

# CITYHALI CONNECTS

**SPRING 2025** 

### Message from Mayor Steven Del Duca

### Dear neighbour,

Vaughan's strong and stable leadership has created a thriving and resilient city. As Mayor, I am proud to lead our collective efforts in building a community that accommodates our growing population today while laying the groundwork for success for the needs of

We are focused on what matters – ensuring life is affordable by keeping taxes low, strengthening our economy against ongoing tensions and threats of increased tariffs from the U.S. by supporting local businesses and entrepreneurs, and protecting our residents now and into the future by continuing to keep our community safe for everyone.



Representing you, and delivering more for you, is a responsibility that I take very seriously.

We are driving forward-thinking initiatives that support the development of complete communities. We are cutting development charges by nearly 50 per cent, fast-tracking construction and making housing more affordable, especially for young families.

We've opened a brand new York Regional Police substation in the heart of Kleinburg that will support the west side of our city. We will continue to collaborate with our police partners as they tackle auto theft, home break-ins and gun crime in our community because criminals belong behind bars and not on our streets.

We are also taking bold steps to ease traffic congestion and enhance Vaughan's road network through key projects like the Kirby Road Extension and the Canada Drive-America Avenue Bridge, ensuring smoother and more efficient travel for everyone.

Through strong and stable leadership, we are shaping a future of success. Vaughan is a city that doesn't back down. We are a city that adapts, takes bold action and stands tall as proud Canadians.

I am committed to delivering for you and your family and will continue to stand up for our community, our businesses and our way of life. I know there is still work to be done, but I am proud of what we have accomplished together and look forward to the road ahead.



### **NOW OPEN:**

### **YRP substation in** Vaughan's west end

York Regional Police's (YRP) newest substation is now open in Kleinburg to serve and protect the local community!



Mayor Steven Del Duca and Deputy Mayor Jackson led the efforts for the west-end substation at 10418 Islington Ave., in YRP's #4 District.

In September 2024, Mayor Del Duca advocated for additional YRP funding at York Region Council. The 2025 budget, approved on Nov. 28, includes a 7.7 per cent increase from 2024, funding the hiring of 154 YRP staff in 2025 and 150 in 2026. Vaughan Council is committed to community safety and supporting YRP officers.



## **Vaughan Stands Up for Canadian Businesses -**Vaughan bans U.S. suppliers in response to American tariffs



On March 4, Vaughan Council reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Canadian businesses by unanimously approving a new "Canada First" procurement strategy—making Vaughan the first municipality in Ontario to ban U.S. suppliers in response to tariffs imposed by the United States.

This decision builds on Mayor Steven Del Duca's Feb. 5 resolution directing

City staff to prioritize Canadian-made The City will continue to advocate for products, goods and services while exploring all available tools to counter these tariffs.

> Now, the City is taking the next step. The Vaughan Strong Campaign, endorsed by Council, proposes bold actions to support local businesses, including:

- Launching a Vaughan Strong, Support Canadian label
- Promoting local businesses through City spaces and events
- Cutting red tape for community-driven initiatives
- Leveraging tourism funds to amplify support

stronger provincial and federal support, including:

- ✓ Promoting Canadian-made goods as a provincial priority
- ✓ Restoring the Ontario Staycation Tax Credit
- ✓ Strengthening labelling for Canadian-made products

Vaughan plays a critical role in Canada's trade economy. With proximity to major transportation networks, we are committed to protecting local businesses, supporting jobs and keeping our economy strong.



For resources, visit vaughanbusiness.ca/tariffs

# Avoid a ticket, drive the limit!

Road safety continues to be a leading priority for the City of Vaughan. We are taking many steps to reduce speeding in our community and help keep everyone safe, especially children and other vulnerable road users.

As of **April 23**, speed cameras will be **LIVE** every day, 24-7, in 10 locations on rotation across the city to enforce speed limits. The posted speed limit should



always be followed regardless of the time or day of the week.

