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NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK MAY 20, 2012 TO MAY 26, 2012

The Transportation Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report dated March 7, 2012, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Community Planning and the Commissioner of Environmental Services.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. Regional Council recognize the week of May 20 to May 26, 2012 as National Public Works Week.

2. PURPOSE

This report requests Council acknowledge National Public Works Week to recognize the contributions made by Transportation and Community Planning and the Environmental Services' staff to promote health, safety, comfort and quality of life of York Region residents. This report also provides an overview of 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.

National Public Works Week events provide an opportunity to increase awareness in the importance of public works to community life and an opportunity to appreciate the efforts of staff from Transportation and Community Planning and Environmental Services' Departments.

As in previous years, National Public Works Week and National EMS Week are celebrated during the same week (May 20 to 26, 2012). A report outlining activities for EMS Week is also on this Council agenda.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

The American Public Works Association establishes a theme each year to be used internationally. For the 2012 National Public Works Week, it is – “Public Works: Creating a Lasting Impression” (*see Attachments 1 and 2*). This year we celebrate the inspiration and lasting impression of the sustainable solutions public works professionals bring to our communities.

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

SCHOOL CONTESTS AND TOURS

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

The Transportation and Community Planning 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 for delivery to schools in their area. Schools will be chosen on a first-come/first-serve basis in each patrol area. Each plow will 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 26, 2012, everyone attending will have the opportunity to submit a ballot for their favourite artistry. Students will be given information about the Family Fun Day and will be encouraged to 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. When the trophy is collected, a smaller version will be left with the school to keep. The winning class will receive a gift certificate for Scholastics Books which the teacher may use to purchase items suitable for the students. Prince Charles Public School in Newmarket was the 2011 winner of the Pylon Pete trophy.

Residents will see the painted plows in action on the Regional roads in their municipality during the 2012/2013 winter season.

How to ‘Reduce Waste and Make a Difference in Your Community’ short video contest is offered to Grade Eight students

York Region’s grade eight classes are asked to imagine all the waste discarded each day and what a difference it would make if it wasn’t generated in the first place. When it comes to the 4Rs of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Recover – Reduce is the R that makes

the biggest impact. To encourage creative minds to think about waste reduction, the Environmental Services Department is calling all actors and actresses to put their ideas of how to make a difference in their community's waste into a short video.

All one-minute videos will be assessed by a judging panel comprised of York Region staff. The top five entries will be displayed at York Region's Bales Drive facility during the National Public Works Week Family Fun Day / Open House on Saturday, May 26, 2012. Everyone attending will have an opportunity to cast a ballot for their favourite video. As with the plow competition, students are encouraged to bring their families, teachers and school staff to vote on their creation. Information regarding the Open House will be distributed to all competing classes.

Three prizes will be awarded as follows:

- First prize – a \$200 Scholastic Gift Card and a pizza party for the class
- Second prize – a \$100 Scholastic Gift Card for the class
- Third prize – a \$100 Scholastic Gift Card for the class

In 2011, a 'Reduce Waste' poster contest for students in Grade six was offered. The lucky winners were:

- First place – a student from Our Lady of Grace Catholic Elementary School, Aurora
- Second place – a student from St. Anne Catholic Elementary School, Richmond Hill
- Third place – a student from Harry Bowes Public School, Stouffville

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 the four days following the Victoria Day holiday. Due to demand, the number of staff-guided facility tours has increased this year. Tours are scheduled as follows:

- Tuesday, May 22 – 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 (2 classes participate in a ½-day tour each)
- Wednesday, May 23, Thursday, May 24 and Friday, May 25 – Water and Wastewater Operations is hosting tours of the Georgina Water Treatment Plant and the Sutton Water Pollution Control Plant (2 classes participate in a full-day tour each day).
- Thursday, May 24 – Transit is hosting trips, while advising on the benefits of transit use, to the Regional forest for tours and educational activities (2 classes participate in ½-day tour each).

FAMILY FUN DAY / OPEN HOUSE

All Regional residents invited to annual Family Fun Day / Open House on Saturday, May 26, 2012

The Transportation and Community Planning and Environmental Services' Departments will host a Family Fun Day / Open House for the public on Saturday, May 26 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 the York Region Food Network. In 2011, approximately 800 people attended the Family Fun Day. The York Region Food Network received \$985 from the proceeds of the Family Fun Day BBQ and staff donations.

