

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - MAY 15, 2012

PROCLAMATION – NATIONAL ACCESS AWARENESS WEEK – JUNE 3-9, 2012

Recommendation

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

1. That Council proclaim the week of June 3-9, 2012, as “National Access Awareness Week” in the City of Vaughan;
2. That the presentation to Mr. Briton Amos - President of Humanitarian Mobility International take place at the Council meeting of May 29, 2012; and,
3. That the 2012 schedule of activities and events to be held in the City of Vaughan to celebrate National Access Awareness Week, as outlined 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, Goal 4, and Objective 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 associated with the promotion and the delivery of programs and initiatives indicated in this report will be funded through the approved 2012 Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee Operating Budget and community sponsors.

Communications Plan

The proclamation of National Access Awareness Week (NAAW) 2012, including a schedule of activities and events, will be posted on the City’s website and social media. The NAAW Week schedule will be distributed to Vaughan elementary and secondary schools, and will also be available at City libraries and community centers. Outreach to community groups, email database, community service organizations and businesses will take place via poster distribution and email.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to request that Council proclaim the week of June 3-9, 2012 as “Vaughan National Access Awareness Week” in the City of Vaughan, and to present an overview of the inclusive activities and events scheduled to be held at community centers across the City, as organized by the Recreation and Culture Department in partnership with the Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee, York Region School Boards of Education, community service organizations groups and local businesses. In addition, a presentation will be held at the Council meeting of May 29, 2012 to present Mr. Briton Amos, President of Humanitarian Mobility International, with a certificate of thanks for the donation of wheelchairs to the City of Vaughan.

Background - Analysis and Options

In 1988, National Access Awareness Week was established to promote better community access for persons with disabilities living across Canada. This year marks the 25th Annual Disability Awareness Week, which runs from June 3-9, 2012. The week falls on the anniversary of Rick Hansen's conclusion of his *Man in Motion Tour*, a tour that demonstrated the amazing potential of persons with disabilities. The theme for this year's NAAW is "*Ready and Able to Work*". National Access Awareness Week (NAAW) is an opportunity to get informed and promote accessibility and inclusion in their communities. The City of Vaughan is participating in this national initiative to celebrate the participation of persons with disabilities in the community and their contribution towards making the City of Vaughan a great place to live.

In honour of National Access Awareness Week, a presentation to Mr. Briton Amos, President of Humanitarian Mobility International, a registered non-profit organization based in Ottawa, having a mandate to provide mobility access and specialized mobility equipment to people and communities in need around the world, will take place on May 29, 2012 at the Council meeting scheduled on that date. The City of Vaughan Recreation and Culture Department recently worked with Humanitarian Mobility International and Shoppers Home Health Care to equip all the Community Centres, City Hall and City Playhouse Theatre with wheelchairs. The total number of wheelchairs received is twenty-five (25) and are of the following type:

- Type II (wheelchair type suitable for persons who require adjustments to accommodate postural and mobility requirements); and,
- Type III (wheelchair type suitable for active persons who require altered wheel placement for optimal postural support and mobility).

In 2012, the City of Vaughan will recognize the NAAW from June 3-9, with a variety of free activities. This year's NAAW activities promote opportunities for children, youth and adults with disabilities in their community.

Activities/events coordinated citywide include:

- "Have a go" – Inclusive wheelchair demo game;
- "Arts play"- Drop in art's creations;
- Sonoma Heights - outdoor event - dance music and fun activities in partnership with community partners, York Region School boards and businesses.

In addition to National Access Awareness Week, in support of the Active Together Physical Activity Strategy, the Recreation and Culture Department delivers a variety of registered programs, drop-ins and other special events for persons with disabilities. These programs provide physical, creative, leadership and social opportunities for persons with disabilities. Some of the activities offered through the City Community Centres are the following:

- Active Play
- Inclusive Bocce
- Fundamentals of Sports
- Yoga with Parents
- Teen Fitness Camp
- Connect
- Drop-in Dance
- Swimming one-on-one

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:
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 associated with this report.

Conclusion

The City of Vaughan is taking a proactive approach to raise awareness, improve the social, health and active lifestyles of persons with disabilities by proclaiming the week of June 3- 9, 2012 as “Vaughan National Access Awareness Week”.

Attachments

1. 2012 National Access Awareness Week schedule.

Report Prepared By

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Respectfully submitted,

Marlon Kallideen
Commissioner of Community Services

Free Activities!

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

National Access Awareness Week

June 3 - 9, 2012



vaughan.ca

Schedule
of Events

Sunday, June 3

North Thornhill

Community Centre

♿ 300 Pleasant Ridge Avenue

Drop in Games

Come out and have fun playing your favorite games: ping pong, gettoni, air hockey, pool. **All ages.**

4:00pm – 6:00pm

Monday, June 4

Dufferin Clark

Community Centre

♿ 1441 Dufferin Avenue West

Parent & Child Badminton

Learn how to play this classic backyard game and basic concepts of badminton. **Ages 7-11 yrs.**

6:00pm – 7:00pm

Note: Parent or guardian must participate.

Maple

Community Centre

♿ 10190 Keele Street

Zumba

Work up a sweat using international dance moves for a total body toning workout that burns calories, strengthens muscles and guarantees FUN! **All ages.**

6:00pm – 7:00pm

Tuesday, June 5

Garnet A. Williams

Community Centre

♿ 501 Clark Avenue West

Drop-in Arts play workshop

Learn basic to advanced drawing skills, technique & vocabulary in a positive, nurturing environment.

Ages 3+ yrs.

10:30am – 12:00pm

Father E. Bulfon

Community Centre

♿ 8141 Martin Grove Road

Introduction to Bocce & Recreational Bocce

Ages 16 years +

9:30am – 11:30am

NOTE: Participants must wear running shoes to participate.



Wednesday, June 6

Maple

Community Centre

♿ 10190 Keele Street

Accessible Recreation: Public Meeting

All ages.

6:00pm – 8:00pm

Thursday, June 7

Vellore Village

Community Centre

♿ 1 Villa Royale Avenue

Have a go!

Demo wheelchair basketball

Designed to develop fundamental skills, sportsmanship and love for the game of basketball. **Ages 13+yrs.**

7:00pm – 9:00pm

Al Palladini

Community Centre

♿ 9201 Islington Avenue

Bake Sale

Come out and purchase some yummy home-made treats!

11:00am – 12:00pm

Note: All proceeds go to Vita Community Living Services.

Rock On

Musical presentation in the lobby.

1:00pm



Friday, June 8

Sonoma Heights Park

♿ 100 Sunset Ridge

ZumbasticFuntastic

Zumba, cooperative games, bocce, scavenger hunt, fire safety workshop and more... **All ages.**

10:00am – 3:00pm

Chancellor

Community Centre

♿ 350 Ansely Grove Road

Fun Club

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

Ages 8-13yrs.

6:00pm – 8:30pm



For more information about National Access Awareness Week and Accessibility in Vaughan, please contact:

Mihaela Neagoe,
Active Living Coordinator,
Special Needs

905.832.2377 ext. 7405 or
mihaela.neagoe@vaughan.ca

Did you know
Vaughan has accessible...

Year-Round Programs

Creative & Performing Arts
Health & Wellness
Lifestyle & Social Skills
Sports & Drop-In Activities

Summer Camps

Specialized & Integrated
Leadership Opportunities

Events & Workshops

Facilities

Community Centres
Fitness Equipment
Swimming & Parks



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facebook.com/RecAndCultureVaughan