These cameras are designed to work together with other road safety methods and strategies to keep residents safe, including road designs, education initiatives and traditional police enforcement. Vaughan's cameras are in Community Safety Zones, with locations selected based on speeding concerns, overall traffic volumes, collision history and the presence of schools, community centres, parks, sidewalks or cycling facilities, and libraries.

Let's work together to keep our roads safe – the best way to avoid a ticket is to drive the limit!



Learn more at vaughan.ca/ASE

# The City's spring maintenance is underway



Spring has sprung, and so have our spring maintenance crews! To ensure you can make the most of our community this season, the City's Public Works teams are working hard to keep our public spaces clean, beautiful and safe for your enjoyment.

The City's spring cleaning efforts began in March, with crews collecting litter from Vaughan's parks and open spaces, such as paths and trails. Madvac – the City's litter collection vacuum – has returned to Vaughan sidewalks to pick up litter and debris.

The City's street-sweeping program begins in April each year and takes approximately eight to 10 weeks to complete one cycle across Vaughan. This process prevents unwanted materials from flowing into stormwater drains, river pollution, sewer backups and road flooding.

The annual Stormwater Management Pond Maintenance begins in May and wraps up by October. During this seasonal maintenance, three rounds of litter cleanup and grass cutting will be completed at each pond.

Shrub bed planting and maintenance (including pruning, mulching, weeding, litter cleanup and watering) will take place regularly throughout the season. Grass cutting begins the last week of April and continues every other week throughout the spring and summer.

Crews have begun their annual inspections of more than 10,000 fire hydrants. Preventative maintenance and inspections are performed annually on each hydrant across the city and include flushing, leak testing, cap lubrication and part replacements.



Learn more at vaughan.ca/seasonal

# Your role in water

**conservation**Let's conserve water for future generations!

Try these tips to reduce your water use:

### 1. Save water at home

Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth and run the dishwasher and washing machine only when full.

2. Protect your drinking water source

Whatever enters Vaughan's stormwater system flows into bodies of water like Lake Ontario – Vaughan's drinking water source. Keep fertilizers, yard waste, food scraps and other materials out of drains.

### 3. Check for water leaks

Most home water leaks are hard to detect and can lead to high water consumption.



Learn how to check for leaks in your home at vaughan.ca/water

# Stay safe on trails and in parks

Parks and open spaces are great places to exercise, gather with friends and enjoy nature. Be sure to stay safe while having fun at Vaughan's parks and trails by following these tips:

- Ride bikes on designated paths and do not exceed 20 kilometres/hour.
- Keep dogs on a leash, unless in a designated off-leash area. Pick up and put droppings in the garbage.
- Use campfires and barbecues only in designated areas and with a Fire Burn Permit from the City.



- Setting off fireworks in a park, roadway, sidewalk or other public property is illegal.
- Don't use off-road vehicles in parks, woodlots or open spaces.

Call Service Vaughan at 905-832-2281 or York Regional Police at 1-866-876-3423 to report non-emergency illegal activity in parks, woodlots and open spaces.



Learn more at vaughan.ca/SafeTrails

# It's coyote pup season!

Coyote sightings and encounters normally increase in the spring while they are protecting their dens. If you encounter a coyote, keep your distance and keep pets on a short leash.



Learn more at vaughan.ca/coyotes



## It's spring-cleaning time!



Everyone plays a part in keeping the planet clean, green and healthy. Incorporate these tips into your spring-cleaning plans to reduce what gets sent to landfills:

 Repair or repurpose clothing. Use online tutorials to learn how to make basic clothing repairs, such as sewing a hem or button, mending holes or replacing zippers.

