



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Public Works and Transportation Committee

Date: May 27, 2014

From: Tom Stewart, ASCT.
Director, Public Works

File: 10-6000-01/2014-Vol
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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)

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 held May 18-24, 2014. The events hosted by the City are well attended by the community and school children. 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 Thursday, May 15, 2014, staff hosted an event for Public Works employees and in partnership with CUPE 394, where two \$500.00 scholarships were awarded to grade 12 trades program students.

The annual Open House at the Works Yard was held on Saturday, May 24, 2014 and was attended by over 10,000 people, which is a record high for this event. 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 free compost, real-life equipment for children to play in, water hose spray zone, a Lafarge cement display, face-painting, a children's play area, a hay ride touring the inner workings of the operations yard, CUPE 394 sponsored car show, gardening and lawn care information, interactive emergency, police, fire and ambulance displays, live entertainment, and food vendors.

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, recycling and pesticide awareness, Manhole Cover Art booth and Neptune water meters.

West Richmond Community Centre's Merry King Preschool contributed artwork around the theme of water conservation, and it was on display at the Open House Water Education booth.

New to this year's Open House was the Works on Wheels (WOW) infrastructure bus tours. There were two bus tours available to the public. The first tour went to Harvest Power for an opportunity to see how yard trimmings and food scraps are transformed into renewable energy, soil, mulch and natural fertilizer products. The second tour showcased some of Richmond's Engineering and Public Works projects including the Alexandra District Energy Utility, Williams Road Drainage Pump Station and Fire Hall No. 4. All tours were booked to capacity and participant feedback was very positive. This tour model will be used for further dates in 2014 such as Doors Open Richmond.

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, and over 120 staff who volunteered their time. Acknowledgment also goes to staff member's family and friends, and the 59 McMath Secondary School Leadership students who also volunteered.

This year Project WET (Water Education Team) was held from May 20-22 at the Works Yard. Staff led groups of 25 students through eight 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 300 students from 12 classes and nine schools.

Financial Impact

None

Conclusion

City of Richmond's Engineering and Public Works Department 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 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.



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

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