

Sustainable Works 2012

Public Works Partnering with our Communities
Presentation to Environmental Services
Committee

Laura McDowell,
Director, Environmental Promotion and
Protection

March 7, 2012

Agenda



1. An investment in Sustainability
2. Sustainable Works 2012 Overview
3. Overview Sustainable Works events (March-June)
4. Additional events throughout the year

An Investment in Sustainability

Level of Effort in Sustainable Works Events

Approximately 700 staff and volunteers involved
at an approximate cost of \$500,000 for all events

Resourced through various programs and initiatives in
Environmental Services and Transportation and Community Planning

Benefits

Supporting the overall objectives of Vision 2026 and draft Vision 2051
2011-2015 Corporate Strategic Plan

Enhanced Environment, Heritage and Culture

A Resilient Natural Environment

Living Sustainably

Continue to Deliver and Sustain Critical Infrastructure

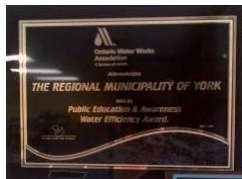
**Promoting environmental sustainability through
education and awareness of public works**



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Awards and Recognition



**Excellence Canada – Ontario Accessibility
Award Program – Natural Heritage and Forestry
recognized**

**OWWA Public Education and Awareness for
Water Efficiency Award – EPP Branch**

**Recycling Council of Ontario Bronze Award
for Waste Minimization Municipal
Communications – EPP Branch**



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Accessible Sustainable Works



Hollidge Tract Accessible Trail

- Hollidge Tract Regional Forest has a 1-kilometre long accessible trail
- The accessible trail is one of the first trails to be constructed to the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) Built Environment Standard*.
- Recognized by Excellence Canada

Accessible Gardening

- Gardening ideas for people with disabilities will be presented at many of our upcoming garden design seminars



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Water Conservation



Fix A Leak Week - March 12 – 18 ^{New!}

- Through online and printed advertisements, we will encourage residents to find and fix leaky fixtures in their homes
- This will help lower water bills and water usage



Free Lawn and Garden Consultations

- Visits start in May
- Trained advisors visit residents homes to perform a garden assessment and help reduce their outdoor water use

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Water Efficient Garden Design Seminars



To educate residents about water efficient plants and local plant materials
Second year partnering with Toronto Region Conservation Authority to provide additional seminars at various locations throughout York Region

- garden centres, libraries, community halls

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JUNE						
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March 1, 8, 10, 20, 22, 24, 26, 29

April 5, 12, 18, 24, 28

May 1, 31

June 2, 10, 16

Events open to all York Region residents

Last year more than 885 residents learned about water efficient landscaping at 17 seminars held throughout the Region.



Earth Week



Earth Week – April 16-20, 2012

York Region Earth Day Fair – April 17, 2012

Administrative Centre – Exhibitors, information and earth friendly giveaways

Canada's Earth Day – Sunday, April 22, 2012

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Environmental Education and Awareness

Students at an elementary school take part in interactive activities:

- Presentations by waste and forestry staff
- Planting and interactive sessions



York Regional Forest Spring Events



Spring Forest Festival – April 28, 2012

- Tree planting, interactive displays and wagon rides
- North Tract, Stouffville

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Wildflower and Warbler Walk – May 12, 2012

New!

Early morning spring walk with naturalists

- Happy Valley Forest Tract, King

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York Regional Police K-9s in Action – June 2, 2012

New!

- Police dog demonstrations and hike
- Hollidge Tract, Stouffville

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Online registration now available at www.york.ca/forestevents

New!