- Drop off old or unwanted clothing at a textile donation bin in Vaughan or donate gently used items to a charity of your choice.
- Visit online resale platforms to sell your unwanted goods. You can also organize a garage sale to sell clothes, household items and other textiles you no longer need.
- Turn your fruit and vegetable scraps into garden fertilizer! The City sells backyard composters through <u>Service Vaughan</u>.
- Safely dispose of damaged electronic waste items at a <u>York Region waste depot</u>.
   Never place electronic waste curbside.
- Visit <u>recyclemyelectronics.ca</u> to search for your nearest electronic retail recycling location.



Learn more at vaughan.ca/waste

# Put fats, oils and grease in the green bin

Doing some cooking and baking?

Remember – do not pour fats, oils and grease down the sink or toilet! These substances can clog pipes if they are poured down the drain.

Instead, let fats, oils and grease cool and harden, then scrape them into the green bin. Ensure all oils are fully cooled and hardened before disposal; liquid cooking oil is not accepted in curbside collection.



Learn more at vaughan.ca/waste

## Don't let the wind win

It's that time of year when strong wind gusts are often in the forecast. To help keep your recyclables from blowing out of your blue box, try the following tips:

- 1. Do not overfill your blue box. Leave space (approximately 7.5 centimetres or three inches) at the top of the box.
- 2. Place heavier items, like glass bottles and jars, on top of lighter ones, such as paper and plastic containers.
- 3. Flatten, cut down and bundle cardboard securely before placing it in the blue box.
- 4. Buy extra **blue boxes** or use a larger blue box (up to 121 litres, with no attached lid or wheels) if you have lots of material we collect unlimited blue boxes weekly!
- 5. If the forecast calls for wind overnight, wait until the morning to put out your blue boxes before 7 a.m. Alternatively, consider putting your recycling out the following week or taking it to a **York Region waste depot**.





Learn more at vaughan.ca/waste



# Weekly leaf and yard waste collection is underway

Spring is here, which means it's nearly time to begin your seasonal yard work. To help you get rid of those extra materials, starting the **week of April 15**, the City will pick up yard waste materials every week on your regularly scheduled collection day. Bi-weekly collection will begin the week of June 9.



Learn more at <a href="mailto:vaughan.ca/waste">vaughan.ca/waste</a>

## Help clear catch basins of leaves and debris



When catch basins are covered or blocked by leaves, other yard materials and debris – such as litter – there's nowhere for rainwater to drain, which can lead to water ponding and flooding. If you live close to a catch basin, you're encouraged to help clear it, if it's safe to do so.



Learn more at vaughan.ca/stormwater



# Dispose of pool water safely

Think "only rain down the drain" – this includes when you reopen your pool! Water from pools, hot tubs or spas contains chemicals that can be toxic to the environment, fish and organisms that live in creeks, rivers and lakes. Never drain chlorinated water, saltwater or excess pool or hot tub chemicals into a catch basin.



Learn more at vaughan.ca/wastewater

# Improvements in Kleinburg Village continue



The City of Vaughan is undertaking important infrastructure improvements within Kleinburg Village, including watermain replacements, road reconstruction work and streetscaping enhancements. These improvements support the City's continued commitment to ensuring the long-term sustainability of municipal infrastructure. After taking a break during the winter, aboveground work – such as roadway and landscaping enhancements and new cycle paths (outside the village core) – will resume this spring.

Visit **vaughan.ca/KleinburgVillage** to learn more about the next phase of construction. The project is anticipated to be completed by the end of summer 2026.

All roads will remain open to vehicular and pedestrian traffic during construction. However, temporary lane restrictions will be required to allow construction activities to proceed safely and efficiently. Disruptions will be communicated in advance to the public.

Want to receive updates on the Kleinburg Village Improvements project? Scan the QR code and subscribe to the project mailing list to receive construction and timeline updates.



Learn more at vaughan.ca/KleinburgVillage

# Be in the know before you hire a contractor

Did you know all renovators, fence installers, pavers, landscapers, pool installers, snowplow contractors and wildlife removal companies must be licensed by the City?

When looking to hire someone, you can contact the City to find out if a contractor is licensed. Before you sign anything, do your research to find the right – and licensed – company for the job!



