

NO: R169

COUNCIL DATE: September 9, 2024

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **September 6, 2024**

FROM: **General Manager, Engineering**

FILE: **0290-20 (CPWA)**

SUBJECT: **Engineering Public Works Week Awards Received in 2024**

RECOMMENDATION

The Engineering Department recommends that Council receive this report for information.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of the National Public Works Week award the City received at the American Public Works Association Conference on September 9, 2024.

BACKGROUND

Between May 19 to May 25, 2024, the Engineering Department, with the support and guidance of Council, hosted a week-long Public Works Week celebration. This event focused on public outreach and education, aiming to inform residents about the various high-quality services the City provides. Through a series of activities, demonstrations, and informational sessions, the celebration sought to raise awareness and appreciation of the essential work carried out by the public works team, highlighting their commitment to maintaining and improving the community's infrastructure and quality of life.

DISCUSSION

To facilitate the week of celebration, staff had three main objectives as outlined below:

1. Promote public awareness and education about the value and importance of municipal public works in our every day lives;
2. Honour the staff who have dedicated their lives to providing public works services; and
3. Promote public works as an exciting and rewarding career choice.

To achieve these objectives, staff hosted the below events during Public Works Week:

- **Snowplow Painting:** 18 elementary schools participated in a snowplow competition, teaching students about the importance of snow removal and the City's snow and ice operations. The winning plow was featured in the Cloverdale Rodeo parade, with the children who painted it riding on the float.

- **Operations Centre Cup and Equipment ROADEos:** Approximately 150 staff participated in fun competitions demonstrating their skills, including a forklift and snowplow challenge, pipe and sign assembly, solid waste sorting, and more.
- **Elementary School Tours:** 350 students from across the City toured the Operations and Fleet Centre, learning about infrastructure, equipment, and future careers in public works.
- **Operations Centre Open House:** The Fleet, South, and Main Operations Centres were open to the public for a one-day event on May 25, 2024, attracting over 2,000 residents. Exhibits included pothole patching, concrete forming, equipment displays, pool and facility displays, Bylaws ATV rides, and a free plant giveaway by Parks, among others.

To recognize staff efforts, an award application was submitted to the Canadian Public Works Association. Following a thorough evaluation process, the City received the National Public Works Week award, surpassing other Canadian municipalities with populations of 20,000 or more. An official award plaque will be presented at a future Council meeting.

CONCLUSION

Receiving the National Public Works Week award) demonstrates that the City is a leader in public works advocacy and innovation, as recognized through a competitive process by Provincial and national industry associations.

Scott Neuman, P.Eng.
General Manager, Engineering

YY/cc