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NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK - 2010

The Transportation Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report dated March 17, 2010, from the Commissioner of Transportation Services and the Commissioner of Environmental Services.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. Council recognize the week of May 16 to 22, 2010 as National Public Works Week 2010.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to request recognition during National Public Works Week 2010, of the contributions made by the staff of Transportation and Environmental Services Departments to the health, safety, comfort and quality of life of 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.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

This year National Public Works Week is from May 16 to 22, and the international theme for 2010 is “Public Works – Above, Below and All Around You” (*Attachment 1*).

SCHOOL CONTESTS AND TOURS

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

Transportation and Environmental Services Departments are 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. The plow will be placed on a wooden stand making it more convenient for the students to paint. Regional staff provide brushes and non-toxic paint in a variety of colours as well as a tarp in case of inclement weather. 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 the Departments' National Public Works Week Family Fun Day Open House on Saturday May 15, 2010, everyone attending will have an opportunity to vote for their favourite painting. Students will be given information about the Family Fun Day and will be 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 2009 for the second year in a row, Bishop Scalabrini Catholic Elementary School in Vaughan was the winner of the Pylon Pete trophy.

All Region residents will see the finished plows on the Regional roads in their municipality during the 2010/2011 winter season.

A Reduce Waste poster competition is offered to Grade Six students

To encourage waste reduction, a poster competition will be offered to York Region's grade six students. It invites the pupils to think creatively of ways to reduce waste at home. Submissions will be first evaluated at the school level with two entries being selected by their 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 15, 2010. Everyone attending will have an opportunity to vote 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.

Teachers may also participate by entering an essay competition

Grade six teachers are invited to submit a 300-word essay answering the question - 'How are you Promoting Waste Reduction in your Classroom?' Three top submissions with the most original tactics will each be awarded a \$250 gift certificate for Scholastic Books.

Content from the poster contest and essay competition may be used for waste promotion in York Region.

Students will 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 Transportation and Environmental Services Departments. Tours are scheduled as follows:

- Tuesday, May 18 – 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 19 and Friday, May 21 – Water and Wastewater Operations is hosting tours of the Georgina Water Treatment Plant and the Sutton Water Pollution Plant.
- Thursday, May 20 – Transit is hosting trips, while advising on the benefits of transit use, to the Regional forest for tours and educational activities.

SCHEDULE OF OTHER EVENTS

Open House at 90 Bales Drive on Saturday May 15, 2010

The Transportation and Environmental Services' Departments will host an Family Fun Day Open House to kick-off National Public Works Week on Saturday, May 15th from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Operations Centre located at 90 Bales Drive East. A YRT bus will take passengers to a tour of the Material Recovery Facility located at 100 Garfield Wright Blvd. while having a waste specialist explaining Environmental Services Department programs and answering questions. 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 with a transit professional on board to describe the benefits of transit use on the environment and answer any queries. A charity barbecue will be available selling lunch at a minimal cost with proceeds going to a chosen charity, Blue Door Shelters.

Other York Region partners who will be on site are:

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

Some activities/displays offered are:

- York Region Transit interactive display and VIVA information
- Forestry display – including a mulch giveaway
- Water for Tomorrow display
- Solid Waste Management video and interactive display
- 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".

Heads of Council (or their designates) will participate in a Public Works Challenge and municipal staff vie for Miller Cup in a skills competition on Wednesday, May 19, 2010

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 staff teams from all ten municipalities (nine local and one Regional). 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, politicians and media alike and are always well received.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Costs associated with both Departments' participation in National Public Works Week have been included in the approved Transportation Services and Environmental Services 2010 budgets.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

York Region's local municipalities benefit from these 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 16 to 22, 2010). 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 Services Department.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

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