Learn more at vaughan.ca/bylaw

# Mark your calendar for upcoming property tax payment dates



Payment due dates for the City's 2025 interim residential and non-residential property tax bills are:

- Monday, April 28 second instalment
- Wednesday, May 28 third instalment

Keep an eye on your mailbox in June. That's when the final property tax bills for residential and non-residential properties will be mailed out. Here are easy and convenient ways to pay your property tax bills:

- Pre-authorized payment plans, including a six-instalment and a 10-instalment option.
- Post-dated cheques made payable to the City of Vaughan that correspond with the amounts and due dates printed on the tax stubs.
- Financial institutions, either in person, through the bank machine, online or via telephone.
- At Vaughan City Hall, placed in marked drop-off boxes at each entrance.
- By mail, use the return envelope included with the tax bill to send the payment stub and a cheque or money order payable to the City of Vaughan.



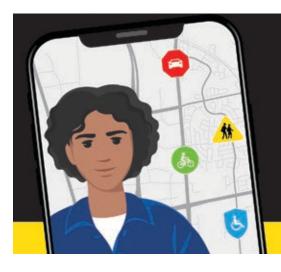
Learn more at vaughan.ca/PropertyTax

# There's a new place to skate next winter!

The City opened a new skate trail this past February – the Carrville Skate Trail! Located at 655 Thomas Cook Ave., this new trail has sparked renewed energy in the neighbourhood, promoting active lifestyles and inclusive recreation.

Whether you're a seasoned skater or a beginner looking for a fun new place to practise, this skate trail offers a vibrant space for sport and leisure. Get ready to glide into the next season of winter fun at the Carrville Skate Trail!





### Attend York Region's Traveller Safety Plan Virtual Public Meeting and have your say

The plan outlines over 100 measures to reduce severe collisions in York Region and promote road safety, including:

- Automated Speed Enforcement and Red Light Cameras
- Intersection improvements
- Pedestrian and cycling measures
- School zone speed reductions



York Region

Register at york.ca/TravellerSafetyPlan



# Kirby Road extension project update

Under the leadership of Mayor Steven Del Duca, the City of Vaughan is making significant progress on the Kirby Road Extension Project, a key initiative in the fight against traffic gridlock. This vital project will improve east-west connectivity and alleviate congestion across the city.

Construction is advancing on schedule, with completion expected by the summer of 2026. The expansion of Kirby Road will enhance traffic flow, reduce travel times and provide better access for both residents and businesses, helping Vaughan remain connected and efficient.





This project reflects Mayor Del Duca's continued commitment to improving Vaughan's transportation infrastructure and supporting regional growth. The City will continue to provide updates as construction progresses, ensuring the timely and successful completion of this important initiative.

## Strong, stable leadership for Vaughan

At the 2025 Vaughan Chamber of Commerce Annual Mayor's Luncheon, Mayor Steven Del Duca addressed more than 800 attendees, including business leaders, representatives from all levels of government and community advocates. He emphasized his commitment to strong, stable leadership, focusing on affordability and economic growth, especially during uncertain times heightened by ongoing trade tensions with the United States.

The Mayor acknowledged the challenges businesses and entrepreneurs face due to the threat of increased tariffs from the U.S., which impact over 13,000 auto sector jobs and more than 23,000 food and beverage jobs in Vaughan. In response, the City of Vaughan is taking decisive action by banning U.S. suppliers from bidding on municipal contracts and prioritizing local and Canadian businesses.

Mayor Del Duca also highlighted the City's proactive initiatives, including a nearly 50 per cent reduction in development charges, and fast-tracking construction and efforts to make housing more affordable for young families. He expressed confidence in Vaughan's resilience, noting the city's ability to adapt, take bold action and continue thriving as a community of dedicated and ambitious people.



