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NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK, 2011 MAY 15, 2011 TO MAY 21, 2011

The Transportation Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report dated March 16, 2011, from the Commissioner of Transportation Services and Commissioner of Environmental Services.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. Regional Council recognize the week of May 15 to 21, 2011 as National Public Works Week, 2011.

2. PURPOSE

This report is to request recognition during National Public Works Week, 2011, of the contributions made by Transportation and Environmental Services' Departments' staff to the health, safety, comfort and quality of life of York Regional residents, and provide an overview of the public works activities planned for this celebratory week.

3. BACKGROUND

National Public Works Week is recognized across North America

National Public Works Week was instituted in 1960 by the American Public Works Association (APWA) as a public education campaign. It is observed each year by the Canadian and Ontario Public Works Associations (CPWA/OPWA) during the same week as their American counterparts; the third full week of May.

By coordinating and participating in events, it provides an opportunity to promote awareness of the importance of public works in community life and appreciate the efforts of the staff of Transportation and Environmental Services'.

In 2010, York Region won the Canadian Public Works Association award in the Metro Centre category for outstanding efforts in commemorating National Public Works Week.

As in previous years, National Public Works Week and National EMS Week are celebrated during the same week (May 15 to 21, 2011).

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

The international theme for National Public Works Week, 2011 is “Public Works: Serving you and your community” (*see Attachment 1*). This slogan recognizes the commitment York Region public works professionals make on behalf of all Regional residents and neighbourhoods.

The following outlines events scheduled in celebration of National Public Works Week.

Lunch’n Learn for Regional staff at Administrative Centre will kick-off National Public Works Week celebrations on Thursday, May 12, 2011 with Directors from the Transportation and Environmental Services’ Departments taking part

The Director of Traffic Management and Intelligent Transportation Systems, Steven Kemp, will host the topic ‘Traffic 101’. He will explain the Department’s Intelligent Traffic Management Systems and outline safety measures being brought forward for 2011.

The Director, Environmental Promotion and Protection, Laura McDowell, will address the theme ‘Recycling 101’. The discussion will include an overview of the material recovery facility upgrades currently underway.

FAMILY FUN DAY / OPEN HOUSE

All Regional residents invited to annual Family Fun Day / Open House at 90 Bales Drive on Saturday, May 14, 2011

The Transportation and Environmental Services’ Departments will host a Family Fun Day / Open House to kick-off National Public Works Week to the public on Saturday, May 14 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Operations Centre located at 90 Bales Drive East. A charity barbecue will be available selling lunch at a minimal cost with all proceeds going to our chosen charity, the York Region Food Network. In 2010, approximately 1,500 people attended the Family Fun Day.

Bus tours available throughout the Open House to the Material Recovery Facility and the YRT/Viva Centre

A YRT bus will take passengers to the Material Recovery Facility located at 100 Garfield Wright Blvd. A waste specialist will be on the bus explaining Environmental Services Department programs and answering questions as it travels over the weigh scales taking the same route as a recycling truck. When the bus arrives at the building, residents will disembark to take a guided tour of the facility

A Viva bus will take participants to the YRT/Viva Centre at 18106 Yonge Street. The travellers will see the maintenance garage, view the large bus hoist and drive through the bus wash and then return to the Bales Drive site. A transit professional will be on board during the tour describing the benefits of being a transit rider, the advantages on the environment and answer any queries.

To give the public a fully educational, hands-on experience, several employees from across the organization have volunteered their time to staff displays and activities

The Family Fun Day Open House is also attended by other York Region partners. The York Region partners who will be attending this event are:

- EMS - Fully stocked ambulance and display
- Emergency Preparedness – display
- Corporate Communications and Tourism – display and giveaways
- YRP Fleet Services – vintage vehicles
- YRP - Save-A-Life unit

Activities/displays offered at the Family Fun Day include:

- York Region Transit YRT/Viva interactive display and information
- Forestry display – including a mulch giveaway
- Water for Tomorrow display
- Solid Waste Management video and interactive display
- Environmental Services exhibit
- Traffic safety and pedestrian signs – plus an educational component
- A hands-on Water and Wastewater display
- Voting for Paint a Plow and Waste Poster contest entries
- Distributing a children's Public Works and EMS activity booklets
- Lots of activities for children including face painting and several craft stations

This event could not be held without Regional Department volunteers who come out to staff the displays, show participants how the equipment performs, answer the many questions from young and old and don the signature costume of National Public Works Week mascot "Pylon Pete".

SCHOOL CONTESTS AND TOURS

Grade Five classes can vie for the 'Pylon Pete' trophy by painting a plow

The Transportation Services Department is again hosting a plow painting contest for school children. Each of the patrol districts; southwest, southeast, central and north, are providing two plows each for delivery to schools in their area. Schools will be chosen on

a first-come/first-serve basis in each patrol area. Regional staff will deliver a clean, newly-refreshed plow to participating schools. Plows will each be placed on a wooden stand making it safe for the students as they partake in this activity. Paint brushes, non-toxic paint in a variety of colours and a tarp in case of inclement weather are all provided. Students may use their creativity, but the painting must have a Public Works Theme.

