

## **CITY OF VAUGHAN**

### **EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 4, 2013**

Item 6, Report No. 23, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 4, 2013.

#### **6                    PROCLAMATION OF JUNE AS RECREATION AND PARKS MONTH**

**The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Community Services, dated May 21, 2013:**

##### **Recommendation**

The Commissioner of Community Services, in consultation with the Director of Recreation and Culture, recommends:

- 1) That Council proclaim the month of June as "Recreation and Parks Month"; and
- 2) That the Schedule of Activities for Recreation and Parks Month – June 2013 (Attachment 1), outlining the activities and events scheduled to be held throughout the City of Vaughan in June, be received.

##### **Contribution to Sustainability**

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council in the Green Directions, Vaughan, Community Sustainability Environmental Master Plan, Goal 4, Objective 4.1:

- 4.1 To foster a city with strong social cohesion, an engaging arts scene, and a clear sense of its culture and heritage.
  - 4.1.1 Develop an implementation plan for the initiatives described in the City's Active Together Master Plan through a phased and budgeted program.

##### **Economic Impact**

Funding for the activities and events indicated in this report has been incorporated into the 2013 Recreation and Culture base operating budget.

##### **Communications Plan**

The proclamation of June as Recreation and Parks Month, including the "Recreation and Parks Month" activity calendar will be posted on the City website, in community centres, and at Vaughan Public Libraries. It will also be distributed to elementary and secondary schools in Vaughan. Outreach to community groups, cultural organizations and businesses will take place via social media, poster distribution and a news release.

##### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to request that Council proclaim the month of June as "Recreation and Parks Month" and to present an overview of the activities and events (Attachment 1) to be held in June across the City of Vaughan that will provide citizens with opportunities to be physically active.

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

The City of Vaughan in its strategic plan, Vaughan Vision 2020, is committed to Service Excellence through enhancing and ensuring community safety, health and wellness. The Active Together initiatives, such as June as Recreation and Parks Month, will help achieve the objective of community health and wellness.

## **CITY OF VAUGHAN**

### **EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 4, 2013**

#### **Item 6, CW Report No. 23 – Page 2**

The City of Vaughan believes the development of a more physically active community enhances the quality of life of its residents, that physical activity levels are a critical economic, environmental, health and social issue for the community and that participation in physical activity is a key requirement for individual physical and mental health and well-being. Research shows that strategies involving physical activity and recreation appear particularly promising in minimizing or removing risk factors faced by many children and youth. Participation in recreation activities can provide positive benefits related to psychological health, physical health, familial interaction, peer influence, academic performance, community development and other lifestyle behaviours.

June as Recreation and Parks Month (JRPM) was first proclaimed in 2005 by Parks and Recreation Ontario (PRO), the Ontario Parks Association, and the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association. JRPM was created to draw attention to the value of recreation and to encourage people to get out there and *live it everyday!* In 2006, the Province of Ontario first declared “June as Recreation and Parks Month”; Vaughan first proclaimed it in 2009.

Recreation and parks opportunities are essential for strengthening and maintaining a healthy community. Positive impacts are evident throughout the community. Recreation brings neighbours together, encourages safer, cleaner neighbourhoods and creates a livelier community atmosphere.

In 2013, the Recreation and Culture Department will celebrate June as Recreation and Parks Month from June 1 – June 30, 2013. Many activities are scheduled throughout the community, including:

- Family Day at the Maple Nature Reserve
- Youth Dodgeball
- Power Walk
- Family Zumba
- Older Adult Zumba
- Serve for Kids Beach Volleyball Tournament
- Deep Water Boot Camp
- Fitness Free Guest Days

The complete listing of the activities and events can be found on Attachment 1.

#### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan**

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, the report will provide:

- **STRATEGIC GOAL:**  
Pursue Excellence in Service Delivery; and Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health and Wellness – To deliver high quality services and promote health and wellness through program development and increased awareness.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

#### **Regional Implications**

There are no regional implications.

**CITY OF VAUGHAN**

**EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 4, 2013**

Item 6, CW Report No. 23 – Page 3

**Conclusion**

The City of Vaughan is taking a proactive approach to improve the health and active lifestyles of its citizens by proclaiming June as Recreation and Parks Month and by providing a month of physical activity opportunities throughout Vaughan. As an initiative of the Physical Activity Strategy of the “Active Together” Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, Culture and Libraries. Recreation and Parks Month will help achieve the objective of improving community health and wellness.

**Attachments**

1. Schedule of Activities for Recreation and Parks Month – June 2013

**Report Prepared By**

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(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)