



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Public Works and Transportation Committee

Date: June 3, 2013

From: Tom Stewart
Director, Public Works

File: 10-6000-01/2013-Vol
01

Re: National Public Works Week - Update

Staff Recommendation

That the "National Public Works Week - Update" report from the Director, Public Works be received for information.

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

Att. 1

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 	
REVIEWED BY DIRECTORS	INITIALS: DW
REVIEWED BY CAO	INITIALS: GI

Staff Report

Origin

The Canadian Public Works Association's annual National Public Works Week was held May 19-25, 2013. The events hosted by the City are well attended by the community and school children.

Background

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 Thursday, May 16, 2013, staff hosted an event for Public Works employees and in partnership with CUPE 394, two \$500.00 scholarships were awarded to grade 12 trades program students.

The second event was the annual Open House at the Works Yard which was held on Saturday, May 25, 2013. This year's Open House was attended by approximately 5,000 people. The event encompassed displays and booths from Engineering and Public Works, Community Services, Community Safety, Planning and Development and several community groups. Popular displays and activities at this year's event included interactive areas where kids had a chance to get their hands dirty in concrete at the Kid-Crete area, water features where guests sprayed water at targets, a hay ride through the works yard, free compost for residents, construction of bird houses, a children's corner which included face painting, a large sandpile with sand toys and bouncy castles, Nature Park creatures on display, CUPE 394 sponsored car show, large pieces of equipment for people of all ages to climb inside, a fire obstacle course and live bands to keep everyone entertained.

Educational areas included Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) and Pumps displays, traffic signal booth, Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) camera truck, Community Bylaws, Emergency Services, capital programs display, samples of the new Green Cans and Neptune water meters. There were also seven vendors who offered a wide variety of foods to the public.

As this year's National Public Works Week coincided with Drinking Water Week, the City received a provincial grant to educate residents on the benefits of drinking tap water. West Richmond Community Centre's Merry King Preschool contributed artwork around the theme of drinking tap water and water conservation, and their artwork was on display at the Open House Water Education booth.

The success of the Engineering and Public Works Open House is due to the organizing committee, which is made up of staff from a number of departments. Approximately 120 staff volunteered their time to make this a successful community event. Acknowledgment also goes to staff member's family and friends, and the 46 McMath High School Leadership students who volunteered.

Project WET

The third event was Project WET (Water Education Team) held from May 27-30 at the Works Yard. Staff led groups of 25 students through 8 stations. Educational experiences included learning about water conservation, pump stations, water meters, water quality, irrigation, storm drainage, fire hydrants and valves, and leak detection. In total, staff hosted over 500 students from 16 classes and 9 schools.

Financial Impact

None. These programs are included in the operating budget.

Conclusion

City of Richmond's Engineering and Public Works Department together with Parks and Recreation and Community Safety play an active role in celebrating the annual National Public Works Week. This week serves as a reminder of the importance of these services.



Derrick Lim
Manager, Public Works Administration
(604-233-3330)



Kids get their hands dirty at Kid-crete



Interactive water display



Environmental Programs' Green Can display



Hay ride through Works Yard



Sandpile and equipment in Kids' Corner



Bird house construction



Community Bylaws



Fire equipment and obstacle course