

Clause No.12 in Report No. 7 of Committee of the Whole was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on April 17, 2014.

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NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK –
MAY 18 TO 24, 2014

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendation contained in the report dated March 24, 2014 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Community Planning and Commissioner of Environmental Services:

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council recognize the week of May 18 to May 24, 2014, as National Public Works Week.

2. PURPOSE

This report requests Council acknowledge National Public Works Week to recognize the contributions made by Transportation and Community Planning and Environmental Services' staff 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 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.

National Public Works Week events provide an opportunity to increase awareness regarding the importance of public works to community life. The week is also an opportunity for staff appreciation across the Transportation and Community Planning and Environmental Services' Departments.

National Paramedic Services Week will be held May 25-31, 2014. Activities for this event are included in a separate report on this Council Agenda. In partnership with Environmental Services and Transportation and Community Planning, a kick-off event called Family Fun Day will be held at the EMS headquarters at 80 Bales Drive on Saturday, May 24th.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

The American Public Works Association establishes a theme each year to be used internationally. This year's theme is "Building for Today, Planning for Tomorrow". As in previous years, the Region will celebrate the work that public works professionals provide for our communities.

The following outlines events scheduled in celebration of 2014 National Public Works Week.

4.1 SCHOOL CONTESTS AND TOURS

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

Transportation and Community Planning Department is again hosting a plow blade painting contest for school children. Each of the patrol districts; southwest, southeast, central and north, will provide one plow blade each to two schools in their areas. Schools will be chosen on a first-come/first-serve basis in each patrol area. Each plow blade will be placed on a wooden stand making it safe for students to partake in this activity. Paint brushes, non-toxic paint in a variety of colours and a tarp in case of inclement weather are all provided. Students may use their creativity, but the painting must have a Public Works theme.

Plow blades will be picked up and placed on display at York Region's Bales Drive facility. During York Region's National Public Works Week Family Fun Day Open House on Saturday May 24, 2014, everyone attending will have the opportunity to submit a ballot for their favourite plow. At participating schools, students will be given information about Family Fun Day and will be encouraged to bring their families to vote on their design. The plow blade with the most votes will win the "Pylon Pete" trophy, which will stay at their school for a year. When the trophy is collected, a smaller version will be left with the school to keep. The winning class will receive a gift certificate for Scholastic Books which the teacher may use to purchase items suitable for the students. Alexander Muir Public School in Newmarket was the 2013 winner of the Pylon Pete trophy.

Residents will see the painted plow blades in action on Regional roads in their municipality during the 2014/2015 winter season.

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

This year during National Public Works Week, school tours will be held four days following the Victoria Day holiday. Tours are scheduled as follows:

- Tuesday, May 20 – Roads, Traffic and Waste Management are hosting a tour of the Operations Centre at 90 Bales Drive. An explanation of what happens at the operations centre and a video of the Material Recovery Facility will be provided (two classes participate in a half day tour)
- Wednesday, May 21, Thursday, May 22 and Friday, May 23 - Water and Wastewater Operations is hosting tours of the Georgina Water Treatment Plant and the Sutton Water Pollution Control Plant to highlight the drinking water and wastewater processes used to keep the Region's water safe (two classes participate in a full-day tour each day)
- Thursday, May 22 – Transit is hosting trips, while advising on the benefits of transit use, to the Regional forest for tours and educational activities (two classes participate in a half day tour)

4.2 FAMILY FUN DAY OPEN HOUSE

All residents invited to annual Family Fun Day Open House on Saturday, May 24, 2014

Transportation and Community Planning and Environmental Services' Departments will host a Family Fun Day Open House for the public on Saturday, May 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Operations Centre located at 90 Bales Drive East. A charity barbecue will be available, selling lunch at a minimal cost with all proceeds going to Mothers Against Drunk Driving of York Region. In 2013, approximately 1,000 people attended Family Fun Day. The York Region Food Network received \$2,600 from proceeds of the Family Fun Day BBQ and staff donations.

Our Family Fun Day will also include several displays and activities hosted by EMS staff at 80 Bales Drive, making for a large, well-attended Regional event.

A bus tour will be available to the Material Recovery Facility

A YRT/Viva bus will take residents to the Material Recovery Facility located at 100 Garfield Wright Blvd. A waste specialist will be on the bus to explain Environmental Services Department programs and answer questions as the bus travels over the weigh scales taking the same route as a recycling truck. When the bus arrives at the building, residents will disembark to get a glimpse of what happens to their garbage, green bin, and blue box materials.

To give the public a full educational, hands-on experience, several employees from across the organization will staff displays and activities

Family Fun Day Open House is attended by many York Region partners. This year, the following Regional partners are confirmed to attend:

- Corporate Communications – information display and giveaways
- York Region Police Fleet Services – new vehicles
- York Region Police – Forensics and Tactical units

Activities/displays offered at the Family Fun Day include:

- YRT/Viva interactive display and information
- Forestry display – including a mulch giveaway
- Water for Tomorrow display
- Solid Waste Management video and interactive display
- Environmental Services exhibit
- A hands-on interactive water supply and wastewater treatment displays
- Traffic safety and pedestrian signs – plus an educational component
- Voting for Paint a Plow contest entries
- Distributing children's Public Works activity booklets
- Lots of activities for children, including face painting and several craft stations

This event could not be held without Regional Department staff who:

- Set up and staff the displays
- Show participants how equipment performs
- Answer many questions from the public
- Don the signature costume of National Public Works Week mascot "Pylon Pete"

4.3 OTHER EVENTS

Heads of Council (or their designates) participate in a Public Works Challenge and municipal staff vie for Miller Cup in a skills competition on Wednesday, May 21, 2014

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 of Whitchurch-Stouffville took home the honour at last year's Mayor's Challenge.

The Town also holds a skills competition among ten staff teams; one from all nine municipalities and the Region. 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 and Community Planning and Environmental Services' Departments will enter a team in this exciting event. The Town of Aurora team will make a bid to keep the 'Miller Cup' in their possession. These events are well known to staff, members of Council and media alike and are always well received.

Staff appreciation will occur during the month of May

Throughout the month of May, the Commissioners of Transportation and Community Planning and Environmental Services, along with appropriate Directors, will visit their respective Departments' work sites. Staff from smaller sites will be invited to attend one of the larger sites. During these sessions, staff accomplishments will be highlighted and employees will be encouraged to have open discussions and provide feedback to their Commissioner and senior staff. A total of 16 sites will be included in these visits.

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 and Community Planning and Environmental Services Departments' 2014 operating budgets. The total amount of \$40,000 is evenly split between the two departments.

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 and Community Planning and Environmental Services Departments are participating in both Regional and local municipal events scheduled during National Public Works Week from May 18 to 24, 2014. National Public Works Week recognition will raise public awareness of transportation and environmental services 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, please contact Caroline Berryman, Supervisor, Marketing and Communications at ext. 75036 in the Transportation and Community Planning Department.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.