988 to promote better access for persons with disabilities. NAAW was created in response to a request from Rick Hansen, following his 40,000 km *Man in Motion World Tour*. Since then, communities across Canada have continued Hansen's mission during the last week of May and it celebrates achievements made both by and for persons with disabilities.

This year's theme, *Abilities Shine Together* celebrates partnerships, programs and policies in the Vaughan community that enable access and participation for persons with disabilities. Of particular

note, the City of Vaughan Council in May 2009 approved the *City of Vaughan Accessibility Plan* (Revised 2009) and *The Accessibility Standard for Customer Service Policy*.

In 2010, the Recreation and Culture Department will recognize the *Abilities Shine Together* NAAW from May 30 to June 6, 2010 with a variety of free activities that showcase partnerships and programs that help people with disabilities “shine” in our community. These include the following:

- Sport activities and games in partnership with Special Olympics Ontario, York Region Soccer Association - Woodbridge Azzurri, ParaSport Ontario; Rainbow Creek Bocciofila Club;
- Life skills activities in partnership with VITA Community Living Services;
- Public consultation meeting and information session in partnership with York Region Mobility Plus;
- Music and dance performances in partnership with Meta Centre, Community Living York South, VITA Community Living Services, Vaughan In Action Community Services.

The focus of these events is to engage people with disabilities within their community; as well as, to raise awareness of the importance of building a barrier-free society. NAAW challenges Canadians to form partnerships in their communities; to work towards equal access and full participation for people with disabilities.

NAAW promotes access for people with disabilities who encounter barriers that prevent them from participating in day-to-day activities. The range of barriers may include:

- Physical barriers that result from a building's or structure's design.
- Communication barriers that make it difficult for people to understand information.
- Technology - or lack of it - that prevent people from accessing information.
- Systemic barriers that restrict people through practices and rules.
- Attitudinal barriers that result in a person being discriminated against or stereotyped.

Disability impacts many Ontarians and the number of people with disabilities is increasing. Today, 15.5 per cent of Ontario's population has a disability and this number will grow as the population ages.

Through the VAAC, the City helps ensure access to those living with disabilities in our community. The VAAC plays a critical role in advising Council on the preparation, implementation and effectiveness of its accessibility plan and identifying disability barriers within our community. The review of accessibility issues and initiatives through the *Accessibility Plan* outlines projects and multi-year initiatives that will be undertaken to bring the City of Vaughan closer to its goals of being inclusive and fully accessible.

Since 2006 the Recreation and Culture Department, in collaboration with the VAAC, has participated in NAAW to further promote the services that are offered throughout the City of Vaughan for people with disabilities.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

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

- STRATEGIC GOAL
Service Excellence- Providing Service Excellence to citizens.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:

Enhance and Ensure 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

There are no regional implications

Conclusion

The City of Vaughan will celebrate National Access Awareness Week and maintain its efforts to respond to needs of people with disabilities in its role in providing equality of access, opportunity and outcomes for Vaughan's citizens.

Attachments

1. *Abilities Shine Together*, National Access Awareness Week - Activities Schedule

Report Prepared By

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Respectfully submitted,

David DiPaola
Chair, Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee

Abilities Shine Together Celebrations

FREE!


In honour of 2010 National Access Awareness Week

MAY 30 - JUNE 6, 2010

Hosted by the Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC)
in conjunction with the City of Vaughan

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

Community Centre	Day/Time	Activity/Event Description
Al Palladini CC* 9201 Islington Ave. Woodbridge	Friday, June 4 11:30am	Mix & Munch Entertainment & Baking activity
Chancellor CC* 350 Ansley Grove Rd. Woodbridge	Wednesday, June 2 4:00 - 6:00pm	Recreational Swim Recreational swim time
	Friday, June 4 6:00 - 8:30pm	Fun Club Activities for youth and young adult participants with developmental disabilities
Dufferin Clark CC* 1441 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill	Monday, June 1 5:30 - 7:30pm	Bridging the Gap Wheelchair Basketball
Father Ermanno Bulfon CC* 8141 Martin Grove Rd. Woodbridge	Sunday, May 30 10:30am - 2:00pm	Bocce Games Bocce Games and BBQ
Garnet A. Williams CC* 501 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill	Thursday, June 3 11:30am - 12:30pm	Senior's Muscle Conditioning Low-impact fitness program for older adults
Maple CC* 10190 Keele St. Maple	Wednesday, June 2 5:30 - 8:00pm	Fit & Fun Social activities and Fitness for Youth and Young Adults with disabilities
Vellore Village CC* 1 Villa Royale Ave. Woodbridge	Sunday, May 30 3:30 - 5:30pm	Bridging the Gap Wheelchair Basketball
	Wednesday, June 2 7:00 - 9:00pm	Improving Our Services with You YRT Mobility Plus- Public Consultation meeting and Information session
Via Campanile Park* 181 Via Campanile Woodbridge	Thursday, June 3 6:00 - 7:00pm	Kickn' It! Vaughan Special Olympics vs Woodbridge Azzuri Soccer (inclusive soccer)
Sonoma Heights Community Park* 100 Sunset Ridge, Woodbridge	Wednesday, June 2 10:30am - 2:00pm	Abilities Shine Together! Music and dance performances, recreational games and sport tournaments

*Wheelchair Accessible 

For more information or should you require assistance, contact
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