## LOOK FOR THIS LABEL TO SHOP AND SUPPORT CANADIAN



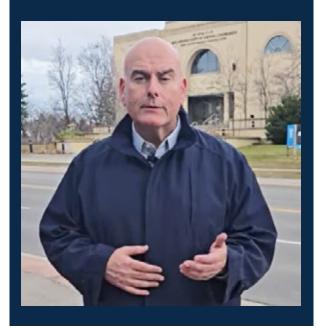
# Enacting the Protecting Vulnerable Social Infrastructure By-law

The safety and security of all residents in Vaughan is my top priority.

After learning of a planned demonstration near the Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto on March 20, the City of Vaughan closed Clark Avenue West, from Bathurst Street to Atkinson Avenue, and York Hill Boulevard, from Clark Avenue West to Dana Crescent, in accordance with the Protecting Vulnerable Social Infrastructure By-law.

I am proud to say Vaughan was the first municipality in Canada to pass this kind of by-law to protect the most vulnerable residents in our community. Having said that, I urge the federal and provincial governments to move quickly to enact similar protective legislation around all places of worship. Let's continue to work together to get this done right.

I want to thank City staff, York Regional Police (YRP) and our community partners for maintaining the peace and protecting our residents. I also want to thank the entire Vaughan community for putting their faith in me, our team and YRP as we continue to keep everyone safe and secure.



## Vaughan Strong. Support Canadian.

Do you own or operate a local business? If so, demonstrate your patriotism by clearly identifying Canadian-made products so customers can easily support the local economy!



As part of the City's ongoing response to U.S. tariffs, we are now offering businesses free 'Vaughan Strong. Support Canadian' welcome packages filled with materials to help identify local and Canadian-made

goods in stores, removing the guessing game at the checkout counter. Each package contains a variety of materials – including display signs for product shelves and stickers to place beside Canadian product labels – making it easy to identify local products in stores.

To request a welcome package or additional copies of these materials, contact the Economic Development team at <a href="mailto:ed@vaughan.ca">ed@vaughan.ca</a>.



The new Vaughan Strong initiative follows Council's approval of Mayor Steven Del Duca's Member's Resolution on March 25, calling for further support for local businesses as they respond to U.S. tariffs. On March 4, Vaughan became the first municipality in Ontario to ban U.S. suppliers after Mayor Del Duca and Members of Council took decisive action to protect the local, provincial and national economy by approving a new procurement strategy that prioritizes Canadian products, goods and services, and bans U.S. suppliers from competing on or being awarded municipal contracts.



Learn more at vaughanbusiness.ca/
VaughanStrong

# **Building more homes faster: Portage Parkway funding secured**



Mayor Steven Del Duca welcomed a \$20-million investment from MPP Laura Smith and the Province of Ontario to support Vaughan's housing development, particularly in the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (VMC) area. This funding aims to enhance infrastructure and stimulate residential growth, aligning with the City of Vaughan's vision for sustainable urban expansion.

These investments are crucial for meeting Vaughan's growing housing needs. This initiative will not only provide more housing options but also create jobs and boost the local economy.

The City will use the funding for a road widening project from Applewood Crescent to Jane Street. This project will unlock more housing opportunities and support economic growth in Vaughan. Thank you to MPP Laura Smith for helping deliver more housing options and advancing this crucial file.

This funding is a powerful reminder of why Vaughan is a place where dreams are built, futures are shaped and communities thrive. Other levels of government see the incredible potential in our city and are continuing to invest in the bright future we're creating together.

## Wellness Hub coming to Vaughan: A new initiative for youth well-being



Vaughan will be home to a brand-new Youth Wellness Hub designed to support local young people aged 12 to 25 years old. Located at the intersection of Jane Street and Rutherford Road, the hub will provide free, integrated mental health and other services — all in a safe, youth-friendly space.

Mayor Steven Del Duca praised the initiative as a crucial step towards ensuring that local families have better access to mental health support. He emphasized that this investment will not only ease pressures on parents but will also empower youth to seek help without delay — ultimately fostering a healthier, more connected community.

