



Staff Report for Council Meeting

Date of Meeting: May 14, 2018

Report Number: SRCS.18.09

Department: Community Services
Division: Public Works Operations

Subject: **SRCS.18.09 – 2018 National Public Works Week (NPWW) Proclamation “The Power of Public Works”**

Purpose:

To recommend that Council proclaim May 20 to 26, 2018 as “National Public Works Week” in Richmond Hill.

Recommendation(s):

- (a) That May 20 to 26, 2018 be proclaimed as “National Public Works Week” in the Town of Richmond Hill and that the proclamation be placed on the Town’s Bulletin Board of the Liberal, the Town’s website and that the activities planned for this week be endorsed.

Contact Person:

Grant Taylor, Director, Public Works Operations, extension 2966

Report Approval:

Submitted by: Shane Baker, Commissioner of Community Services

Approved by: Neil Garbe, Chief Administrative Officer

All reports are electronically reviewed and/or approved by the Division Director, Treasurer (as required), Town Solicitor (as required), Commissioner, and Chief Administrative Officer. Details of the reports approval are attached.

Background:

National Public Works Week (NPWW) is scheduled for the week of May 20 to 26, 2018. The theme for 2018 is “**The Power of Public Works**”. The intent in proclaiming this week is to promote awareness and appreciation for how public works contributes to the quality of life in our community.

2018 marks the 22nd year that the Town of Richmond Hill has participated in this event. Since 1997, Richmond Hill has received several awards and honourable mentions from the Ontario Chapter of the American Public Works Association and nationally by the Canadian Public Works Association recognizing our outreach efforts.

The Legacy program, started in 2010, offers a unique way for sponsors to support NPWW Committee efforts by partnering to provide a legacy for the Town in the form of a park bench. There are eight benches, one for each year, since 2010, placed throughout the Town, each bearing a commemorative NPWW plaque to identify the sponsor.

Activities

NPWW will include participation from the Office of the CAO, Planning & Regulatory Services, Environment & Infrastructure Services and Community Services Departments. Access to more staff and a wider scope of programs and projects will enhance the experience for members of the public attending the various events. Planning is underway to offer the following programs for National Public Works Week 2018.

School Tours of the Operations Centre

Tuesday, May 22 and Thursday, May 24

National Public Works Week Elementary School Tours have proven to be a huge success with students, teachers and public works employees. The program is geared towards Grade 5 students as the study of government is a component in their curriculum. Approximately 500 students participate in the tours annually. Students receive a tour of the Operations Centre, attend four interactive lectures and try out various pieces of operational equipment such as trucks and loaders, from the driver's seat!

York Municipalities Public Works Challenge

Wednesday, May 23

This annual event takes place at the Town of Richmond Hill's Snow Storage Facility and Skateboard Park. Teams from the Region of York and each member municipality compete against each other in several events designed to test their skills as operators and drivers. The Town has a history of coordinating and hosting this event which represents one of the few opportunities for Operations staff to network and exchange information with their counterparts from across the Region. It also includes breakfast and a BBQ lunch for staff and participants. Invitations are extended to the Mayors of

York municipalities and to the Chair of York Region to participate in a friendly driving challenge.

Public Works Open House and Healthy Yards Event

Saturday, May 26 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Operations Centre

The intent of the Open House is to educate the community and enhance awareness of the role that Public Works plays in everyday life.

Staff will be hosting a variety of displays from Community Services, Environment & Infrastructure Services and Planning & Regulatory Services, showcasing information to educate and engage residents.

The Healthy Yards event is a part of the NPWW Open House. Residents will be able to pick up pre-ordered native plants, rain barrels and composters, speak with gardening experts, win prizes and pick up free wood chips.

The charity BBQ is a focal point of the Open House, with proceeds benefiting Hill House Hospice. Between 700 and 800 people are expected to attend the event again in 2018.

The support and participation of Council is appreciated and is an important factor in the success of this event. Residents welcome the opportunity to interact with their local elected officials and Town staff in this informal setting.

Communications/Promotion

In order for a successful event to occur, the public is encouraged to attend. Promotion for the event is being carried out in several ways in order to attract participants:

- Town of Richmond Hill website
- Postings on Richmond Hill's Facebook and Twitter pages
- Signage at major intersections
- Advertising in the Spring Community Recreation Guide, the Bulletin Board pages in The Liberal, and Waste Management Calendar
- On-line advertisements in OnRichmondhill.com
- Letters to schools
- Posters in Richmond Hill facilities
- Report to Council with Proclamation
- Media Advisory
- Story in the staff newspaper, Connector

NPWW 2018 Committee

Chair: Mario Di Salvo

Open House Event Coordinator: Diogo Oliveira

Open House Healthy Yards Coordinator: Michelle Bourdeau

School Tour Event Coordinators: Julie De Santis / Diogo Oliveira
Challenge Event Coordinator: Mandy Vandenberg
Communications/Promotion Coordinator: Ash O'Malley
Outside Workers & Equipment Coordinator: Mandy Vandenberg
Administrative Coordinator: Trudy Borsos

Typically, over 50 staff work at the events during this week to ensure the success of National Public Works Week, and it is expected that the same effort will be received again this year.

Financial/Staffing/Other Implications:

Funds in the amount of \$5,000.00 are included in the Community Services operating budget to participate in this national event and to support the various local activities during the proclaimed week. Each York Region municipality contributes \$595.00 annually towards the events. As well, sponsorship donations from local businesses are important to the success of the three events and fulfill the purpose of assisting in funding while promoting our suppliers and providing information to residents.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan:

National Public Works Week events in 2018 will continue to link initiatives to Strategic Plan Goals; Stronger Connections and a More Vibrant Richmond Hill by interacting with residents and demonstrating our commitment to excellent service and environmentally sustainable practices, and Better Choices and Wise Management of Resources by highlighting green initiatives such as the energy generating and savings initiatives, salt reduction strategy, bike trails, responsible waste management, tree planting programs and pesticide reduction.

Conclusion:

Public Works are an integral part of our citizens' everyday lives and support the health, safety and comfort of our community. National Public Works Week, May 20 to 26, 2018, is the opportunity to celebrate this work and the dedication of those who deliver it.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	SRCS.18.09 2018 NPWW Proclamation.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	May 9, 2018

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Grant Taylor - May 7, 2018 - 11:17 AM

Shane Baker - May 9, 2018 - 10:02 AM

David Dexter - May 9, 2018 - 10:03 AM

Neil Garbe - May 9, 2018 - 10:22 AM