

Clause 4 in Report No. 9 of Committee of the Whole was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on May 21, 2015.

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**National Public Works Week
May 17 to 23, 2015**

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendation contained in the report dated April 22, 2015 from the Commissioner of Transportation Services and Commissioner of Environmental Services:

1. Recommendation

It is recommended that:

1. Council recognize the week of May 17 to May 23, 2015 as National Public Works Week.

2. Purpose

This report requests Council recognize National Public Works Week to acknowledge the contributions made by staff in Transportation Services and Environmental Services to promote health, safety and quality of life for 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 adopted 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 in May.

National Public Works Week events help increase awareness of the importance of public works in communities across the country. In York Region, it is an opportunity to raise awareness about the Public Works sector and the many interesting career opportunities that can be pursued. It is also an opportunity to recognize and show appreciation for staff in Transportation Services and Environmental Services for their efforts in providing excellent services in our growing communities.

4. Analysis and Options

The American Public Works Association establishes a theme each year to be used internationally. This year's theme is 'Community Begins Here'. In keeping with that theme, York Region will celebrate the work that public works professionals provide to our communities.

National Public Works Week also coincides with National Paramedic Services Week. As has been done in the past, staff from Transportation Services and Environmental Services have been collaborating with EMS to make preparations for the annual Family Fun Day Open House on Saturday, May 24.

The following events are scheduled in celebration of 2015 National Public Works Week.

Grade Five classes will vie for the 'Pylon Pete' trophy in Paint a Plow contest

Transportation Services is again hosting a plow blade painting contest for Grade 5 students. York Region's patrol districts (southwest, southeast, central and north) will each provide two schools in their area with plow blades for the contest. A communication is sent to York Region School Boards in advance of the event inviting schools to enter the contest. Schools are selected on a first-come/first-serve basis from entries received in each patrol area.

Students will paint plow blades using this year's Public Works theme of "Community Begins Here". Plow blades will be placed securely on wooden stands, ensuring safety for participating students. Painting supplies will be provided. The painted blades will be on display at Family Fun Day where residents can vote for their favourite design. The winning school will receive the Pylon Pete trophy for display in their school. Residents will also be able to view the painted blades on the Region's snow plows during the 2015/2016 winter season.

York Region students will be given an opportunity to tour Regional facilities during National Public Works Week

During this year's National Public Works Week, school tours will be held over four days following Victoria Day as follows:

- Tuesday, May 19 – Roads, Traffic and EMS will host facility tours of the garage, fleet, traffic control centre, sign shop, EMS simulation lab and command centre. A mini CPR workshop will also be delivered.
- Wednesday, May 20 to Friday, May 22 – Water and Wastewater Operations will host tours of Georgina Water Treatment Plant and Keswick Wastewater Treatment Plant to highlight drinking water and wastewater processes used to keep York Region's water safe (two classes will participate in a full-day tour each day).
- Thursday, May 21 – York Region Transit will showcase the benefits of transit use and host rides on transit vehicles to the Regional Forest for tours and educational activities (two classes participate in a half day tour).

York Region residents are invited to annual Family Fun Day Open House on Saturday, May 23, 2015

Staff from Transportation Services and Environmental Services, in collaboration with York Regional Police and EMS, will host a Family Fun Day Open House for residents on Saturday, May 23, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The Open House will be take place at both the Operations Centre located at 90 Bales Drive East and EMS Headquarters at 80 Bales Drive East. A charity barbeque will be held, with all proceeds going to York Region Centre for Community Safety. In 2014, approximately 900 people attended the Family Fun Day barbeque. Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), York Region, received \$1,930 from the proceeds of the barbeque, in addition to staff donations.

To provide residents with a full educational, hands-on experience, several departments from across the organization will have displays and activities at the Open House. York Regional Police - Forensics, Tactical and Canine Units, will also be in attendance this year.

Activities and displays offered at Family Fun Day include:

- YRT/Viva interactive display and information
- vivaNext display and information
- Forestry display and activity – including mulch giveaway
- Water for Tomorrow display and interactive activity

- Solid Waste Management video and display with “Good Food” campaign information
- Recycled bales display from Material Recovery Facility
- ‘Call Before You Dig’ OMM display and activity
- Water and Wastewater Mater Plan display
- Confined space demonstration
- Micro-tunnel boring machine and interactive children’s display
- Hands-on interactive water supply and wastewater treatment displays
- Traffic safety and pedestrian signs
- Voting for Paint a Plow contest entries
- Distributing children’s Public Works activity booklets
- Activities for children, including face painting and craft stations
- Tap’d In Mobile Water Truck

Family Fun Day is made possible by the participation of Regional employees who set-up and staff displays, show participants how equipment performs and answer questions from residents. National Public Works mascots ‘Pylon Pete’ and ‘Barkley’ will also be in attendance.

Heads of Council (or their designates) to participate in a Mayors’ Challenge and municipal staff to compete for the Miller Cup in a skills competition on Wednesday, May 20, 2015

The Town of Richmond Hill will host this year’s municipal challenge, which includes the Mayors’ Challenge; a friendly competition among the Mayors of participating local municipalities. The Town of Richmond Hill took home the honour at last year’s challenge.

A skills competition will also be held among ten staff teams; one from each of the Regions’ nine municipalities and one from York Region. The challenge will include backhoe-ball, five-ton truck with plow and wing, one-ton pick-up truck and trailer, and watermain repair events.

Each municipality will be represented by a staff team of four and the Region’s Transportation Services and Environmental Services Departments will enter one team jointly. The events are well known to staff, members of Council and media alike, and are well-received.

Site visits will occur during the month of May

Throughout the month of May, the Commissioners of Transportation Services and Environmental Services, along with their Directors, will host recognition events at their Departments' work sites including works yards, treatment plants and pumping stations. During these 16 sessions, staff accomplishments will be highlighted.

[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 participation in National Public Works Week are included in the approved Transportation Services and Environmental Services Departments' 2015 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.

Many local municipalities also actively participate in and host events during National Public Works Week.

7. Conclusion

The Transportation Services and Environmental Services Departments will participate in both Regional and local municipal events scheduled during National Public Works Week from May 17 to 23, 2015. National Public Works Week recognition will raise public awareness of transportation and environmental services and increase awareness of public works employees who are dedicated to improving the quality of life for present and future generations.

National Public Works Week
May 17 to 23, 2015

For more information about this report, please contact Caroline Berryman, Supervisor, Marketing and Communications at ext. 75036 in the Transportation Services Department or David Hodgins, Environmental Services Business Support Coordinator, at ext. 75765.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

April 22, 2015

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Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request