

7

NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report, April 27, 2006, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works:

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that this report be received for information.

2. PURPOSE

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

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

National Public Works Week is from May 21st to 27th, 2006 and this year's theme is "Public Works: The Heart of Every Community". Staff of Transportation and Works have examined how the Department could participate in this year's campaign. The following is the proposed schedule of events.

4.1 York Works – School Sculpture Contest

The last edition of York Works, York Region's semi-annual Transportation and Works newsletter, featured a contest for Grade 5 classes to build a sculpture made entirely of recycled materials. The sculpture is to have a public works theme. At the time of writing, seven schools had entered the contest. During the week of May 8th to 12th, all sculptures will be displayed in the Great Hall of the Administrative Centre for staff to vote for their favourite entry. Pictures of the sculptures will also be put on our intranet site and on YorkBeat, the Regional communication tool, to ensure we receive the votes from staff at our off-site locations. All entries will be displayed at the Regional Waste

Management Centre during National Public Works Week. The winning design will also be featured in the next edition of York Works and on the “Kids Zone” section of the Regional web site. The winning class will be invited to the May 25th Council meeting to be acknowledged and presented with a prize.

4.2 Public Works Open Houses

On Saturday, May 27th, 2006, the Transportation and Works Department will be hosting Open Houses from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the three of our operational locations namely; the Waste Management Centre located at 100 Garfield Wright Blvd., the Operations Centre located at 90 Bales Drive East and the YRT/Viva Centre at 18106 Yonge Street (*See Attachment 1*). This event will consist of the following:

- 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 – educational component.
- Water and Wastewater display.
- Distribution a children’s Public Works Activity Booklet.
- Light refreshments.

4.3 Displays – Great Hall

During part of the week of May 21st, 2006, displays will be located in the Great Hall in the York Administrative Centre for all staff and visitors to view.

4.4 Staff Appreciation Meeting

A staff meeting and appreciation lunch will be held to ensure all Transportation and Works personnel are recognized for their important efforts and responsibilities.

4.5 School Tours

Every day of National Public Works Week (except Victoria Day), two schools per day will be touring the Department’s facilities hosted by Transportation and Works staff. The tours are scheduled as follows:

- Tuesday, May 23rd – Roads Transportation is hosting tours of the Operation Centre at 90 Bales Drive.
- Wednesday, May 24th – Water and Wastewater is hosting tours of the Georgina Water Treatment Plant and the Keswick Water Pollution Plant.
- Thursday, May 25th – Solid Waste Management is hosting visits to the Waste Management Centre.
- Friday, May 26th – Transit is hosting trips, while advising the benefits of transit use, to the Regional forest for tours and educational discussions.

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.

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 and a one-ton event. This year, there will also be 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 24th, 2006.

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 National Public Works Week are minimal and funds have been included in the approved 2006 budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Most of the local municipalities are hosting public events throughout 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 13th at its Operations facility with displays, interactive events and a Bar-B-Que. Water for Tomorrow will participate and represent York Region.

6.2 City of Vaughan

The City is planning a "Public Works Week Event !" on Saturday, May 27th 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 before and during National Public Works Week (May 21st to 27th, 2006), 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 was included in the agenda for the May 10, 2006 Committee meeting.)