

**CITY OF VAUGHAN**

**EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 14, 2013**

Item 3, Report No. 19, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on May 14, 2013.

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**PROCLAMATION - 2013 NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK**

**The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works, and the Commissioner of Community Services, dated April 30, 2013:**

**Recommendation**

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works, and the Commissioner of Community Services recommends that Council proclaim the period of May 19-25, 2013, as "Public Works Week" in the City of Vaughan, and adopt the following resolution:

*WHEREAS public works services provided in our community are an integral part of our citizen's everyday lives; and,*

*WHEREAS the support of an understanding and informed citizenry is vital to the efficient operation of public works systems and programs such as water distribution, wastewater collection, street maintenance, and solid waste collection; and,*

*WHEREAS the health, safety and comfort of this community greatly depends on these facilities and services; and,*

*WHEREAS the quality and effectiveness of these facilities, as well as their planning, design, construction, and maintenance is vitally dependant upon the efforts and skill of dedicated officials and staff of the City's Public Works, Engineering, and Parks & Forestry departments; and,*

*WHEREAS the efficiency of qualified and dedicated personnel who staff the above noted departments is influenced by people's attitude and understanding of the importance of the work they perform,*

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council proclaim the week of May 19 – 25, 2013, as "Public Works Week" in the City of Vaughan, and request that all citizens and elected officials recognize the contributions that Public Works make every day to their health, safety, comfort, and quality of life in the community.*

**Economic Impact**

Funding for the National Public Works Weeks activities is included in the 2013 operating budgets.

**Communications Plan**

The Public Works Event is being held on Saturday, May 25, 2013, and will be advertised on the City's website, in Public Works' Spring newsletter, and on mobile signs throughout the City. In addition, a media release will be issued.

**Purpose**

To request that Council proclaim the period of May 19 – 25, 2013, as "National Public Works Week" in the City of Vaughan, and to present an overview of the City's Public Works Week event to be held at the Joint Operations Centre on Saturday, May 25, 2013.

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#### **Background - Analysis and Options**

##### **Public Works Week was started in 1960 as a public information campaign**

In 1960, the American Public Works Association started a public information campaign to make the general public more aware of the work public works departments did, as well as promote the “often-unsung heroes” of our society, the professionals who serve the public every day with quiet dedication.

Since its beginning, agencies, municipalities, and regions have used this week to educate and inform the public about the essential role that public works plays in the quality of their community life. Equally important are promoting the choice of public works as a career choice for the work force of the future, and recognizing those who currently serve in these crucial public roles.

This year is the 53rd anniversary of National Public Works Week. The theme for this year’s National Public Works Week is “Because of Public Works...” and speaks to the quality of life brought to communities around the world as a result of public works activities. Safe drinking water, wastewater collection and treatment, solid waste management, well designed streets and neighbourhoods, clean communities, efficient transportation networks and traffic management, are just a few of the quality of life impacts “Because of Public Works”.

##### **Vaughan’s Public Works Day will be held Saturday, May 25, at the City’s Joint Operations Centre**

On Saturday, May 25, the Public Works Department will hold its annual “Public Works Week” event at the Joint Operations Centre, which is located at 2800 Rutherford Rd. This event will provide a public forum to educate residents about various road maintenance, water distribution, wastewater collection, and “Greening Vaughan” waste management initiatives. It will be held at the north-east employee parking lot (rain or shine) from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

At the time of this report preparation, the following activities and participants are confirmed for the City’s Public Works Day event (additional activities/participants may be added):

- Free Kraft Paper Bags\* for leaf and yard waste material (Vaughan’s Public Works Department)
- Free Mulch Give-Away (Vaughan Parks & Forestry Operations Department)
- Free Electronics Recycling services (Maple Lions Club)
- Free personal paper shredding services (Shred-it)
- The sale of Blue Boxes, Green Bins, In-house Kitchen Containers and Backyard Composters (Vaughan’s Public Works Department)
- Water Quality and Road Maintenance displays (Vaughan’s Public Works Department)
- GIS and Construction Survey displays (Vaughan’s Engineering Services Department)
- Fire safety and emergency management information (Vaughan Fire & Rescue Services)
- “Call Before You Dig” information from the Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance
- Goodwill will be on-site to accept residents’ used clothing, furniture and other items
- Various City vehicles and pieces of equipment for kids to climb in
- Promotion of other City-wide environmental programs (City of Vaughan - Economic Development Department)
- York Region Waste Management displays
- Free Household Hazardous Waste Disposal at the Region of York’s adjacent site

\* Limited number of bags per person – while supplies last

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#### **Vaughan staff will be defending its 5 year record at the Area Municipalities Challenge**

In addition to Public Works Day, the City's Public Works Department will be participating in the 'York Region Area Municipalities Challenge'.

This event showcases the talents of staff from the area municipalities in terms of equipment operation and water main repair and service installation activities.

As part of the event, the Mayors of the area municipalities also compete against each other, driving trucks and/or other equipment through an obstacle course.

This event takes place on May 22nd at the Town of Richmond Hill's facility on Elgin Mills Road. In 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012, the City of Vaughan's Public Works Team took First Place overall, winning the Miller Cup. Vaughan is the only municipality to have won the Miller Cup five years in a row.

#### **The annual Public Works Barbeque will be held on Thursday, May 23**

Each year as part of Public Works Week, a barbeque is held at the City's Joint Operations Centre for all Public Works, Engineering and Parks Operations and Fleet employees. This year, the event is scheduled to take place on Thursday, May 23, weather permitting.

#### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020**

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council.

The Public Works Week event relates to the following Vaughan Vision goals and objectives:

Goal	"Service Excellence"
Objective	"Lead & Promote Environmental Sustainability"
Objective:	"Demonstrate Excellence in Service Delivery"

Participation in APWA and OPWA related events ties in the following Vaughan Vision goals and objectives:

Goal	"Organizational Excellence"
Objective:	"Ensure a High Performing Organization"
Goal:	"Staff Excellence"
Objective:	"Support the Professional Development of Staff"

#### **Conclusion**

National Public Works Week provides a venue by which municipalities across North America can inform, educate, and in some cases, give back to the public. The annual Public Works Day has always been well attended. As such, it is important to use this opportunity to promote not only the Public Works Week theme, but also promote the City's environmental initiatives as well.

#### **Attachments**

N/A

#### **Report prepared by:**

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