

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MARCH 22, 2011

PROCLAMATION REQUEST PARKINSON AWARENESS MONTH

Recommendation

The City Clerk recommends:

- 1) That April 2011 be proclaimed as "Parkinson Awareness Month"; and
- 2) That the proclamation be posted on the City's website and published on the City Page Online.

Contribution to Sustainability

N/A

Economic Impact

N/A

Communications Plan

The Corporate Communications Department posts proclamations issued by the City on the City's website under "Events – Proclamations" and on the City Page Online.

Purpose

To respond to the request received from the Community Development Coordinator – GTA, Parkinson Society Canada Central & Northern Ontario.

Background - Analysis and Options

The correspondence received from the Community Development Coordinator – GTA, Parkinson Society Canada Central & Northern Ontario, dated March 14, 2011 is attached. (Attachment 1)

Parkinson's disease is a chronic and progressive neurodegenerative illness that affects over 100,000 Canadians. The Parkinson Society Canada Central & Northern Ontario would like to raise awareness and encourage support during their fundraising efforts in communities across Ontario and help find a cure for this debilitating disease. Proceeds from the tulip sale in the City of Vaughan on Saturday April 9, 2011 will support research in the quest to find better treatment and a cure for Parkinson's disease. Council has approved this proclamation request in the past.

The proclamation request meets the City's Proclamation Policy, as follows:

"That upon request, the City of Vaughan issue Proclamations for events, campaigns or other similar matters:

- (i) which are promoted by any organization that is a registered charity pursuant to Section 248 of the Income Tax Act". Parkinson Society Canada is a registered charity".

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

This report supports the strategic priorities established by Vaughan Vision 2020, in particular "Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health and Wellness".

Regional Implications

N/A

Conclusion

Staff is recommending that April 2011 be proclaimed as "Parkinson Awareness Month" and that the proclamation be posted on the City's website and published on the City Page Online.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Correspondence from the Community Development Coordinator – GTA, Parkinson Society Canada Central & Northern Ontario, dated March 14, 2011

Report prepared by:

Connie Bonsignore, Administrative Assistant to the City Clerk

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey A. Abrams
City Clerk



A Regional Partner of Parkinson Society Canada

Central & Northern Ontario Region
4211 Yonge Street, Suite 321
Toronto, Ontario M2P 2A9 www.parkinson.ca
Charitable registration number 10809 1786 RR0001

March 14, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Parkinson Society Canada is a registered charity (#10809 1786 RR0001) whose mission is to be the national voice of Canadians living with Parkinson's; our purpose is to ease the burden and find a cure through research, education, advocacy, and support services.

We are asking municipalities throughout the province to declare April "Parkinson Awareness Month". We would be grateful to the City of Vaughan to do so as well, and help promote the fight against Parkinson's disease in your city.

John Scaini is a volunteer with our organization, working tirelessly to promote the fight against Parkinson's in his community. We fully support his tulip sale in the City of Vaughan on Saturday April 9, 2011.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours truly,



Sara Lawson
Community Development Coordinator – GTA

RECEIVED
MAR 15 2011
CLERK'S DEPT.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

“April is Parkinson’s Disease Awareness Month”

- WHEREAS:** Parkinson Society Canada is celebrating over 40 years as the national organization that helps to ease the burden and find a cure through research, education, advocacy and support services to improve the quality of life for those affected by Parkinson’s disease.
- WHEREAS:** Nearly 100,000 Canadians, and 6.3 million people worldwide, have Parkinson’s disease today.
- WHEREAS:** There is no way to predict or prevent Parkinson’s disease. It strikes randomly – affecting all genders, races, socio-economic groups and lifestyles. Parkinson’s disease is a chronic and progressive neurodegenerative illness that slowly but dramatically robs people of their independence over time. For most affected, their minds remain sharp while they endure an ever-changing combination of tremors, slowness, stiffness, balance problems, speech problems, rigid muscles, and pain. Many have difficulty walking, talking, and/or swallowing.
- WHEREAS:** Canadians with Parkinson’s disease and their caregivers rely on Parkinson Society Canada to provide them with information, resources and support groups to help better manage the physical and psychological effects of this debilitating disease.
- WHEREAS:** Through our partnerships with our twelve regional partners, health care professionals, research associations, and volunteers, Parkinson Society Canada touches every community across the country.
- WHEREAS:** Parkinson Society Canada has funded almost \$11.5 million dollars in research grants in its quest to find better treatment, and ultimately a cure for Parkinson’s disease.
- NOW THEREFORE:** I, , Mayor of the **City of Vaughan**, do hereby proclaim **April 2011** as “**Parkinson’s Disease Awareness Month**” and encourage everyone to support Parkinson Society Canada during its Spring Campaign.