



Nomination for the PWABC Public Works Week – Community Celebration Award (population over 100,000)

Submitted by Public Works, City of Richmond

August 2019



FIRST AID + ➔

⬅ Food Court +ATM

⬅ Picnic Area

⬅ Emergency Services

⬅ Obstacle Track

Parks ➔

⬅ Volunteer Check In



OUR COMMUNITY: THE CITY OF RICHMOND

The City of Richmond's population is estimated at 222,945, with a dynamic, multi-ethnic community. Rapid growth and development over the years have provided steady opportunities for Engineering and Public Works through continuous improvements and preventative maintenance. It's a priority for us to keep the public informed and educated on the essential services and day-to-day operations provided by Public Works. For these reasons, staff are enthusiastic about celebrating National Public Works Week (NPWW) and opening our doors to the community at our annual Public Works Open House event.

CELEBRATING NPWW

The festivities are celebrated over one week in May and include an elementary-based educational program called Project WET (water education team), a breakfast and scholarships presentation, and a Saturday doors-open style event at the Works Yard as the grand finale.

Project WET

Project WET is an interactive elementary school program for grades 4 through 7. This free program is offered over two days and was designed to inform, entertain and educate students on the importance of water quality, water conservation, water supply, environmental sustainability, and sewerage and drainage systems. The team consists of staff from the City of Richmond's Works Yard. Staff work with the Richmond School Board to promote the highly coveted program opportunity to the teachers.

This year the program accommodated 10 classes (300 students, teachers and parents) from five different Richmond elementary schools. Feedback from teachers included:

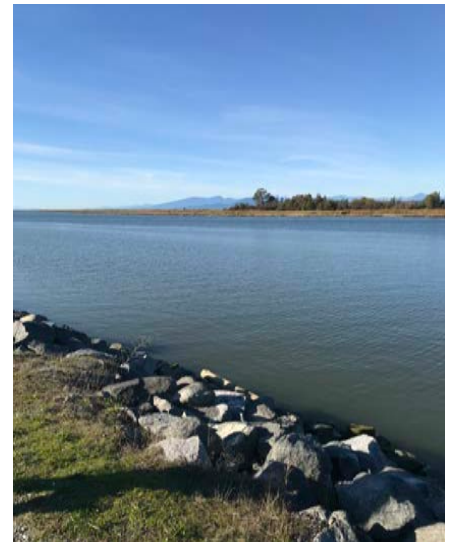
"I did not know that people sometimes enter pipes to clean them – I thought this was done by robots."

"Learning about the grease in pipes was surprising. Somebody has to go into the poop shoots! I won't put wipes in the system."

"There are cameras that go underground and into the pipes and they are so expensive."

"I didn't know that water is controlled by pressure or what PSI is."

"I was surprised that there were so many departments and within each section, there are specific staff members for specific jobs."



Middle Arm Dike Trail



Explaining the water distribution system in Richmond



Getting 'wet' while showing how water pipes work



Demonstrating proper grease disposal and a blocked pipe

"Learning about what the city does, how water is managed, I didn't know they had to do so much! All the adults were so nice to us. It was fun, it was wet."

"I really enjoyed seeing my kids interact with so many adults. My kids were engaged and interested in the information presented and the jobs each adult performed. It was learning in a fun yet intimate setting."

Public Works Open House Breakfast Event

Staff were invited to this early morning event that is not only to kick-off the preparation for the Public Works Open House but to also recognize two deserving Richmond high school students in the Youth Train in Trades program with a \$1,000 scholarship each. The scholarships are funded equally between the City and CUPE 394 and were presented to the students by Mayor Malcolm Brodie. Councillor Bill McNulty and Councillor Kelly Greene were also in attendance. Organizers held a 50/50 draw and raised a total of \$1,300 with proceeds being donated to the Richmond Working Poor Christmas charity.

Public Works Open House

This interactive one day event is an opportunity for the Engineering and Public Works Department to publicly showcase our operations staff who provide a variety of services to the community. Likewise, City staff are able to highlight the work that is done on a daily basis to ensure the safety and health of the city. The exciting event draws attention to the importance of public works in community life and celebrates the annual National Public Works Week in May, recognizing the men and women who provide and maintain the infrastructure services known as public works.

The Public Works Open House Committee is comprised of 13 staff (7 Public Works, 4 Engineering, 1 Parks, and 1 Richmond Fire Rescue). Planning begins well in advance with brainstorming sessions, discussions and research. The group is responsible for coordinating logistics including site layout, marketing, activities, booths, entertainment, etc. The members are voluntary and the event preparation is not part of their regular scope of work.

