

Committee of the Whole (1) Report

DATE: Tuesday, April 4, 2023

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: PROCLAMATION – 2023 NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

FROM:

Zoran Postic, Deputy City Manager, Public Works

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To request that Council proclaim the week of May 21, 2023, to May 27, 2023, as “National Public Works Week” (NPWW) in the City of Vaughan and to provide an overview of the events that will be held in recognition of this week.

Report Highlights

- City to proclaim May 21 - 27, 2023, as “National Public Works Week” and join in the North American celebrations acknowledging the dedication and achievements of public works professionals.
- An annual opening ceremony and flag raising event will be held on Tuesday May 23, 2023, at the Joint Operations Centre and City Hall.
- Council Chambers will be illuminated orange on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, in recognition of the event.
- A staff appreciation barbeque will be held on Friday, May 26, 2023.
- An open house/mulch giveaway will be held on Saturday, May 27, 2023, at the Joint Operation Centre for the public.
- The National Public Works Week Organizing Committee will host a series of virtual events, outreach, and educational opportunities for the community to be involved in which will be communicated through social media channels.

Recommendations

1. That Council proclaim May 21, 2023, to May 27, 2023, as “National Public Works Week” in the City of Vaughan;

2. That the opening ceremony be held at the Joint Operations Centre and flag raising be held at Vaughan City Hall and the Joint Operations Centre on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, to commemorate National Public Works Week;
3. That Council Chambers be illuminated orange on Tuesday, May 23, 2023; and
4. That the proclamation be posted on the City's website and the Corporate and Strategic Communications department be directed to promote the above-noted proclamation through the various corporate channels.

Background

Since 1960, the American Public Works Association has sponsored National Public Works Week and more than 30,000 members in the U.S. and Canada use this week to energize and educate the public on the importance of Public Works

In 1960, the American Public Works Association started a week-long campaign to make the general public more aware of the services Public Works Departments provide, as well as to promote the "often-unsung heroes" of our society; the professionals who serve the public every day with quiet dedication. Since its inception, agencies, municipalities, and regions have used this week to educate, engage and inform the public about the essential role that Public Works plays in the quality of their community life. Equally important is promoting Public Works as a career choice for the future work force and recognizing those who currently serve in these public roles.

Public Works staff work diligently throughout the year to ensure service excellence to the Vaughan community

The Public Works portfolio strives to deliver on five key objectives that allow our team to provide critical services that the citizens of Vaughan rely on each day. These five key objectives will center around Vaughan's future 2022 - 2026 Term of Council Service Excellence Strategic Plan and focus on staff engagement, citizen experience, good governance, and operational performance. The objectives are as follows:

1. Make our people a priority through health, safety, and wellness;
2. Improve employee engagement and culture;
3. Foster a culture of innovation by being business effective;
4. Create WOW moments by keeping our citizens safe and our City clean and beautiful; and
5. Be a Public Works Ambassador.

By developing plans and programs to deliver on these crucial objectives, in addition to focusing on the 2022 - 2026 Term of Council Priorities, the team consistently provides the following services that include but are not limited to:

- Constant supply of safe, clean drinking water;
- Management of wastewater and stormwater systems;

- Management of Solid Waste, including organics, recycling, yard waste and garbage collection;
- Maintenance and beautification of parks, open spaces, entry features and urban tree canopy;
- Maintenance of roadways and traffic management;
- Winter maintenance of roadways, sidewalks, City facilities and pathways; and
- Maintenance of fleet and equipment to ensure operations continue to run smoothly.

Previous Reports/Authority

Proclamation – 2022 National Public Works Week and Flag-Raising Request
[Proclamation of National Public Works Week 2022.pdf \(escrimetings.com\)](https://pub-vaughan.escrimetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=32068)

Proclamation – 2020 National Public Works Week and Flag-Raising Request
<https://pub-vaughan.escrimetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=32068>

Analysis and Options

The theme for the 2023 National Public Works Week is “Connecting the World Through Public Works”

This year’s theme, “**Connecting the World Through Public Works**”, underscores the idea that Public Works plays a critical role in connecting individuals and communities, no matter where we live in the world. Every Public Works professional strives to enhance the quality of life for the community they serve, thereby leading to healthier and happier communities. Public Works professionals act as first responders, with a deep sense of pride, and are vital to maintaining the strength and resilience of these communities. Public Works connectors help keep communities strong by providing an infrastructure of services in transportation, water, wastewater and stormwater treatment, public buildings and spaces, parks and grounds, emergency management and first response, solid waste, and right-of-way management. They are what make our communities great places to live and work. The poster for this year’s theme can be found in Attachment 1.

A range of in-person and virtual events for National Public Works Week will take place this year

Planning for this year’s National Public Works Week commenced in February 2023. An organizing committee, made up primarily of the Public Works Leadership team and select staff, has planned a range of virtual and in-person activities that will take place during National Public Works Week which include:

- In-person opening ceremony and flag raising event (Tuesday, May 23, 2023)
- In-person staff appreciation barbeque (Friday, May 26, 2023)
- In-person open house/mulch giveaway (Saturday, May 27, 2023)

- Virtual education and outreach events throughout the week (May 21 - 27).

The Public Works team continues to recognize staff through the annual Golden Pylons Awards Program and publishing of the 2022 Public Works yearbook

The Public Works team continues to recognize and honour leaders and staff for their diligent and tireless work. In 2022, the team continued the “Golden Pylon Awards Program” for a fourth year where staff could nominate and vote for their peers and teams to win awards centered around the portfolio’s key objectives. Golden Pylon Award categories included the WOW award, the health and safety award, leader without a title award, positive impact award, project of the year award, the innovation award, women in public works award and the leadership award. A total of 33 individuals were awarded. The Public Works team will also be releasing its 2022 Public Works yearbook celebrating the efforts of all departments, teams, and staff in 2022.

Financial Impact

There are no costs associated with this report.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

There are no broader regional impacts or considerations with the adoption of this report.

Conclusion

National Public Works Week provides a venue through which municipalities across North America can inform, educate, and promote the vital contributions that Public Works makes to support our communities being safe, clean, and beautiful.

For more information, please contact:

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Attachment

1. National Public Works Week Poster 2023.

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Approved by



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Reviewed by



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