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NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report, April 12, 2005, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works:

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. Copies of this report be forwarded by the Regional Clerk to the Clerks of the local municipalities.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to advise Committee and Council of the Transportation and Works Department's involvement in Public Works Week.

3. BACKGROUND

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 during 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 Works staff.

This year's theme is "Public Works is Everywhere you Look".

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

The Transportation and Works Department has staff have examined how the Department could participate in this year's campaign. The following is the Department's proposed schedule of events.

4.1 York Works – 'Design a Button' Contest

The last edition of York Works, York Region's semi-annual Transportation and Works newsletter, featured a contest for children to design a button showing how the Transportation and Works Department helps to make their community a better place to live. Over 35 button designs were submitted. Staff picked winners from three different age groups, as well as an overall winner. Each winning design will be produced into a

button to be distributed throughout Public Works Week. The winning designs will also be featured in the next edition of York Works and on the “Kids Zone” section of the Regional web site.

4.2 Public Works Family Fun Day

On Sunday, May 15th, 2005, the Transportation and Works Department will be hosting a “Family Fun Day” from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the Children’s Safety Village in Bruce’s Mill Conservation Area (*See Attachment 1*). This event will consist of the following:

- Vehicles and equipment (including an YRT bus).
- York Region Transit interactive display and VIVA information
- Forestry – distribution of free tree seedlings.
- Water for Tomorrow – providing rain gauges and water efficient flower seeds.
- Solid Waste Management – supplying kraft paper bags for yard waste.
- Traffic safety and pedestrian signs – educational component.
- Water and Wastewater interactive displays.
- Distribution of buttons (from the contest) and a children’s Public Works Activity Booklet.
- Light refreshments.

4.3 Displays – Great Hall

During part of the week of May 16th, 2005, most of the displays noted above will be moved to the Great Hall in the York Administrative Centre for all staff and visitors to view.

4.4 Staff Appreciation Meetings

Staff meetings and appreciation lunches will be held at four locations across the Region to ensure all Transportation and Works personnel are recognized for their important efforts and responsibilities.

4.5 School Tour

On Thursday, May 19, 2005, Transportation and Works Department staff will be hosting a school tour of its facilities. This tour will encompass the Georgina Water Treatment Plant and the Roads Operations Centre on Woodbine Avenue.

4.6 Participation in York Municipalities Public Works Challenge

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

They also hold a skills competition between staff teams from all ten municipalities (nine local and one Regional). Each municipality is represented by a team of four with their own five-ton snow plow and back hoe. Once again, the Region will enter a team in this exciting event, known as the ‘Miller Cup’, on Wednesday, May 18th, 2005.

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

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs associated with the Department's participation in Public Works Week are minimal and funds have been included in the approved 2005 budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Staff at the local municipalities are aware of the Transportation and Works Department's planned events for Public Works Week. At the time of writing, Regional staff are participating in the following municipal events:

6.1 Town of Richmond Hill

The Town is hosting its annual Open House on Saturday, May 14th at its Operations facility with displays, interactive events and a Bar-B-Que. The Region's Solid Waste Management and Transit (Viva) staff will be participating.

6.2 City of Vaughan

The City is planning a 'Focus on Waste' Day on Saturday, May 14th at its Joint Operations Centre. The Region's Solid Waste Management staff will be attending.

7. CONCLUSION

The Transportation and Works Department is participating in both Regional and local municipal events scheduled during Public Works Week (May 15th to 21st, 2005), to promote public awareness of the importance of public works in community life and the efforts of all Transportation and Works staff.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

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