The free outdoor event took place on Saturday, May 11, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Richmond Operations Yard (5599 Lynas Lane) and was attended by Mayor Malcolm Brodie, Councillor Kelly Greene, Councillor Alexa Loo, Councillor Bill McNulty, Councillor Michael Wolfe, and 8,000 community members of all ages.



2019 Scholarship award recipient with Mayor Malcolm Brodie



Public Works Open House Committee



Opening of the gates at 11:00 a.m.



Aerial view of the event

2019 Public Works Open House

SITE MAP



Marketing of the Event

- Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Google Ads)
 - Social media statistics:
 - Facebook event: 1,100 RSVPs and reached 25,000 people
 - Facebook Ads: 197 website clicks and 20,195 impressions
 - Google Ads: 220 clicks and 79,892 impressions
- Bus shelter digital advertising
- Newspaper advertisement
- Posters at City facilities
- Window decals at the Works Yard Administration building
- Portable electronic sign boards
- City of Richmond website (www.richmond.ca/pwopenhouse)
- News release
- Event day – onsite interview with Talentvision TV

Volunteers

This city-wide event wouldn't be possible without the dedicated Richmond staff who volunteered their Saturday to host booths, engage and educate the public, set up and clean up the site. At this year's event we had a total of 431 volunteers. The breakdown was as follows: 261 City staff volunteers, of which 192 were Engineering & Public Works staff (127 Public Works or 120 Public Works CUPE union staff and 7 exempt). What is most impressive and humbling is that staff were unpaid and encouraged their friends and family (95 people) to volunteer. The pride for working at the City of Richmond is displayed with their enthusiasm as they share their passion and knowledge with the public. Over the years it has been overwhelming to see the staff children grow up and volunteer annually.

Paving the Way for Youth

City staff have a unique relationship with the McMath Secondary School leadership program students who were recruited in the spring to assist at booths and engage with the public. This opportunity provides the students with networking channels for possible career opportunities and experience working with the public. Students are carefully matched with booth leaders from different departments based on the students' interests and requests. This year 75 McMath students volunteered from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Window decals printed and installed by our Sign Shop



McMath leadership program students volunteering with City staff volunteers

ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, May 11, 2019
11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Celebrate National Public Works Week at the City of Richmond's City Operations Yard, 5599 Lynas Lane, Richmond, B.C.

Event includes:

- Crafts, play areas, and a Kidstruction project zone
- Demonstration of real-sized heavy equipment such as dump trucks, graders, and excavators
- Interactive environmental displays and booth to provide conservation and sustainability tips along with lawn care information
- Hands-on Lafarge cement building zone
- "Show and Shine" classic car show sponsored by CUPE 394
- Richmond Fire-Rescue displays
- Live entertainment and food trucks
- A "Pop-up Park" green space and resting area
- Interactive passport contest for a chance to win a prize!



For more information, visit: www.richmond.ca/pwopenhouse



Food Vendors

A fan and foodie favourite is the presence of a variety of food trucks. For several years community food truck businesses have been carefully selected and invited to attend. One volunteer is responsible for coordinating the food vendors and ensuring they have current health permits (working with Vancouver Coastal Health), business licenses, approved fire inspections and liability insurance.

This year's food vendors included Arturo's Mexican To Go, Beljam's All Day Waffles, Fusion Icy, Sea Island Diner, Kismet Cookery - Truck Diner, It's All About the Grill, Martha's Kettle Corn, Mr. Tube Steak and Mama's Fish & Chips.

Sustainable Practices

One of the event objectives was to increase sustainable practices. Food vendors were encouraged to use sustainable products. To assist with this request, vendors were supplied with City of Richmond paper straws and wooden cutlery if they did not provide their own. Recycling, organic, and garbage receptacles were strategically placed throughout the site to support waste diversion. In addition, 20 Richmond Green Ambassador (RGA) volunteers assisted with sorting disposal items. The RGA is a youth program for Richmond secondary school students who are interested in environmental sustainability through community engagement.

Three portable drinking fountains were featured to provide potable tap water and to promote high quality tap water usage as an alternative to bottled water consumption.

Through social media, residents were encouraged to use public transportation or take advantage of the Wheel Watch program, a free service that allows you to park bikes, wagons, strollers, etc. in a secure area. The process is similar to that of a coat check.

During the planning stages of the event, the committee took into consideration the environmental impact of the giveaways. It was recommended to booth leaders to distribute only reusable, purposeful and sustainable items. No balloons or plastic bags were permitted.



