

**CITY OF VAUGHAN**

**EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 19, 2013**

Item 2, Report No. 9, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on March 19, 2013.

**2**

**PROCLAMATION REQUEST  
LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH**

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the City Clerk, dated February 26, 2013:

**Recommendation**

The City Clerk recommends:

- 1) That May 2013 be proclaimed as “Lyme Disease Awareness Month”; and
- 2) That the proclamation be posted on the City’s website and published on the City Page Online.

**Contribution to Sustainability**

N/A

**Economic Impact**

N/A

**Communications Plan**

The Corporate Communications Department posts proclamations issued by the City on the City’s website under “Events – Proclamations” and on the City Page Online.

**Purpose**

To respond to the request received from the Canadian Lyme Disease Foundation.

**Background - Analysis and Options**

The correspondence from the Canadian Lyme Disease Foundation received February 8, 2013 is attached. (Attachment 1)

Lyme Disease is an illness caused by a bacterial infection spread through the bite of an infected black-legged tick. The Canadian Lyme Disease Foundation is requesting the proclamation in order to raise awareness, support newly diagnosed patients who have contracted the disease and increase the level of preventative measures to reduce the risk of exposure. Council has granted this proclamation in the past.

The proclamation request meets the City’s Proclamation Policy, as follows:

“That upon request, the City of Vaughan issue Proclamations for events, campaigns or other similar matters:

- (i) which are promoted by any organization that is a registered charity pursuant to Section 248 of the Income Tax Act”. The Canadian Lyme Disease Foundation is a registered charity”.

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Item 2, CW Report No. 9 – Page 2

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

This report supports the strategic priorities established by Vaughan Vision 2020 plan:

Service Excellence

- Promote Community Safety, Health & Wellness

**Regional Implications**

This report supports the promotion of awareness throughout the Region about Lyme Disease.

**Conclusion**

Staff is recommending that May 2013 be proclaimed as “Lyme Disease Awareness Month” and that the proclamation be posted on the City’s website and published on the City Page Online.

**Attachments**

Attachment 1: Correspondence from the Canadian Lyme Disease Foundation, received February 8, 2013

**Report prepared by:**

Connie Bonsignore, Administrative Assistant to the City Clerk

(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.)

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FEBRUARY 26, 2013**

### **PROCLAMATION REQUEST LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH**

#### **Recommendation**

The City Clerk recommends:

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- 2) That the proclamation be posted on the City’s website and published on the City Page Online.

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N/A

#### **Economic Impact**

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**Conclusion**

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**Attachments**

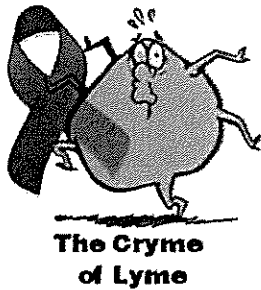
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**Report prepared by:**

Connie Bonsignore, Administrative Assistant to the City Clerk

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey A. Abrams  
City Clerk



~ May is Lyme Disease Awareness Month ~

## Lyme Disease Awareness Brampton, Ontario

<http://LymeWalkBrampton.ca>



Attached is a request and a draft for a Lyme Disease Awareness Proclamation for May 2013.

I have Lyme Disease, contracted in Prince Edward County, Ontario in 2007, and like hundreds of others cannot get treatment in Canada. We have to spend much energy and money to get treated by doctors in the USA and some even go to Europe. Together with other volunteers and friends, we have been trying to raise awareness, support newly diagnosed Lyme Disease patients, and talk to various groups to get the word out.

There are plans this year to have May as a Worldwide awareness effort and there are already about 20 countries on board. I'm in conversation with the City of Brampton, Ontario to hear if we could use a part of Chinguacousy Park again. Last year's event here was the most successful Lyme Awareness event in Canada. About 400 people attended, of which at least 50 had Lyme disease, all from the immediate area around Brampton, Vaughan, Markham, Whitby, Hamilton, Toronto and more. We raised several thousand dollars for CanLyme, the Canadian Lyme Disease Foundation.

The date Brampton gave us for 2013, to be confirmed, is May 18. Once we know what space we would have, we'll start planning the smaller details. I'm also helping people in other provinces of Canada to get awareness events off the ground. At the moment, the Walk website only lists bare bones: <http://LymewalkBrampton.ca>. We are working under the umbrella of CanLyme, the Canadian Lyme Disease Foundation and all funds raised will go to them.

If there is anywhere you would like me to speak to a group of people, or set up a table with information, please let me know. My very informal blog gives some background and information, if more is needed: <http://meerkatmarlene.blogspot.ca>

Sincerely,

**Marlene Spies**, Lyme Patient and advocate  
tel. (416) 970-8660

RECEIVED  
FEB 8 - 2012  
CLERK'S DEPT.

## **Proclamation for Lyme Disease Awareness Month, May 2013**

Whereas, ticks carrying the bacteria *Borrelia burgdorferi* that causes Lyme Borreliosis, commonly known as Lyme disease, continue to spread across Ontario and Canada; and

Whereas, the number of reported cases of Lyme disease in North America continues to increase, yet the Centers for Disease Control estimates that on average there are ten missed cases for every case reported; and

Whereas, Lyme disease is difficult to diagnose because it imitates other conditions and no reliable laboratory test can prove who is infected or bacterial-free, which often leads to misdiagnosis; and

Whereas, early indicators of infection include flu-like symptoms, characterized by chills, headache, fatigue, muscle and joint aches and swollen lymph nodes; and

Whereas, weeks or months later, patients with untreated or under-treated Lyme disease can suffer from serious, permanent and sometimes life-threatening damage to the brain, joints, heart, eyes, liver, spleen, blood vessels and kidneys. For this reason it is imperative that all who develop this disease receive immediate early treatment; and

Whereas, the best solution to the threat of Lyme disease is to educate people about the seriousness of the illness and the need to practice personal preventive techniques when engaging in outdoor activities, such as frequent tick checks, use of tick repellent and proper tick removal; and

Whereas, the month of May is recognized as Lyme disease Awareness Month worldwide.

Now therefore, I Maurizio Bevilacqua, Mayor of the City of Vaughan, Ontario, on behalf of the Vaughan City Council, do hereby proclaim May 2013 as Lyme disease Awareness Month for the City of Vaughan to draw attention to this growing health problem and the importance of early detection and treatment by all residents.

Proclaimed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013