As EMS Week coincides with National Public Works Week, our Departments are partnering with our colleagues in EMS. The new EMS headquarters building at 80 Bales Drive has recently opened so our Family Fun Day will be expanding to include several displays and activities hosted by EMS staff at this location, making for a large, well-attended event.

A YRT/Viva bus will be available as a shuttle service between the two buildings on Bales Drive. While on the bus, passengers will hear a transit professional describe the benefits of riding transit, the environmental advantages and will answer any queries.

A bus tour will be available to the Material Recovery Facility

A YRT/Viva bus will take travellers 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

To give the public a full 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 many York Region partners. This year, the following Regional partners are confirmed to attend:

- Emergency Preparedness – educational display
- Corporate Communications and Tourism – information display and giveaways
- YRP Fleet Services – vintage vehicles
- YRP – Save-A-Life unit
- RapidCo – information display

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
- Smart Commute
- A hands-on Water and Wastewater display
- Voting for Paint a Plow contest entries
- Reduce Waste and Make a Difference in your Community – display and Video contest entry voting
- Distributing children's Public Works 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
- Don the signature costume of National Public Works Week mascot "Pylon Pete".

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 23, 2012

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 of Newmarket took home the honours at last year's Mayor's Challenge.

The Town also holds a skills competition among ten staff teams; one 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 and Community Planning and Environmental Services' Departments will enter a team in this exciting event. The City of Vaughan staff team will make a bid to keep the 'Miller Cup' in their possession.

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

Lunch 'n Learn for Regional staff at Administrative Centre on Wednesday, May 23, 2012 with Directors from the Transportation and Community Planning and Environmental Services' Departments

The Director of Traffic Management and Intelligent Transportation Systems, Steven Kemp, and Gregg Loane, Project Manager Integrated Intelligent Transportation Systems will host the topic 'York Region's Traveller Information Services'. It will be an overview of our current traveller information services and those planned for 2012 (improved website, a telephone service, and Social Media services), upcoming services (traveler information portal, personalized services, and 511), and related benefits to all travelers in the Region.

The Director, Strategy and Business Planning, Lucas Cugalj, will address the theme 'State of the Infrastructure Report'. The discussion will include an overview of the current condition and performance of water, wastewater and waste management infrastructure assets and projects currently underway.

Staff Appreciation will occur during the month of May with both Commissioners visiting staff sites

Throughout the month of May, the Commissioners of Transportation and Community Planning and Environmental Services, along with appropriate Directors, will visit their respective Departments' work sites. Staff from smaller sites will be invited to attend one of the larger sites. During these visits, staff accomplishments will be highlighted and employees will be encouraged to have discussions and interactions with their Commissioner and senior staff. A total of 16 sites will be included in these visits.

Link to Key Council-approved Plans

Celebrating National Public Works Week through our school and public events supports the 2011 to 2015 Strategic objectives as follows:

- Increase public awareness of Regional services and programs through effective use of multiple communication channels
- Achieve a high level of customer satisfaction with Regional services

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All costs associated with both Departments' participation in National Public Works Week have been included in the approved Transportation and Community Planning and Environmental Services Departments' 2012 operating 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.

