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Richmond Hill Selected for CPWA National Public Works Week Award

OTTAWA, ON – October 17, 2016 – The Town of Richmond Hill, ON was recently selected by the Canadian Public Works Association (CPWA) to receive the highest award for its 2016 National Public Works Week (NPWW) campaign and celebration. Richmond Hill's 2016 NPWW activities and celebration competed for the national award with other Canadian municipalities that entered in the 'Medium Centre' category, for municipalities with populations of 75,001 - 250,000.

The 2016 NPWW award will be presented on October 24, 2016 by CPWA Director, Sal Iannello, P.Eng , General Manager Infrastructure & Development Services and City Engineer, Corporation for the City of Welland, ON during the Council Meeting at 7:30 PM at the Council Chambers, 1st Floor, 225 East Beaver Creek Road, Richmond Hill, ON, L4B 3P4. Accepting the award for Richmond Hill will be Mayor Dave Barrow and members of Richmond Hill's NPWW Committee.

National Public Works Week annually recognizes the tens of thousands of men and women in North America who provide and maintain the infrastructure and services collectively known as public works. In May of each year, municipalities throughout the US and Canada celebrate the week with open houses, project and facility tours, parades, education, press conferences, school visits, and career events. Municipalities also use the week to recognize their staff – the women and men who play an important role in their community's vitality.

“National Public Works Week is one of the best ways to increase public awareness about the importance of public works in the provision of these services to our towns and cities,” said Mr. Iannello. “Richmond Hill's week of public works events included an Open House for residents to learn about how public works professionals are ‘always there’, along with opportunities for staff to demonstrate their skills at the Public Works Challenge, and also for students to interact with staff and equipment during School Tours.”

Approximately 500 residents attended the NPWW Open House at Richmond Hill's Operations Centre to meet the public works professionals who provide important public works services. Visitors were invited to sit in the driver's seat of the trucks and to learn first-hand how a snow plow, front end loader, flusher truck and fire truck work, with staff on hand to answer questions.

“CPWA is very impressed with Richmond Hill's public outreach in the community. Richmond Hill has celebrated NPWW, and the lasting impression that public works staff leave on the community since 1997. This year's NPWW events were advertised in local newspapers, on the town's website, in the staff newsletter, in the Council's websites and newsletters, on local radio, and through Twitter and Facebook. About 450 students from seven schools, along with their teachers and parents, took part in

School Tours. Altogether, Richmond Hill's NPWW programs were an excellent outreach and public relations effort," said Iannello.

NPWW Award evaluators also gave credit to the town for the realistic water and wastewater display by the Public Works Operations Division featured at the Open House. The display was an artificial representation, at natural scale, of the town's underground infrastructure, which included water main, sanitary and storm sewers. Their NPWW Open House was also broadcast live by local radio station 105.9 (The Region) and included a Charity Barbecue that raised \$1,000.00 for Hill House Hospice and \$1,000.00 for the Canadian Red Cross for Fort McMurray Fire Victims.

"CPWA is honored to recognize the Town of Richmond Hill's efforts for National Public Works Week. Public works services, personnel, and infrastructure assets are essential to our communities, but do not always enjoy a high level of public awareness. The high caliber of Richmond Hill's NPWW programs and events goes a long way to providing that awareness," he said.

About CPWA: *The Canadian Public Works Association (CPWA), or Association Canadienne des Travaux Publics, was founded in 1986 to enhance the services of APWA to the Canadian public works community and to improve the quality of public works products and services to Canadian citizens. CPWA's more than 2,250 members in Canada, plan, build, operate, maintain and sustain the public works and infrastructure that improve our quality of community life.*