

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - MAY 10, 2011

2011 PROCLAMATION AND ACTIVITIES FOR NATIONAL ACCESS AWARENESS WEEK- MAY 29 - JUNE 4, 2011

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services, in consultation with the Director of Recreation and Culture and the Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee, recommends:

1. That the week of May 29 to June 4, 2011, be proclaimed National Access Awareness Week in the City of Vaughan; and,
2. That the activities and events outlined in Attachment 1, scheduled to be held within the Vaughan community during National Access Awareness Week, 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, Goal 4, Objective 4.1:

- To foster a city with strong social cohesion, an engaging arts scene, and a clear sense of its culture and heritage.
 - 4.1.1. Develop an implementation plan for the initiatives described in the City's Active Together Master Plan through a phased and budgeted program.

Economic Impact

The costs associated with the promotion and delivery of the accessibility initiatives outlined will be covered through the approved 2011 Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee budget as approved by the Committee.

Communications Plan

The Recreation and Culture Department, in cooperation with the Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC) will communicate and inform the community as it relates to its programs, initiatives, and the celebration of the National Access Awareness Week (NAAW). Event information will be communicated through the City website, Vaughan community centres and facilities, Vaughan Public Libraries and elementary and secondary schools in Vaughan. Outreach to community groups, cultural organizations and businesses will take place via poster distribution and a news release.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information on the celebration of National Access Awareness Week (May 29 - June 4, 2011) and to present an overview of the activities and events (Attachment 1) to be held across the City of Vaughan for this week.

Background - Analysis and Options

The inception of National Access Awareness Week (NAAW) originated with Rick Hansen after his Man-In-Motion World Tour in 1988 with the goal to ensure a world accessible and inclusive for all. People with disabilities may face daily barriers that prevent them from working, enjoying and participating in the community.

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

As service providers, the City of Vaughan plays a significant role in ensuring full access to those living in our community through the implementation and effectiveness of its annual accessibility plan.

Every year, the Recreation and Culture Department, in collaboration with the Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC) participates in the NAAW to further promote the services that are offered throughout the City of Vaughan for persons with disabilities. The recognition of this week, also encourages Vaughan citizens to think about the barriers that people with disabilities face, and to consider what they can do to break them down.

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; and
- Attitudinal barriers that result in a person being discriminated against or stereotyped.

From 2008 to 2010, the Recreation and Culture Department summer camp programs have experienced a participation increase of children with disabilities of 447% and an 8% increase in the area of specialized general programs. The Department continues to strive to develop programs and services for special needs individuals and is a leading service provider in York Region.

In 2011 the Recreation and Culture Department will recognize the NAAW from May 29-June 4, with a variety of *free* activities. This year's NAAW activities promote opportunities for children, youth and adults with disabilities in their community. Activities coordinated citywide include:

- sign language communication workshop for caregivers and service providers;
- active play, fitness, sport activities and games led by specialized recreation staff at community centres;
- dance, music and fun activities in partnership with Alternatives, Community Living York South, Children's Treatment Network, Meta Centre, York Support Services Network and VITA Community Living Services; and
- Accessibility Forum workshops in partnership with York Region.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

Reference specific initiative report relates to:

- STRATEGIC GOAL:
Service Excellence- Pursue Excellence in Service Delivery: and Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health and Wellness - To deliver high quality services and promote health and wellness through design and program.

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 in celebrating National Access Awareness Week, upholds its commitment to meet the needs of Vaughan citizens as a service provider and promotes equality of access for all.

Attachments

1. National Access Awareness Week - Activities Schedule

Report Prepared By

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Respectfully submitted,

Marlon Kallideen
Commissioner of Community Services

Friday June 3**Al Palladini CC**

9201 Islington Ave., Woodbridge

Vita CLS**"Cha, Cha Slide"**

Time: 11:30am

Location: Main lobby

Al Palladini CC

9201 Islington Ave., Woodbridge

Bake Sale

Time: 12:00pm

Location: Main lobby

Proceeds to Vita Community Living Services.