The initiative is part of a province-wide effort to expand Ontario's network of Youth Wellness Hubs. It is one of 10 new facilities joining an existing network that has already connected nearly 60,000 youth to essential services. With a focus on early intervention, the hub aims to reduce the barriers young people face in accessing mental healthcare by offering wrap-around services under one roof. In addition to clinical supports, the facility will also provide community, social and employment resources to help youth build resilience and navigate life's challenges.

Other levels of government continue to invest in Vaughan because of our thriving economy, the ambition of our people and the strong, stable leadership that guides us.



Want to stay connected with what's happening in Vaughan?

Follow Mayor Steven Del Duca on Instagram! It's the perfect way to get the latest updates on city initiatives, events and community news.

From exciting City developments to behind-the-scenes glimpses and opportunities for residents to get involved, Mayor Del Duca shares it all. Simply scan the QR code below to join the conversation and ensure you're in the loop on everything happening in Vaughan.



Stay connected!



# Planning for the future of Vaughan

The City of Vaughan is preparing the new Vaughan Official Plan 2025 to guide Vaughan's growth and development to better meet the needs of current and future residents, businesses and those who visit Vaughan. The Vaughan Official Plan 2025 will replace the existing Vaughan Official Plan 2010 and will be consistent with new provincial policies, plans and growth targets for people and jobs. It will also implement long-term goals and objectives for Vaughan to the year 2051, through land use policies that direct density, housing supply, protection of environmental features, agricultural areas and more.

You had a hand in developing the final draft plan. Since the start of the project in 2021, multiple public engagement opportunities

Conceptual rendering only.



have been held to collect your input, including surveys, workshops, Open Houses and more.



Learn more about the plan at vaughan.ca/OfficialPlan





Engagement
eNewsletter at
vaughan.ca/HaveYourSay

# What future amenities would you like to see at North Maple Regional Park?



We're planning future amenities and programming for North Maple Regional Park (NMRP) – our largest park project yet – and you can have a say!

Through the NMRP Master Plan, a long-term development, programming and management outline will be created. It'll focus on three key pillars – restore, engage, play – and include activities for restoring nature, opportunities to build community, and providing spaces for active living and play.

Past engagement opportunities, including surveys and workshops, have helped inform the direction of the plan so far – and now, we want you to tell us what activities, programming and amenities you would like to see.

Here's how you can have a say:

### **TAKE THE SURVEY**

Until **Friday, May 2**, visit <u>vaughan.ca/NMRP</u> to share your thoughts on what you'd like to see in the future park, including amenities, development of natural areas and more.

### **EMAIL THE PROJECT TEAM**

Have questions about the NMRP Master Plan? Want to speak directly to the project team? Email them at <a href="mailto:nmrp@vaughan.ca">nmrp@vaughan.ca</a>.



Learn more at vaughan.ca/NMRP

## Bass Pro Mills Drive is being extended!

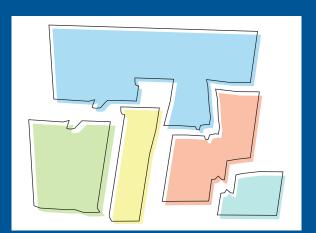
The City is extending Bass Pro Mills Drive from Highway 400 to Weston Road. A 2022 Municipal Class Environmental Assessment determined the extension should include new signalized intersections, sidewalks, cycling facilities, streetscaping features and more. The Bass Pro Mills Drive Extension is a key infrastructure project in the Council-approved Nine Point Action Plan to Fight Traffic Gridlock in Vaughan. Extending Bass Pro Mills Drive from Highway 400 to Weston Road was recommended in the Vaughan Mills Centre Secondary Plan to:

- provide a new east-west multi-modal connection between Highway 400 and Weston Road.
- help alleviate traffic congestion along Rutherford Road.
- support future growth and development within the plan area.
- create new multi-modal transportation connections.
- develop a safe and comfortable environment for transportation.



