

Clause 3 in Report No. 6 of Committee of the Whole was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on April 21, 2016.

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National Public Works Week
May 15 to 21, 2016

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendation contained in the report dated March 10, 2016 from the Commissioner of Transportation Services:

1. Council recognize the week of May 15 to 21, 2016 as National Public Works Week.
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Report dated March 10, 2016 from the Commissioner of Transportation Services now follows:

1. Recommendation

It is recommended that:

1. Council recognize the week of May 15 to 21, 2016 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 as a public education campaign. It is observed each year by the Canadian and Ontario Public Works Associations 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.

Given the 24/7 nature of the public works business, hard work and dedication of our public works professionals is often on display at all hours ensuring the Region provides critical, reliable and timely services for the residents and businesses of York Region. National Public Works Week celebrations are one way to show our appreciation and thank staff in Transportation Services and Environmental Services for their efforts in providing excellent and seamless 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 "Public Works: Always There". In keeping with the theme, York Region will celebrate the work that public works professionals provide to our communities.

The following events are scheduled in celebration of 2016 National Public Works Week.

Fifth grade classes will vie for the 'Pylon Pete' trophy in Paint-a-Plow contest

Transportation Services will be hosting a plow blade painting contest for Grade five students. York Region's patrol districts (southwest, southeast, central and north) will each provide two schools in their area with plow blades, paints and brushes 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 theme. Plow blades will be placed securely on wooden stands, ensuring safety for participating students. 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 2016/2017 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 for children in grades five and eight will be held over the four days following Victoria Day. Each participating school will have an opportunity to take part in one of the two following tours:

- Roads, Traffic and York Paramedic Services will host facility tours of the garage, fleet, traffic control centre, sign shop, York Paramedic Services simulation lab and command centre. A mini CPR workshop will also be delivered.
- York Region Transit will showcase the benefits of transit use and host rides on transit vehicles to the Regional Forest where students will learn how the Region operates the forest, why it is called "Nature's Classroom" and participate in a hands-on activity at the Bill Fisch Forest Stewardship and Education Centre (two classes participate in a half-day tour).

York Region residents are invited to annual Family Fun Day on Saturday, May 14, 2016 to kick-off National Public Works Week

Staff from Environmental Services and Transportation Services, in collaboration with York Regional Police and York Paramedic Services, will host a Family Fun Day Open House for residents on Saturday, May 14, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The Open House will take place at York Region's Operations Centre located at 90 Bales Drive East. A charity barbeque will be held, with all proceeds benefitting the York Region Centre for Community Safety. The Centre is non-profit organization committed to building a safer community for victims of domestic violence. In 2015, approximately 900 people attended the Family Fun Day barbeque. York Region Centre for Community Safety, received \$1,930 from the proceeds of the barbeque, in addition to staff donations.

Several departments from across the organization will have displays and activities at the Open House. York Regional Police - Forensics, Tactical and Canine Units and York Paramedic Services will also be in attendance this year.

Activities and displays offered at Family Fun Day include:

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- YRT/Viva interactive display and information
- vivaNext display and information
- Forestry display and activity – including mulch giveaway
- Water for Tomorrow display and Tap'd In mobile water truck
- Solid Waste Management Material Recovery Facility video and waste display
- “Good Food” campaign display
- Recycled bales display from Material Recovery Facility
- ‘Call Before You Dig’ Operations, Maintenance & Monitoring display and activity
- Water and Wastewater System display
- Water and Wastewater Master Plan display
- Transportation Master Plan display
- York Paramedic Services ambulance and 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

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 May 19, 2016

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.

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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.

In 2016, a Parks and Forestry challenge will also be held in coordination with the Miller Cup and is expected to include representation from all nine local municipalities and the Region. The event will feature a number of challenges that draw on knowledge and skills of Parks and Forestry staff from the municipalities and the Region.

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. During these sessions, staff accomplishments and dedication to delivering seamless services will be highlighted.

Link to Key Council-approved Plans

2015 to 2019 Strategic Plan

Celebrating National Public Works Week through our school and public events supports the following objectives:

- 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 Environmental Services and Transportation Services Departments' 2016 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 like Richmond Hill 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 15 to 21, 2016. 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.

For more information about this report, please contact Caroline Berryman, Supervisor, Marketing and Communications, Transportation Services, at ext. 75036 or David Hodgins, Policy Analyst, Environmental Services, at ext. 75765.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

March 10, 2016

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Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request