

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - APRIL 24, 2012

PROCLAMATION - 2012 NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends that Council proclaim the period of May 20-26, 2012, 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 dedicated officials and staff of the City's Public Works, Engineering, and Parks & Forestry departments; and,

WHEREAS the efficiency of qualified and dedicated personnel who staff the above noted departments 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 20 - 26, 2012, as "Public Works Week" in the City of Vaughan, and request that all citizens and elected officials recognize the contributions that 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 is being held on Saturday, May 26, 2012, and will be advertised on the City's website, in 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 20 - 26, 2012, 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 26, 2012.

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 1960, agencies, municipalities, and regions have used this week to educate and inform the public about the essential role that public works play in the quality of community life. The week also serves to promote the choice of public works as a career choice for the working force of the future.

This year (2012) is the 52nd anniversary of National Public Works Week. The theme for the 2012 National Public Works Week is "Public Works: Creating a Lasting Impression". The theme speaks to the never-ending effort of public works professionals to use sustainable solutions to bring their communities the quality of life within a framework of environmental, social, and economic responsibility.

Public Works Day – May 26, 2012

On Saturday May 26, 2012, 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..

The event itself will be multi-faceted, and as a result, has the potential to draw a number of people. At the time of this report preparation, the following activities are confirmed for the City's Public Works Day event (Additional exhibitors/activities may be added):

- 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)
- A York Region display pertaining to Waste Management
- Electronics Recycling Drop Off
- Paper Shredding Services (Super Shred)
- Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance (ORCGA) Call Before You Dig information
- Summer Hill Impact (Portable Fuel Can Flip)
- Various City vehicles and a waste collection vehicle (Miller Waste Systems)

Area Municipalities Challenge

In addition to Public Works Day, the City's Public Works Department will be participating in the 'York Region Area Municipalities Challenge'. This event showcases the talents of staff from the area municipalities in terms of equipment operation and water main repair and service installation activities. 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 23rd at the Town of Richmond Hill's facility on Elgin Mills Road. In 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011, the City of Vaughan's Public Works Team took First Place overall, winning the Miller Cup. Vaughan is the only municipality to have won the Miller Cup four years in a row.

Staff Appreciation Barbeque

As part of Public Works Week, the annual Public Works Barbeque will be held at the Joint Operations Centre for all Public Works, Engineering and Parks Operations employees. This event is scheduled to take place on Thursday, May 24, weather permitting.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council.

The Public Works Week event relates to the following Vaughan Vision goals and objectives:

Goal	“Service Excellence”
Objective	“Lead & Promote Environmental Sustainability”
Objective:	“Demonstrate Excellence in Service Delivery”

Participation in APWA and OPWA related events ties in the following Vaughan Vision goals and objectives:

Goal	“Organizational Excellence”
Objective:	“Ensure a High Performing Organization”
Goal:	“Staff Excellence”
Objective:	“Support the Professional Development of Staff”

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 undertaken 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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Respectfully submitted,

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