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NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK 2009

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report dated March 26, 2009, from the Commissioner of Transportation Services and the Commissioner of Environmental Services.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. Regional Council recognize the week of May 17 to 23, 2009 as National Public Works Week 2009.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to:

1. Request recognition during National Public Works Week 2009, 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 17 to 23, and the international theme for 2009 is "Revitalize Reinvest Renew".

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR 2009

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

We are again 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 provide brushes and 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 23, 2009, 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 2008, Bishop Scalabrini Catholic Elementary School in Vaughan was the winner of the Pylon Pete trophy.

Expansion of Paint-A-Plow program allows more schools to participate

For 2009, our program expanded to eight plows. Each of the patrol districts; namely, southwest, southeast, central and north, are providing two plows each for delivery to schools in their area.

School classes tour Regional facilities during National Public Works Week

During 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:

1. Tuesday, May 19 – Roads Transportation and Solid 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. Wednesday, May 20 – Water and Wastewater is hosting tours of the Georgina Water Treatment Plant and the Sutton Water Pollution Plant.
3. Thursday, May 21 – Transit is hosting trips, while advising the benefits of transit use, to the Regional forest for tours and educational discussions and activities.

Heads of Council (or their designates) participate in a Public Works Challenge and municipal staff vie for Miller Cup in skills competition on Wednesday, May 21, 2009

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

Staff Appreciation Day with joint luncheon on Friday, May 22, 2009

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 House at 90 Bales Drive on Saturday May 23, 2009

The Transportation and Environmental Services' Departments will host an Open House on the Saturday of National Public Works Week 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 Waste Management Centre (Material Recovery Facility) located at 100 Garfield Wright Blvd. while having a waste specialist explaining our 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 answering questions. A charity barbecue will be available selling lunch at a minimal cost with the proceeds going to our chosen charity.

Our other partners who will be on site are:

1. YRP Fleet Services – vintage vehicles
2. YRP - Save-A-Life unit
3. EMS - Fully stocked ambulance
4. EMS - CPR demonstrations
5. Emergency Management - display
6. Infrastructure Planning – Pedestrian and cycling network exhibit

Some activities/displays offered are:

1. York Region Transit interactive display and VIVA information
2. Forestry display – including a mulch giveaway
3. Water for Tomorrow display
4. Solid Waste Management video and interactive display
5. Traffic safety and pedestrian signs – plus an educational component
6. A hands-on Water and Wastewater display

7. Distributing a children's Public Works and EMS Activity Booklet
8. Lots of activities for children including face painting, bucket brigade game and several craft stations

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 2009 budgets.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Our local municipalities benefit from our 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 17 to 23, 2009). 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.