



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Public Works and Transportation Committee
From: Tom Stewart, ASCT.
Director, Public Works Operations
Re: National Public Works Week - Update

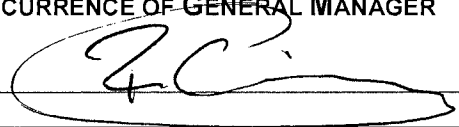
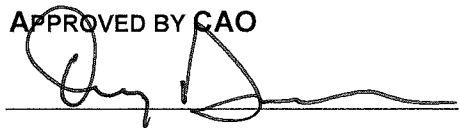
Date: May 30, 2016

File:

Staff Recommendation

That the Staff report titled "National Public Works Week - Update", dated May 30, 2016 from the Director, Public Works, 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: DW
APPROVED BY CAO 	

Staff Report

Origin

The Canadian Public Works Association's annual National Public Works Week was from May 15-21, 2016 and to celebrate the City hosted three events that were well attended by the community. This report summarizes results of the events held during that time.

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #9 A Well-Informed Citizenry:

Continue to develop and provide programs and services that ensure the Richmond community is well-informed and engaged on City business and decision making.

9.2. Effective engagement strategies and tools.

Analysis

Municipalities celebrate National Public Works Week with open houses, tours, school and educational events and displays of public works equipment. The City recognized 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, streets and highways, public buildings and solid waste collection.
- The health, safety and comfort of this community greatly depends 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 skill of Public Works staff.
- The efficiency of the 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 recognized National Public Works Week by hosting three significant events:

1. Project WET

In 2016, National Public Works week started with Project WET, an interactive program aimed at educating Richmond elementary students about the importance of water. This event was held from May 10-12 at the Works Yard. Staff worked with the Richmond School Board to promote the event within the district, and hosted over 300 students from six elementary schools. The interactive and fun displays taught students about water distribution,

water metering, storm and sanitary services, Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) inspection program, leak detection, pump stations and environmental programs.

2. Public Works Open House

The main event was the annual Public Works Open House held on Saturday, May 14, 2016 at the Works Yard, and was attended by 8,000 residents. Some highlights at this year's event included:

- Three ride-on mini excavators
- Various pieces of fleet equipment
- Play construction zone
- Lafarge cement display
- Face-painting and seed planting
- Carpentry project using reclaimed wood from fallen trees
- Playground and sand pile area
- Hay ride touring the operating yard
- CUPE 394 sponsored car show
- Gardening, lawn care and pesticide awareness information
- Interactive emergency preparedness, police, fire and ambulance displays
- Live entertainment, including two bands and dance performances
- Food vendors

Educational areas included the interactive, "Taste it, don't waste it" water conservation booth, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) and pump display, CCTV camera truck, Community Bylaws, Emergency Services, capital programs and YourMinoru.ca display, recycling and pesticide awareness, and Neptune water meters.

Residents also had an opportunity to tour three work sites in the community through the Works on Wheels (WOW) bus tour. The hour and a half bus tour included stops at the Alexandra District Energy Utility, Bath Slough Pump Station and Fire Hall No. 3. Engineers in Training (EITs) were stationed at each location to answer project and site questions.

3. National Public Works Week Breakfast and Scholarships

National Public Works Week ended with staff hosting a breakfast on May 18, 2016 for Public Works and Parks operations staff. Two grade 12 ACE IT (apprenticeship) program students and their families were invited to attend the breakfast, and in partnership with CUPE 394, the students were awarded scholarships valued at \$500 each.

The success of the Engineering and Public Works Open House is due to the hard work of the organizing committee, which is made up of staff from a number of departments as well as volunteers. This year's volunteers included over 200 staff, 75 community volunteers and 68 McMath High School students.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

The City's Engineering and Public Works Division together with Community Services and Community Safety play an active role in celebrating the annual National Public Works Week. This week recognizes the men and women who provide and maintain the infrastructure services known as public works. Cities across Canada participate by raising awareness of public works issues, and encourage community support for these dedicated employees who consistently improve the quality of life for residents.



Jatinder Johal, CPA, CGA
Manager, Public Works Administration
(604-233-3330)

JJ:jj