



Office of the Commissioner  
Public Works Department

## MEMORANDUM

To: Members of Committee of the Whole

From: Erin Mahoney, M. Eng.  
Commissioner of Public Works

Date: March 24, 2023

Re: National Public Works Week, May 20 to 27, 2023

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### Background

The Regional Municipality of York celebrates National Public Works Week (NPWW) annually by engaging and educating residents about the value of Public Works in their communities. Across North America and in coordination with Canadian and Ontario Public Works Associations, NPWW is celebrated annually during the third week of May.

This memo provides an overview of proposed NPWW activities planned for 2023.

### National Public Works Week, May 20 to 27, 2023

In 2023, York Region Public Works will continue to participate in NPWW at a Regional level with virtual and in-person activities.

This year's theme, Connecting the World through Public Works, encourages Public Works staff and residents to continue to work together to create great places to live, work and play. Staff will be recognized throughout the week, acknowledging their daily efforts to deliver essential services and programs to York Region businesses and residents.

### **In 2022, Public Works staff worked diligently to ensure public and worker safety while delivering critical services during the Region's pandemic response**

Highlights from the past year include:

- Continued COVID-19 surveillance testing at key locations across York Region's wastewater infrastructure to support public health monitoring

- Continued to protect source water and provided safe and clean drinking water to the residents and businesses of York Region
- Completed and received Council approval of the [Transportation Master Plan](#), the [Water and Wastewater Master Plan](#) and participated in developing the [Climate Change Action Plan](#)
- Monitored 894 traffic control and signal operations and built, operated and maintained 4,300 lane kilometres of Regional roads and infrastructure
- Continued to operate conventional York Region Transit, Viva and Mobility On-Request services, and welcomed more travellers back on-board
- Completed construction of the Cornell Bus Terminal in the City of Markham and Major Mackenzie West Terminal in the City of Vaughan
- Processed residential recycling and residual waste for the nine local municipalities and managed six waste depot locations; processed over 368,000 tonnes of waste and diverted 94% from landfills
- Continued to create a safe environment for all residents to enjoy York Regional forests; repaired and added a new accessible forest trail at the Hollidge tract, and purchased a new tract in the Town of East Gwillimbury
- Continued to advance the Region's corporate vehicle and bus electrification programs by adding two more electric buses to the transit fleet and secured funding to purchase 180 more over the next three years
- Unveiled Every Child Matters crosswalk in the Town of Georgina
- Oversaw the Circular Economy Initiatives fund for non-profit organizations to develop community-driven, innovative projects that reduce waste and advance a circular economy across the Region
- Planted the first Pollinator Meadow in the City of Richmond Hill
- Advanced sustainability programs including the addition of a new Lendery in the City of Vaughan

### **In-person and virtual activities are planned for the community to celebrate National Public Works Week in 2023**

- **Family Fun Day:** Saturday, May 27, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., residents will have an opportunity to learn more about the Region's Public Works services and participate in demonstrations with staff at 90 Bales Drive in the Town of East Gwillimbury; a tour of the

York Region Transit bus wash located at 18106 Yonge Street in the Town of Newmarket will also be featured

- **Paint-a-plow contest:** Grade five students will be invited to design and paint a snowplow blade focusing on the 2023 NPWW theme; voting will take place at Family Fun Day and online
- **Virtual toolkits:** Aligning with Ontario’s elementary school curriculum, Public Works-themed education materials will be available for self-guided learning and fun
- **School tours:** Students in grades five and eight will be invited to tour the York Region Transit Operations and Maintenance Facility in the Town of Newmarket, the Roads and Traffic Operations Centre in the Town of East Gwillimbury (including the Sign Shop, Traffic Signal Lab, and snowplow simulator), and a guided tour of a York Regional Forest. Bus charters for the tours will be provided by York Region Transit
- **Virtual tours:** Leveraging online tools, videos of a water treatment facility, the blue box recycling facility and waste depots will be uploaded onto [york.ca](http://york.ca) and [yrt.ca](http://yrt.ca)
- **Partnership opportunities:** On Saturday May 27, 2023, Durham Region will be hosting tours of the Duffin Creek Plant and the Durham York Energy Centre. To support our strong partnership with Durham Region, these tours will be included in York Region NPPW and Family Fun Day advertisements

National Public Works Week and the theme of Connecting the World through Public Works continues to emphasize the importance of public works in our communities, highlighting and supporting York Region’s mission of serving our thriving communities – today and tomorrow.



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Erin Mahoney, M. Eng.  
Commissioner of Public Works



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Bruce Macgregor  
Chief Administrative Officer

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