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NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK 2008

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report, March 13, 2008, from the Commissioner of Transportation Services and Commissioner of Environmental Services:

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Regional Council recognize the week of May 18 to 24, 2008 as National Public Works Week.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is twofold, to:

1. Request recognition during National Public Works Week 2008, of the contributions made by Transportation and Environmental Services' staffs to the health, safety, comfort and quality of life of Regional residents.
2. Provide an overview of the planned activities during this celebratory week.

3. BACKGROUND

National Public Works Week 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 an awareness of the importance of public works in community life and the efforts of Transportation and Environmental Services' staffs.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

This year National Public Works Week is from May 18 to 24, and the international theme for 2008 is "The Future Is Now". As EMS Week coincides with National Public Works Week, EMS staff will be participating in some of the departments' events.

4.1 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR 2008

Grade 5 classes will vie for the 'Pylon Pete' trophy by painting a plow with a Public Works Theme.

We are hosting a plow painting contest for school children. Regional staff will deliver a clean, newly-refreshed plow by flat-bed truck to participating schools. We will provide non-toxic paint in a variety of colours. Students may use their creativity, but the painting must have a **Public Works Theme**. The plows will be picked up and placed on display at our Bales Drive facility. During the Departments' National Public Works Week Open House on Saturday May 24, 2008, everyone attending will have an opportunity to vote for their favourite plow. Students are encouraged to come and bring their families to vote on their design. The plow with the most votes will win the "Pylon Pete" trophy which will stay at their school for a year. As well, there will be a prize package for the class. In 2007, All Saints Catholic Elementary School in Markham was the 'first' school to win the Pylon Pete trophy.

School classes will tour Regional facilities during National Public Works Week.

Three days of National Public Works Week, two schools per day will be touring facilities hosted by Transportation and Environmental Services' staffs. The tours are scheduled as follows:

- Tuesday, May 20 – Roads Transportation and Solid Waste Management are hosting tours of the Operation Centre at 90 Bales Drive and the Material Recovery Facility at 100 Garfield Wright Boulevard.
- Wednesday, May 21 – Water and Wastewater is hosting tours of the Georgina Water Treatment Plant and the Sutton Water Pollution Plant.
- Friday, May 23 – Transit is hosting trips, while advising the benefits of transit use, to the Regional forest for tours and educational discussions and activities.

Transportation Services, Environmental Services and EMS staffs will present to Grade 10 Civics classes from May 5 to May 16 to promote careers in public works and emergency medical services.

Last year, we did pilot sessions to several secondary schools for the four days of National Public Works Week. The response was overwhelming and our staff had a hard time filling all the requests for presentations. We received emails from numerous teachers asking us to repeat our program in future years.

Transportation Services, Environmental Services and EMS staff have volunteered to make presentations to grade 10 civics classes. Because of the great response last year, it was decided to provide this service for the two weeks prior to National Public Works and EMS Week. This is an opportunity to give high school students insight to the variety of

public works and emergency medical services careers available to them. It also allows us to promote the Region and our component fields, hopefully ensuring future generations of Regional staff. Human Resources, Transportation Services, Environmental Services and EMS staffs have worked together to prepare a PowerPoint presentation. All our volunteers will give the same presentation, and then speak about their own position/field, why they chose it, closing with questions from the students.

Politicians participate in a Public Works Challenge and Regional staff vie for Miller Cup in skills competition on Wednesday, May 21, 2008.

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

The Town also holds a skills competition between staff teams from all ten municipalities (nine local and one Regional). The challenge is made up of a backhoe/ball event, a five-ton event, a one-ton event and a water event. Each municipality is represented by a team of four and once again, the Region will enter a team in this exciting event, competing for the 'Miller Cup', on Wednesday, May 21, 2008.

These events are well-known to staff, politicians and media alike and are always well received.

Staff Appreciation Day with joint luncheon on Thursday, May 22, 2008.

We are organizing a staff appreciation day having senior staff meet employees as they arrive at work. There will also be an appreciation lunch to ensure all Transportation and Environmental Services' personnel are recognized for their important efforts and responsibilities.

Open Houses at Bales Drive and Garfield Wright Boulevard locations on Saturday May 24, 2008

The Transportation and Environmental Services departments will host Open Houses on the Saturday of National Public Works Week from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The Waste Management Centre (Material Recovery Facility) located at 100 Garfield Wright Blvd. and the Operations Centre located at 90 Bales Drive East will open their doors to the public. A Viva bus ride will take participants to the YRT/Viva Centre at 18106 Yonge Street to go through the bus wash and return to the Bales Drive site. YRP Fleet Services and EMS will join us at the Bales Drive site to showcase their vintage vehicles, other services and EMS will include CPR demonstrations. Enbridge is providing a barbecue service to allow the selling of lunch at a minimal cost. Some activities/displays offered are:

- Vehicles and equipment

- Tours
- York Region Transit interactive display and VIVA information
- Forestry display
- Water for Tomorrow display
- Solid Waste Management video and interactive display
- Traffic safety and pedestrian signs – plus an educational component
- Water and Wastewater display
- YRT vintage vehicle display
- EMS bus display
- EMS – CPR demonstration
- Distributing a children's Public Works and EMS Activity Booklet
- Barbecue Lunch offered at minimal charge

At this time, we are in dialogue with the Safety Division of YRP regarding their participation at this event.

This event could not be held without our 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 our signature costume of the National Public Works Week mascot, "Pylon Pete".

Relationship to Vision 2026

The Transportation and Environmental Services departments support the Vision 2026 goal of Infrastructure for a Growing Region - to provide effective, efficient and environmentally sensitive transportation, waste management and water systems.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs associated with both departments' participation in National Public Works Week have been included in the approved Transportation Services and Environmental Services 2008 budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Some of our local municipalities are hosting public events throughout National Public Works Week. At the time of writing, Regional staff is participating in the following municipal events:

Town of Richmond Hill hosting Open House

The Town is hosting its annual Open House on Saturday, May 24 at its Operations facility with displays, interactive events and a barbecue.

City of Vaughan hosting Environmental Day

The City is planning a “National Public Works Week Day” on Saturday, May 24 with an environmental theme.

7. CONCLUSION

The Transportation and Environmental Services departments are participating in both Regional and local municipal events scheduled during National Public Works Week (May 18 to 24, 2008). National Public Works Week recognition will raise the public’s 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.

We are pleased this year to include EMS in some our activities as our international celebratory weeks coincide.

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.