In 2011, 475 trees were planted by 323 volunteers at the Spring Forest Festival



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Adopt-A-Stream Crossing Program



- Ten sites along Regional Roads

Throughout April and May

- Planting of native trees and shrubs along streams at road crossings
- Promoting environmental education and awareness
- Event open to all elementary schools and community groups

**1,759 trees and shrubs were planted at 10 events
by 325 volunteers from across York Region!**



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Compost Awareness



Composting seminars and sale of composters recognizing National Compost Awareness Week

**Composter Sales and Seminars
May 5, 2012**

Event open to all residents of York Region

**National Compost Awareness Week
May 6-12, 2012**
Waste Management Centre,
East Gwillimbury



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A backyard composter can divert roughly 159 kilograms of organic material a year!



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Green Up – Clean Up at York Regional Forest Tracts



Cleaning up litter from the roads in and around the York Regional Forest

• Event coordinated by the Regional Forest Advisory Team (registration required)

**May 5, 2012 – Community Planting Weekend
partnering with CAA and Trees Ontario**

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In 2011, 100 garbage bags were collected filling a 20 yard dumpster!



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14th Annual York Children's Water Festival



Educating children about water and the environment using over 50 interactive displays, games and activities
In partnership with Toronto Region Conservation Authority

May 14 – 18, 2012

Opening Ceremonies - Tuesday, May 15th, 2012

Bruce's Mill Conservation Area

Event open to Grade 4 students by registration only

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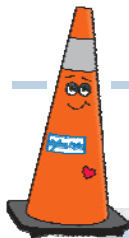


5,000 York Region Grade 4 students participate annually



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National Public Works Week

Celebrated throughout North America to raise awareness of Public Works and the services we provide.

May 20 – 26, 2012



Youth Engagement All Week Long

- Contests for schools to participate and win prizes
- School tours of facilities for Grade 5 students
- Grade 8 Water Systems Tour



May 26, 2012

Family Fun Day - Open House

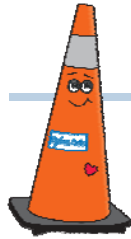
- Attended by over 1,500 York Region residents
- Charity BBQ, facility tours, displays, hands-on activities for children, games, face painting

2012 Theme – Creating a lasting impression



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National Public Works Week Cont'd

May 23, 2012

Municipal Challenge Day involving:

- Friendly challenge among local mayors and Regional Chair vying for Enbridge cup
- Municipal and regional staff compete in skills challenges including the "Watermain Repair" event with the Miller Cup going to the winner

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Public Works week celebrates the variety and importance of the services we deliver



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**CELEBRATE
WHERE YOU
LIVE**

Rouge Days

Rouge Days



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Raising public awareness of the Rouge Watershed and the importance of protecting, restoring and enhancing its ecological and cultural integrity

June 6 – 10, 2012

- Series of public events throughout the Rouge River

Initiated with:



Theme – Celebrate where you live



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Something for Everyone

	Water for Tomorrow Gardening Seminars	Earth Week - Displays	Forest Festivals	Adopt-A-Stream Crossing Program	Compost Seminar/Sale	Green Up, Clean Up	NPWW - Family Fun Day	NPWW - Municipal Challenge	Children's Water Festival	Rouge Watershed Days
 Town of Aurora	●			●						
 Town of East Gwillimbury	●			●	●	●	●			
 Town of Georgina	●			●						
 Township of King	●		●	●		●				
 Town of Markham	●			●						●
 Town of Newmarket	●	●		●						
 Town of Richmond Hill	●			●				●		●
 City of Vaughan	●			●						
 Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville	●		●	●		●			●	●

And throughout the rest of the year...

Forestry:

- **Nature's Creation Forest Festival** – September 8, Hollidge Tract
- Staff and natural heritage experts lead **hikes for the public** once a month
- Hosts internal and external **Tree Planting Events** between April to June
- **Nature's Classroom** – 5 to 10 times a month all year long
- Hosts **Adopt-A-Stream** – September, October and November

Waste Management:

- Hosts **Waste Reduction Week Open House** – October 20

Water

- Supports the Ontario Water Centre with **2012 Splash! Festival** – August 2012, Georgina

Throughout the Summer

- Staff from all service areas attend a variety of local events, including street festivals and fairs.