



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Public Works and Transportation Committee

Date: March 27, 2019

From: Tom Stewart, AScT.
Director, Public Works Operations

File: 10-6000-01/2019-Vol
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Re: 2019 National Public Works Week

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled "2019 National Public Works Week", dated March 27, 2019 from the Director, Public Works Operations, be received for information.

Tom Stewart, AScT.
Director, Public Works Operations
(604-233-3301)

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: CS
APPROVED BY CAO 	

Staff Report

Origin

The Canadian National Public Works Association's annual National Public Works Week is from May 19-25, 2019 and to celebrate the City will host three events. This report provides information on the upcoming events that will be held to acknowledge National Public Works Week.

Analysis

Each May, National Public Works Week recognizes the many people dedicated to their communities by working in public works careers. Municipalities celebrate National Public Works Week with open houses, school and education events, and displays of public works equipment. The City recognizes National Public Works Week through a proclamation outlining the following areas:

- Public Works services provided in the community are an integral part of Richmond residents' everyday lives.
- The support of an understanding and informed citizenry is vital to the efficient operation of Public Works systems and programs such as water, sewers, roads, public buildings and solid waste collection.
- The health, safety and comfort of this community greatly depend on these facilities and services.
- The quality and effectiveness of these facilities, as well as their planning, design and construction, is vitally dependent upon the efforts and skills of Public Works staff.
- The efficiency of qualified and dedicated personnel who staff the Public Works department is materially influenced by people's attitude and understanding of the importance of the work they perform.

The City will recognize National Public Works Week by hosting three significant events:

1. Project WET

Project WET, the City's annual water education program developed in partnership with the Richmond School District, will be held from May 7-8, 2019. The program will be presented to 10 elementary school classes, with approximately 275 students and teachers expected to attend. This interactive program teaches intermediate students the importance of water consumption, conservation, quality and supply. Students will also learn about Richmond's recycling programs, dikes, pump stations and sewerage and drainage operations.

2. National Public Works week breakfast and scholarships

A breakfast to celebrate Public Works staff will be held on Thursday, May 9 at 6:30 a.m. at the Works Yard. The breakfast provides an opportunity for employees to celebrate their achievements and to acknowledge the hard work that is put into maintaining the City's infrastructure 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Additionally, recipients of the \$1,000 City of Richmond/CUPE Local 394 scholarships will be invited to receive their awards on stage. These scholarships are awarded annually to two Richmond High School students who have elected to pursue trades professions.

3. Public Works Open House

The annual Public Works Open House will take place on Saturday, May 11, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Works Yard. Nearly 6,500 residents attended in 2018. The free event allows residents to meet City staff; learn about the work they perform and the programs offered; have fun exploring the various booths; participate in the interactive displays; eat at one of the food vendors; and listen to live entertainment.

Residents once again will have an opportunity to participate in our Works on Wheels interactive bus tour. The tour will be showcasing Engineering and Public Works projects such as a drainage pump station, a district energy centre and the Terra Nova Pollinator Park.

The success of the Public Works Open House is due to the organizing committee, which is made up of staff from a number of departments across the organization. There were over 270 staff who volunteered their time last year to make Public Works Open House a successful community event. Acknowledgment also goes to staff members' family and friends, and the McMath Secondary School Leadership students who also volunteered.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

The City's Engineering and Public Works Division together with Transportation, Community Services, and Community Safety play an active role in celebrating the annual National Public Works Week. Three events are held to recognize and highlight the people who provide and maintain the infrastructure services known as public works. Cities across Canada participate by raising awareness of public works contributions, and encourage community support for these dedicated employees who consistently improve the quality of life for residents.



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