



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Public Works and Transportation Committee

Date: May 25, 2015

From: Tom Stewart, AScT.
Director, Public Works

File: 10-6000-01/2015-Vol
01

Re: National Public Works Week - Update

Staff Recommendation

That the Staff report titled "National Public Works Week - Update", dated May 25, 2015 from the Director, Public Works, be received for information.

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

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

Staff Report

Origin

The Canadian Public Works Association's annual National Public Works Week was from May 17-23, 2015, and to celebrate the City hosted several events that were well attended by the community. This report summarizes results of the events held during that time.

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 our community are an integral part of our citizens 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 officials.
- The efficiency of the qualified and dedicated personnel who staff Public Works Departments is materially influenced by the 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:

On Wednesday, May 13, staff hosted a kick-off event for Operations employees, and in partnership with CUPE 394, two grade 12 ACE IT (apprenticeship) program students were awarded scholarships valued at \$500 each.

Project WET, an interactive program aimed at educating Richmond elementary students about the importance of water, was held from May 19-21 at the Works Yard. Staff worked with the Richmond School Board to promote the event within the district, and hosted over 450 students from 16 elementary schools. The interactive and fun displays taught students about water distribution, water metering, storm and sanitary services, Closed Circuit Television (CCTV), leak detection, pump stations and environmental programs.

The final event was the annual Open House held on Saturday, May 23 at the Works Yard, which included interactive displays from many City departments. Approximately 5000 people attended the Open House. Some highlights at this year's event included donated ride-on excavators, various pieces of fleet equipment, a water spray station, play construction zone, Lafarge cement

display, face-painting and seed planting, woodworking areas, a children's play area, a hay ride touring the operations yard, CUPE 394 sponsored car show, gardening and lawn care information, interactive emergency, police, fire and ambulance displays, live entertainment including singers and dance performances, and food vendors.

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

Once again this year residents had an opportunity to register for the Works on Wheels (WOW) infrastructure bus tour. The one hour tour included stops at the Alexandra District Energy, Fire Hall No. 4 and the Williams Road Drainage Pump Station. Residents participated in a scientific experiment to understand the concept of heat transfer, got an up-close look of a fire truck and training tower, and acquired new knowledge about the City's drainage system.

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 the volunteers. This year's volunteers included over 190 staff, 100 community volunteers and 74 McMath students.

Financial Impact

None

Conclusion

City of Richmond's Engineering and Public Works Division together with Community Services and Community Safety plays 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 the nation 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
Manager, Public Works Administration
(604-233-3330)