Chancellor CC350 Ansley Grove Rd.,
Woodbridge**Fun Club**

Time: 6:00 - 8:30pm

Ages: 8-13 years

Location: Activity room

Participants with disabilities socialize and learn new skills in a fun atmosphere.

Chancellor CC350 Ansley Grove Rd.,
Woodbridge**Recreational Swim**

Time: 5:30 - 8:00pm

cont'd...

Friday June 3**Maple CC**

10190 Keele St., Maple

**Drop in Dance -
Special Needs**

Time: 7:00 - 9:00pm

Ages: 14 years+

Location: Activity Room #1

Vellore Village Pool

1 Villa Royale Ave., Woodbridge

Autism Swim

Time: 1:00-2:00pm

Ages: 5-12 years

Come join us for a **FREE** swim in the small pool of Vellore Village.**Note:** Admission guidelines apply.**Saturday June 4****North Thornhill CC**300 Pleasant Ridge Ave.,
Thornhill**Sign School**

Time: 10:00 - 11:00am

Location: Preschool
Room #1

Sign Language for Parents



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



National Access Awareness Week

May 29 - June 4, 2011

Schedule of Events



vaughan.ca



Schedule of Events

Monday May 30

Garnet A. Williams CC

501 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill

Introduction to Ballet

Time: 1:30 - 2:15pm

Ages: 3 - 5 years

Location: Activity Rm #1

Tuesday May 31

Al Palladini CC

9201 Islington Ave., Woodbridge

Yoga Fit - inclusive

Time: 9:30 - 10:30am

Ages: 16 years+

Location: Gym

NOTE: Must wear comfortable attire. Mats provided.

Dufferin Clark CC

1441 Dufferin Ave. W., Concord

Terrific Tuesdays - inclusive

Time: 1:00 - 3:00pm

Ages: 3-5 years

Free play, creative arts, circle time, active play, reading.

Parents Participate

cont'd...

Tuesday May 31

Father Ermanno Bulfon CC

8141 Martin Grove Rd., Woodbridge

Recreational Bocce - inclusive

Time: 9:30 - 11:30am

Ages: 16 years+

Introduction to bocce.

NOTE: Must wear running shoes in order to participate.

Vellore Village CC & St Jean de Brebeuf Catholic High School

1 Villa Royale Ave., Woodbridge

Sporty Time

Time: 1:15 - 2:15pm

Ages: 13 years+

Location: VVCC Gym #4

NOTE: Must wear running shoes in order to participate.

Wednesday June 1

Sonoma Heights Park

100 Sunset Ridge, Woodbridge

Spring Fling in Motion

Time: 10:30am-2:00pm

Active games, zumba, scavenger hunt, bocce.

Thursday June 2

Garnet A. Williams CC

501 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill

Seniors Tai Chi "In the Park"

Ages: 60 years+

Beginner's 1:00-2:00pm

Advanced 2:30-3:30pm

Garnet A. Williams CC

501 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill

Playfun

Time: 9:30 - 11:00am

Ages: 18 mths - 4 years

Location: Activity Rm #1 & Creating Together Rm

Parents Participate

cont'd...

Thursday June 2

Rosemount CC

1000 New Westminster Dr., Thornhill

Roller Blade with a Buddy - inclusive

Time: 12:30 - 2:00pm

Ages: 10 years+

Location: Arena

NOTE: Each participant must bring their own roller blades and a CSA approved helmet. Other safety equipment (e.g. knee/elbow pads) highly recommended.

York Region

York Region Administrative Centre, 17250 Yonge St., Newmarket

Accessibility Forum

Time: 10:00am-2:00pm

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For more information or should you require assistance, contact **Mihaela Neagoe**, Active Living Coordinator - Special Needs/Volunteers at **905-832-2377** ext. **7405**.