

Committee of the Whole (1) Report

DATE: Tuesday, April 9, 2024

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: PROCLAMATION – 2024 NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

FROM:

Zoran Postic, Deputy City Manager, Public Works

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To request that Council proclaim the week of May 19, 2024 to May 25, 2024, 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 19 - 25, 2024 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 21, 2024, at the Joint Operations Centre and City Hall.
- Council Chambers will be illuminated orange on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, in recognition of the week.
- Free mulch giveaway on Thursday, May 23, 2024, at the Joint Operations Centre to accommodate residents who may be unable to attend the annual Open House.
- A staff appreciation barbeque will be held on Friday, May 24, 2024.
- An Open House with mulch giveaway will be held on Saturday, May 25, 2024, at the Joint Operations 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. These will be promoted through social media channels.

Recommendations

1. That Council proclaim May 19, 2024 to May 25, 2024, as “National Public Works Week” in the City of Vaughan;
2. That an opening ceremony be held at the Joint Operations Centre followed by a flag raising ceremony at Vaughan City Hall and the Joint Operations Centre on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, to commemorate National Public Works Week;
3. That Council Chambers be illuminated orange on Tuesday, May 21, 2024; and
4. That the proclamation be posted on the City’s website and the Communications, Marketing and Engagement department be directed to promote the above-noted proclamation through the various corporate channels.

Background

Since 1960, the American Public Works Association (APWA) has sponsored National Public Works Week across North America. More than 32,000 members in the United States and Canada use this week to energize and educate the public on the importance of Public Works to their daily lives.

In 1960, the APWA started a week-long campaign to make the 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 center around Vaughan’s 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 – 2023 National Public Works Week Request

[Proclamation – 2023 national public works week \(escribemeetings.com\)](https://www.escribemeetings.com/proclamations/2023-national-public-works-week-request)

Proclamation – 2022 National Public Works Week Request

[Proclamation of National Public Works Week 2022.pdf \(escribemeetings.com\)](https://www.escribemeetings.com/proclamations/2022-national-public-works-week-request)

American Public Works Association NPWW Announcement

[National Public Works Week \(NPWW\) - American Public Works Association \(apwa.org\)](https://www.apwa.org/national-public-works-week)

Analysis and Options

The theme for the 2024 National Public Works Week is “Advancing Quality of Life for All.”

Every year, APWA introduces a special theme for National Public Works Week. The theme for this year, "Advancing Quality of Life," recognizes the crucial role Public Works plays in improving our overall quality of life. The commitment of our public works professionals, as they deliver essential services, contributes to creating a healthier, happier, and more vibrant community.

The provision of infrastructure, facilities, and services is made possible by the dedicated efforts of our public works champions. They are responsible for rebuilding, improving, and safeguarding our city's transportation, water supply, water treatment, solid waste systems, public buildings, parks, forests, and other essential structures and facilities.

From enhancing the beauty of Vaughan's parks and open spaces to the routine collection of waste, and ensuring our roads are clean and safe, these professionals work tirelessly to elevate the quality of life in our City. 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 2024. 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 21, 2024)
- Free mulch giveaway at the Joint Operations Centre (Thursday, May 23, 2024)
- In-person staff appreciation barbeque (Friday, May 24, 2024)
- In-person open house with mulch giveaway (Saturday, May 25, 2024)
- Virtual education and outreach events throughout the week (May 19 – 25, 2024)

Public Work's dedication to honoring NPWW is exemplified by the recognition received from the Canadian Public Works Association for the successful range of events held in 2023. The submission for this award can be found in Attachment 2. The award received can be found in Attachment 3.

Beyond National Public Works Week, the Public Works team continues to recognize staff through the annual Golden Pylons Awards and Recognition Program and publication of the Public Works Yearbook.

The Public Works team continues to recognize and honor leaders and staff for their dedication and tireless work. In 2023, the team marked the fourth year of the Golden Pylon Awards and Recognition Program, where staff could nominate and vote for their peers and teams to receive awards aligned with the portfolio's key objectives. In 2023, the Golden Pylon Award categories included the WOW Award, Health and Safety Award, Emerging Leader Award, Positive Impact Award, Project of the Year Award, Lean Project Award, Women in Public Works Award and Leadership Award. A total of 60 individuals were recognized through this program.

Additionally, the Public Works team released the 2023 Public Works Yearbook celebrating the contributions of all departments, teams, and staff throughout the year.

Financial Impact

There are no costs associated with this report.

Operational Impact

There are no operational impacts as a result of receiving this Report for decision.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

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

Conclusion

National Public Works Week (NPWW) 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. The City of Vaughan will achieve this by officially proclaiming NPWW and participating in the scheduled events.

For more information, please contact:

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Attachments

1. National Public Works Week Poster 2024.
2. Canadian Public Works Association Award Submission 2023.
3. Canadian Public Works Association Award 2023.

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