Plows will be picked up and placed on display at York Region's Bales Drive facility. During York Region's National Public Works Week Family Fun Day / Open House on Saturday May 14, 2011, everyone attending will have the opportunity to vote for their favourite artistry. Students will be given information about the Family Fun Day and will be encouraged to come and bring their families to choose their design. The plow with the most votes will win the "Pylon Pete" trophy which will stay at their school for a year. When the trophy is collected, a smaller version will be left with the school to keep.

The winning class will receive a prize package consisting of a pizza luncheon and a gift certificate for Scholastics Books which the teacher may use to purchase items suitable for the students. St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic School in Newmarket was the 2010 winner of the Pylon Pete trophy.

All Region residents will see the painted plows on the Regional roads in their municipality during the 2011/2012 winter season.

A 'Reduce Waste' poster competition is offered to Grade Six students

To encourage waste reduction, the Environmental Services Department is offering a poster competition to York Region's grade six students. As waste comes from so many sources, this contest invites the pupils to think about how they can make a difference in their daily actions. Participating students will use their ideas to create a poster showing how these actions benefit their community.

Submissions will be first evaluated at the school level with two entries selected by the teacher and submitted for judging. All entries will be placed on display at York Region's Bales Drive facility during the National Public Works Week Family Fun Day / Open House on Saturday, May 14, 2011. Everyone attending will have an opportunity to cast a ballot for their favourite poster. As with the plow competition, students are encouraged to come and bring their families and teachers to vote on their design. Information regarding the Open House will be distributed to all competing classes.

Three prizes will be awarded with gift certificates for Chapters – Indigo. All winners will receive two award plaques; one for the student to take home, and the other to be displayed at their school as a reminder of the importance of waste reduction.

In 2010, students from Our Lady of Grace in Aurora and Redstone Public School in Richmond Hill were the lucky winners.

Teachers may also participate by entering an essay competition on waste reduction promotion

To compliment the poster competition, the Environmental Services Department is extending an invitation to grade six teachers. Teachers are asked to write an essay about ways to promote waste reduction in the classroom. Two teachers using the most original tactics will be awarded a gift certificate for Scholastics Books.

In 2010, a teacher from Our Lady of Grace won the competition exercise.

York Region students will be given an opportunity to tour Regional facilities during National Public Works Week

This year during National Public Works Week school tours will be held on four days. Two schools per day will tour facilities hosted by staff of the Transportation and Environmental Services' Departments. Tours are scheduled as follows:

- Tuesday, May 17 – Roads, Traffic and Waste Management are hosting a tour of the Operation Centre at 90 Bales Drive and an explanation and video of the Material Recovery Facility.
- Wednesday, May 18 and Friday, May 20 – Water and Wastewater Operations is hosting tours of the Georgina Water Treatment Plant and the Sutton Water Pollution Plant.
- Thursday, May 19 – Transit is hosting trips, while advising on the benefits of transit use, to the Regional forest for tours and educational activities.

OTHER EVENTS

Heads of Council (or their designates) participate in a Public Works Challenge and municipal staff vie for Miller Cup in a skills competition on Wednesday, May 18, 2011

The Town of Richmond Hill is once again graciously hosting the municipal challenge. This event features a friendly competition among Mayors of participating municipalities and the Regional Chair.

The Town also holds a skills competition among ten staff teams from all nine municipalities and the Region. The challenge is made up of the following events:

- Backhoe/ball
- Five-ton truck with plow and wing
- One-ton pick-up truck and trailer
- Watermain repair

Each municipality is represented by a team of four and once again, staff from the Transportation Services and Environmental Services' Departments will enter a team in this exciting event, competing for the 'Miller Cup'.

These events are well-known to staff, members of Council and media alike and are always well received.

Staff Appreciation Day wraps up our National Public Works Week celebrations on Wednesday, May 25, 2011

The celebratory week concludes with our appreciation day for staff of both Transportation and Environmental Services' Departments. The day will begin with senior staff visiting ten different work sites to greet staff in the morning and will conclude with a themed luncheon.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All costs associated with both Departments' participation in National Public Works Week have been included in the approved Transportation Services and Environmental Services Department's 2011 budgets.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The nine local municipalities benefit from York Region participating in National Public Works Week initiatives through increased public education and awareness of the importance of public works in community life.

7. CONCLUSION

The Transportation and Environmental Services' Departments are participating in both Regional and local municipal events scheduled during National Public Works Week (May 15 to 21, 2011). National Public Works Week recognition will raise public awareness of transportation and environmental issues and increase confidence in public works employees who are dedicated to improving the quality of life for present and future generations.

In 2010, York Region received the Metro Centre category award from the Canadian Public Works Association for our efforts commemorating National Public Works Week.

For more information on this report, contact Bonnie Alexander, Projects Assistant, Commissioner's Office at extension 5026 in the Transportation Services Department.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause is attached to this report.)



National Public Works Week
May 15-21, 2017

Public Works: Serving You and Your Community

