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To: Committee of the Whole  
Meeting Date: April 11, 2024  
From: Laura McDowell  
Commissioner of Public Works  
Re: **National Public Works Week, May 18 to 25, 2024**

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This memo provides an overview of National Public Works Week (NPWW) planned activities.

The Regional Municipality of York celebrates 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 the third week of May. York Region Public Works will continue to participate in NPWW aligning with 2024's theme of "Advancing Quality of Life for All" with virtual and in-person activities.

### **National Public Works Week, May 18 to 25, 2024**

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

### **In 2023, Public Works staff worked diligently to ensure public and worker safety while delivering critical services**

Highlights from the past year include:

- Continued to protect source water and provide safe and clean drinking water to the residents and businesses of York Region
- Expanded wastewater-based epidemiology to include surveillance of influenza A and B and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)
- Operated and maintained over 130 water and wastewater facilities and over 720 kilometres of water and wastewater mains

- Received two Project of the Year awards from industry magazines: “No Dig Technology” and “Trenchless Technology” for repairs to the critical York Peel Feedermain
- Completed and received Council approval of the [Transportation Master Plan](#) and advanced the York Region Vision Zero - Traveller Safety Plan for launch in 2024
- Monitored 894 traffic control and signal operations and built, operated, or maintained 4,300 lane kilometres of Regional roads and infrastructure
- Continued to operate York Region Transit (YRT), Viva and Mobility On-Request services, and welcomed more travellers back on-board, achieving 2019 ridership levels
- Continued to advance the Region’s corporate vehicle and bus electrification programs adding two more electric buses to the fleet; secured a \$76 million grant from Infrastructure Canada and \$137 million low interest loan from Canada Infrastructure Bank to purchase 180 electric buses over the next three years
- Increasing accessibility of transit for all travellers, worked with Metrolinx and other Greater Toronto Area transit agencies, to complete critical activities for 2024 fare integration and launched PRESTO contactless payment
- Opened the new Major Mackenzie West Bus Terminal in the City of Vaughan
- Ranked number one in the Province for diversion in large urban municipalities by the Ministry of Conservation, Environment and Parks diverting 94% from landfills
- Planted over 116,175 trees and shrubs last year, and seven additional pollinator meadows bringing the total to nine (one in each municipality) all contributing to the Region’s goal of a healthy and sustainable natural environment Planted
- Continued to create a safe environment for all residents to enjoy the York Regional Forest; repaired and added a new accessible forest trail at the Nobleton Tract
- Provided \$143,000 to nine non-profit organizations for community-driven projects to reduce waste, promote repair and reuse and help businesses reduce reliance on single-use items
- Advanced sustainability programs by hosting 11 repair cafes across the Region in partnership with Newmarket and local libraries

## **In-person and virtual activities are planned for the community to celebrate National Public Works Week in 2024**

- **Family Fun Day:** Saturday, May 25, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. residents can learn about the Region’s Public Works services and participate in demonstrations at 90 Bales Drive

in the Town of East Gwillimbury; and a tour of the YRT bus washing located at 18106 Yonge Street in the Town of Newmarket

- **York Regional Forest 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** throughout May, forest tours, guided walks, displays, and ongoing promotions celebrate the forest and are linked to NPWW
- **Paint-a-plow contest:** Grade five students are invited to design and paint a snow plow blade aligned with the NPWW theme; voting for the best snow plow blade takes place at Family Fun Day and online
- **Virtual toolkits:** Aligning with Ontario's curriculum, Public Works-themed education materials will be available for self-guided learning and fun on york.ca
- **School tours:** Grades five and eight will be invited to tour the YRT Operations and Maintenance Facility in Newmarket, Roads and Traffic Operations Centre in the Town of East Gwillimbury (including the Sign Shop, Traffic Signal Lab, and snow plow simulator), and a York Regional Forest guided tour. Tour bus charters provided by YRT
- **Partnership opportunities:** Supporting our strong partnership with Durham, staff will work together to promote tours of Duffin Creek Plant and Durham York Energy Centre

National Public Works Week continues to emphasize the importance of Public Works in our communities and supports the Region's mission of serving our thriving communities – today and tomorrow.

For more information on this memo, please contact David Szeptycki, Director, Sustainability, Communications, and Innovation at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75723. Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.



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Laura McDowell, P. Eng.  
Commissioner of Public Works



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Erin Mahoney

Chief Administrative Officer

March 22, 2024

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