



Offices of the Commissioners  
Transportation Services Department  
Environmental Services Department

## MEMORANDUM

To: Members of Committee of the Whole

From: Paul Jankowski  
Commissioner of Transportation Services

Erin Mahoney, M. Eng.  
Commissioner of Environmental Services

Date: March 21, 2019

Re: National Public Works Week May 19 to 25, 2019

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In coordination with the Canadian and Ontario Public Works Associations, National Public Works Week is celebrated annually during the fourth week in May. The purpose of this week is to educate and inform residents about the importance of public works in their daily lives.

### **National Public Works Week will be held from May 19 to 25, 2019**

York Region Transportation Services and Environmental Services will be hosting and participating in a series of promotional events to celebrate National Public Works Week in York Region. Council's continued commitment to this initiative has progressively increased awareness and public understanding of the impact of public works.

### **The 2019 National Public Works theme is "It Starts Here"**

This year's theme represents the many aspects of daily life that "start" with public works. Infrastructure starts with public works, growth and innovation starts with public works, mobility starts with public works, healthy communities start with public works. Quality of life starts with public works.

In York Region, public works staff, in partnership with local municipal staff, promote and support services that connect communities within the Region, and contribute to the high quality of life experienced by the residents of York Region. These services include:

- Providing safe and clean drinking water
- Seasonal road maintenance
- Solid waste processing, diversion and disposal
- Monitoring traffic control and signal operations
- Source water protection
- Building, operating and maintaining Regional roads and infrastructure
- Wastewater conveyance and treatment
- Operating conventional and rapid transit services and paratransit services and/or on-demand services
- Maintaining and protecting York Region forests and street trees
- Fleet and equipment services
- Building, operating and maintaining water and wastewater infrastructure
- Facilities operations maintenance
- First aid display
- CPR demonstration

**A series of events are planned throughout National Public Works Week to engage residents of all ages and increase awareness of critical services we provide to our communities**

York Region elementary students will be invited to participate in tours and activities that reinforce the learning outcomes of the grade five science and grade eight social studies curriculums. Grade five students will be invited to participate in the annual Paint-a-Plow contest by painting this year's theme on a snow plow blade. Guided tours will be provided of the York Region Transit Operations, Maintenance and Storage Facility in Richmond Hill and the Bill Fisch Forest Stewardship and Education Centre in Whitchurch-Stouffville. Students will also visit a York Region forest tract.

York Region Roads will also host facility tours for the students including the garage at 90 Bales Drive in East Gwillimbury, the York Regional Police fleet and the new Roads and Traffic Operations Centre. Paramedic Services will showcase their simulation lab and command centre at 80 Bales Drive in East Gwillimbury during these tours. EMS Week follows National Public Works Week.

Miller Cup Challenge – Mayors of the local municipalities will have an opportunity to participate in the annual Public Works Municipal Challenge on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 in Richmond Hill. The challenge is a friendly competition among the Mayors of the local municipalities and Regional staff, and includes a skills competition where ten teams (one from each municipality, plus one from York Region) compete in vehicle, forestry and infrastructure-based events.

Month-long promotions will include a variety of tactics for broad reach including print and radio ads, signage, website and social media presence and the Family Fun Day open house event.

## **National Public Works Week concludes with the Region's annual Family Fun Day on Saturday, May 25, 2019**

Staff from Transportation Services, Environmental Services, Corporate Services, Paramedic Services, and York Regional Police will collaborate to host the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Fun Day event for York Region residents on Saturday, May 25 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This year's event will be located at the York Region Transit Operations, Maintenance and Storage Facility at 55 Orlando Avenue in Richmond Hill, and will include a charity barbecue lunch benefitting the United Way.

This event will raise awareness of the services and activities Regional staff the Region provide to residents. Residents will also have an opportunity to give feedback about public works services, ask questions, and interact with staff working to maintain and improve public works services.

Each participating service area will coordinate displays and engaging activities for residents of all ages. The full list of displays and activities is outlined in Attachment 1.

In 2018, 2,119 people attended York Region's Family Fun Day; an increase of 42 per cent from 2017. Over the last Council term, \$8,555 was raised benefitting 360Kids (2017-2018) and the York Region Centre for Community Safety (2015-2016).

The scope and scale of the Region's National Public Works Week celebration are achieved through proactive collaboration and partnership between Transportation Services, Environmental Services, Corporate Services, Paramedic Services, Community and Health Services, the local municipalities and York Regional Police. Costs involved with participating in National Public Works Week events and hosting the annual Family Fun Day event are included in the approved 2019 Transportation Services operating budget.

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Paul Jankowski  
Commissioner of Transportation Services

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Erin Mahoney, M. Eng.  
Commissioner of Environmental Services

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Bruce Macgregor  
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment (1)  
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