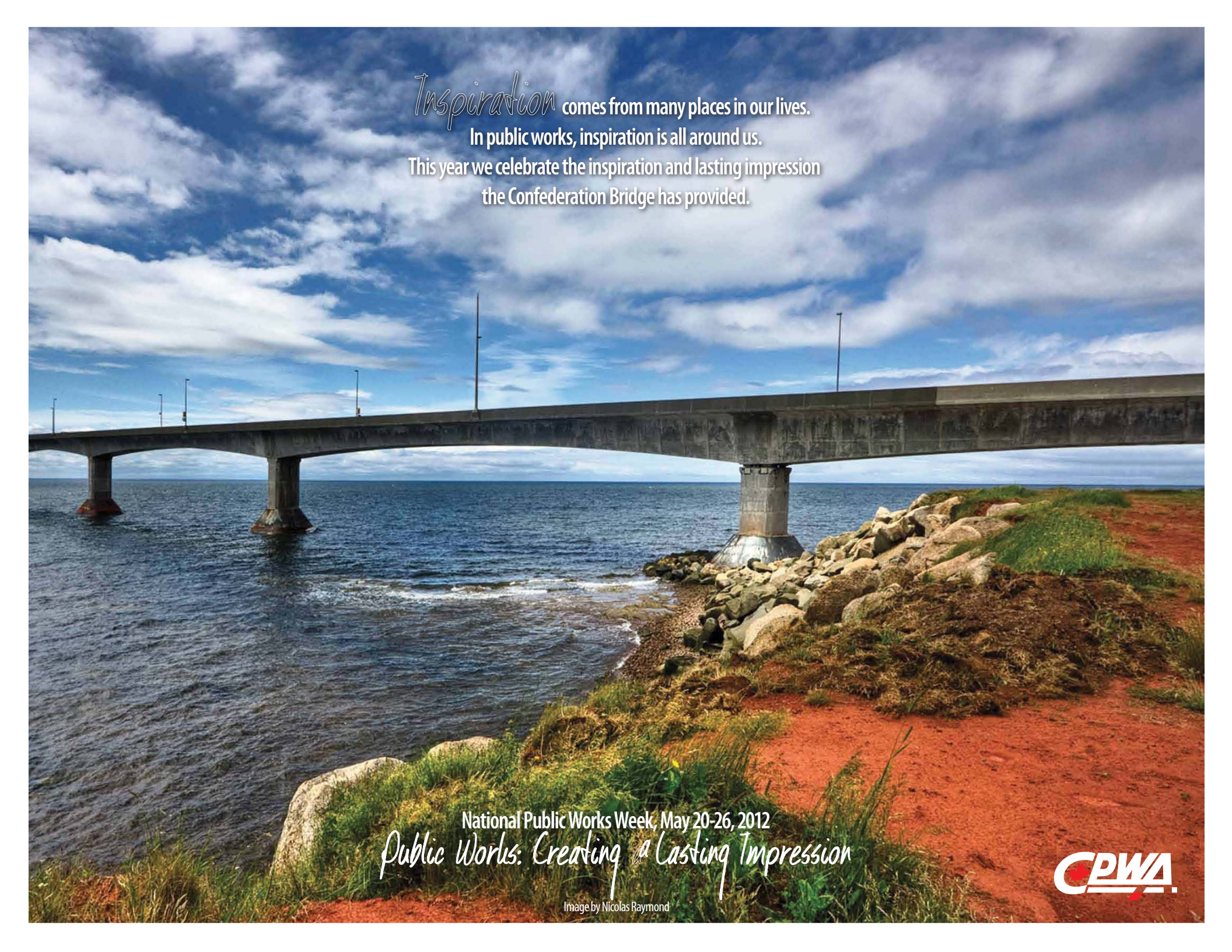
7. CONCLUSION

The Transportation and Community Planning and Environmental Services Departments are participating in both Regional and local municipal events scheduled during National Public Works Week (May 20 to 26, 2012). 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.

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

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The two attachments referred to in this clause are attached to this report.)



Inspiration comes from many places in our lives.

In public works, inspiration is all around us.

This year we celebrate the inspiration and lasting impression
the Confederation Bridge has provided.

National Public Works Week, May 20-26, 2012

Public Works: Creating a Lasting Impression

Image by Nicolas Raymond





"Public Works: Creating a Lasting Impression"

May 20-26, 2012

Since 1960, APWA has sponsored National Public Works Week. Across the nation, our more than 28,000 members use this week to energize and educate the public on the importance of the contribution of public works to their daily lives: planning, building, managing and operating the heart of our local communities and building the quality of life.

APWA has selected "Public Works: Creating a Lasting Impression" as its theme for 2012's National Public Works Week, which will be celebrated May 20-26. The theme speaks to the never-ending effort of public works professionals to use sustainable solutions to bring their communities the highest possible quality of life within a framework of environmental, social, and economic responsibility.

JOIN US IN CELEBRATION!



This year's poster is a watercolor scene representing our theme "Public Works: Creating a Lasting Impression" by Robert Gantt Steele