Richmond Green Ambassador volunteers



Portable drinking fountain



The Main Show

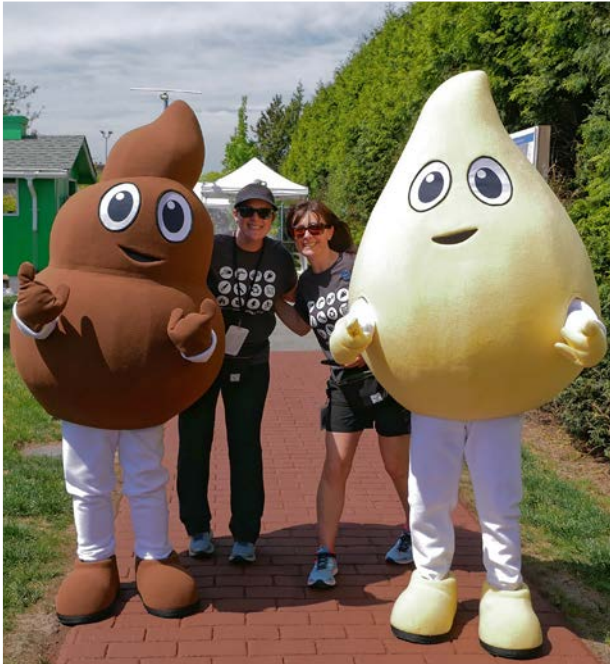
At the Public Works Open House, residents had an opportunity to have those 'burning questions' answered and could spend a day-in-the-life of a Public Works employee. While the activities are created for kids aged 2-12, adults find it very entertaining, interactive and informative as well. Highlights included:

- A Discovery Passport was distributed at the main gate and was used as an interactive guide through the event (bonus: included a free lunch coupon for kids 12 and under)
- With staff assistance, attendees operated the line painting equipment
- Kids test drove equipment and moved sand at the mini-excavation site
- Created a design in wet cement at Kidcrete
- Took a stroll in the 'pop-up park'
- Built a tool box at the carpentry station
- Climb into a big truck or equipment and pretend they're driving down the road
- Information on upcoming capital projects, sustainable initiatives, programs
- Street sign samples
- The Community Safety area featured a Richmond Fire Rescue truck, RCMP units, Search and Rescue boat, and other community partners
- Imaginative play and learning for preschool aged children at Kidstruction, a collaboration of all the Public Works areas
- Lulu Lego Land encouraged kids to test their engineering planning abilities
- On a hot day it was fun to get wet at the staff-built water hydrant vertical blow-off
- Underground water utility displays reconstructed above ground



Discovery Passport







- Scale model interactive roadway demonstrated why you need to clear the leaves and gutters in front of your house
- Played games and participated in Engineering Planning activities
- Kubota ride through a rough terrain at the Parks Obstacle Course
- Lulu Island Energy Company and Corix provided district energy information and crafts
- Building blocks with Project Development
- Vactor demonstrations
- Transportation planning and bike line safety information and photo opportunities with a life-sized traffic signal
- CCTV camera demonstration through a pipe
- Emotive BC and City of Richmond electric vehicles on display
- Interactive recycling activities to educate attendees how to recycle correctly, provide tips on how to reduce single-use materials and raise awareness on the importance of repair and reuse
- Live entertainment featured two Richmond bands: Big Easy Funk Ensemble and Werewolves
- Emergency preparedness tips
- Energy management experts discussed the Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) and programs to reduce GHG emissions
- The free Works on Wheels (WOW) bus tour showcased Engineering and Public Works projects: the Terra Nova Pollinator Park, No. 2 Rd North drainage pump station and Alexandra District Energy Utility
- Smart Cities Challenge information
- Close up look of a sanitary pump from one of our 153 sanitary pump stations
- Move for Health encouraged physical literacy and provided active lifestyle options
- CUPE 394 classic car show
- Sand pile free play
- An aerial map game showing Richmond's growth from a fisherman's village to a busy city
- Facility Management's smoke detector education
- Marshmallow and toothpick engineered structures with Engineering and Geoscientists BC
- Numerous community and sports associations



CONCLUSION

We would like to thank the PWABC for considering our application for the Public Works Week – Community Celebration Award (population over 100,000). Above all, we would like to thank our management for their support and the incredible staff who volunteered their time to make this event a great success. Without our staff volunteers we wouldn't be able to host this significant City event.

Thank you!







City of Richmond

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