Learn more at vaughan.ca/
BassProMillsDrive

# Share your thoughts on Vaughan's ward boundaries



The City of Vaughan is reviewing its ward boundaries and Council composition to ensure it remains an effective and equitable system of representation that keeps pace with population growth.

The second phase of engagement is underway. It will focus on a set of possible Council compositions and the resulting configurations of possible electoral wards.

Your input will inform a report that will be presented to Council for consideration in June 2025. If changes are required, they will be made before the 2026 Municipal Election.

Take the survey by Friday, May 2.



Learn more at vaughan.ca/
WardBoundary

## Student entrepreneurs: Launch your business this summer!



The City of Vaughan's Summer Company program returns! In association with the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, this program prepares aspiring student entrepreneurs with a comprehensive portfolio of tools, skills, connections and resources required to succeed in business.

The City's annual program also provides student entrepreneurs between the ages of 15 and 29 years old with mentorship from Vaughan's business community, access to business advisory services and workshops to help them develop important business skills and an opportunity to receive up to \$3,000 in provincial grant funding to start their businesses.

Applications for the 2025 session are now open until **Friday**, **May 2**.



Learn more at vaughanbusiness.ca/
Summer-Company



### Get your business listed on visitvaughan.ca

Do you own or operate a restaurant, bar, café or another visitor destination such as an art, cultural, sport, recreation, retail or wellness attraction?

Whatever it is, request a listing with Tourism Vaughan's website – a one-stop shop to attract visitors and help them plan a memorable trip to the city!



Learn more at visitvaughan.ca/GetListed



## Impaired vision or dyslexia shouldn't be a barrier to reading. With the free CELA service, you can access over 1 million items with your library card.



- Enjoy best-selling novels, and great non-fiction for all ages.
- Find the format that is best for you, whether braille, daisy reader, ebook, audiobook, or something else.
- Are you an educator? CELA has resources that you can use in the classroom and share with your pupils.
- Signing up is quick and easy, and if you live, work or study in Vaughan, we can help.

Visit a Vaughan Public Libraries branch, call us at (905) 653-7323, or message us online at www.vaughanpl.info/ask\_us to begin using CELA today.





### Vaughan Supports Local Businesses

With the new U.S. tariffs, the City of Vaughan's Economic Development department is here to help local businesses navigate this challenging time.

Stay updated and leverage supports and resources, including funding opportunities, resources to explore new markets, identify local suppliers and links to industry-specific news.

Businesses can also connect with the Economic Development team at <a href="mailto:ed@vaughan.ca">ed@vaughan.ca</a> for personalized guidance and one-on-one support.



Learn more at vaughanbusiness.ca/tariffs

# Starter Company Plus program returns!



If you've considered starting a new business or are looking for ways to expand your existing venture in Vaughan, you don't want to miss out on the City's Starter Company Plus program!

Through this program, the City offers tailored training for various business types, including brick-and-mortar, food and beverage, new startup and home-based, and technology ventures to develop a business plan, marketing strategy, budget and financial forecast. Qualified participants receive tailored training and mentorship, and the opportunity to apply for up to \$5,000 in provincial grant funding.

The application period is now open until Monday, June 16.



Learn more at vaughanbusiness.ca/
Starter-Company-Plus

# Starting the year with lots to celebrate



We are only a few months into 2025, and there have already been plenty of celebrations and events for the community to come together and participate in. Which was your favourite?

The City of Vaughan's 35th annual award-winning Vaughan Celebrates Winterfest was a huge success! For the first time, this event took place over two days – Feb. 1 and Feb. 2 – at Vellore Village Community Centre with live entertainment and performances, and indoor and outdoor winter activities.

On Feb. 9, the Year of the Snake took centre stage at the City's annual Lunar New Year event. Highlights from this year's festivities included a traditional lion dance, red envelope greetings, cultural dances and songs, craft-making activities and plenty of family-friendly music and entertainment.

At the City's annual Black History Month event on Feb. 22, everyone came together to pay tribute to the remarkable Black Canadians who

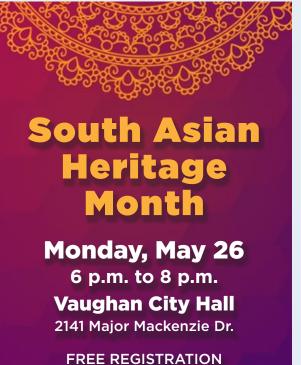


have made a positive and enduring impact in the community, and highlight the richness of Black cultures and histories. The event featured Afro-Caribbean and urban dances and drum performances, and provided a platform for Black-owned and Black-led businesses, organizations and creatives to showcase their work and engage with others.

Thank you to everyone who came to Vaughan City Hall on March 22 to celebrate Earth Hour and participate in fun activities to learn how to help protect our environment. Let's continue working together to conserve energy year-round!

On March 25, Mayor Steven Del Duca and Members of Council hosted the City's second annual Nowruz celebration. This event, which

## Mayor Steven Del Duca and Members of Council invite you to...



FREE REGISTRATION vaughan.ca/culture



## Festa d'Italia

Celebrate Italian culture and heritage while enjoying music, food and more!

### Sunday, June 1

11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Boyd Conservation Park** 8739 Islington Ave.

vaughan.ca/culture



## VAUGHAN Celebrates

2025 Canada Day

Tuesday, July 1 | 10am-4pm

- North Maple Regional Park
  11085 Keele St, Vaughan
  FREE, all-ages event filled with
  live entertainment, food vendors,
  & giveaways, attracting thousands
  from across the GTA.
- FREE shuttle bus service
- Food for purchase

vaughan.ca/CanadaDay

marked the arrival of spring, featured official remarks from Mayor Del Duca and traditional musical and dance performances.



The City is proud to host events that honour our community's diversity and showcase the many cultures that make up our beautiful city.

Explore more cultural and faith-based observances and events this summer and throughout 2025.



Learn more at vaughan.ca/events



vaughan.ca/camps



## 2022-2026 **Members of Council**



Learn more about your Members of Council at vaughan.ca/council



**Steven Del Duca** Mayor

mayor@vaughan.ca 905-832-2281, ext. 8888



**Linda Jackson** Deputy Mayor, Local and Regional Councillor

linda.jackson@vaughan.ca 905-832-2281, ext. 8085



**Mario Ferri** Local and Regional Councillor

mario.ferri@vaughan.ca 905-832-2281, ext. 8999



**Gino Rosati** Local and Regional Councillor

gino.rosati@vaughan.ca 905-832-2281, ext. 8441



**Mario G. Racco** Local and Regional Councillor

mariog.racco@vaughan.ca 905-832-2281, ext. 8960



**Marilyn lafrate** Ward 1 Councillor

905-832-2281, ext. 8344



**Adriano Volpentesta** Ward 2 Councillor

905-832-2281, ext. 8877



**Rosanna DeFrancesca** Ward 3 Councillor

905-832-2281, ext. 8339



**Chris Ainsworth** Ward 4 Councillor

marilyn.iafrate@vaughan.ca adriano.volpentesta@vaughan.ca rosanna.defrancesca@vaughan.ca chris.ainsworth@vaughan.ca 905-832-2281, ext. 8342



**Gila Martow** Ward 5 Councillor

gila.martow@vaughan.ca 905-832-2281, ext. 8633

## **Get involved** in Public Meetings

Building Vaughan is a team effort. As one of Canada's fastest-growing cities, Vaughan's transformation is shaped by planning, innovation and collaboration. City staff, Vaughan Council, public agencies like the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and York Region – and you – all play a role in bringing development projects to life.

Public consultation is vital to the planning and city-building process. You can participate in meetings and have your say by:

- **Speaking in person**: Attend a meeting at Vaughan City Hall to address Council.
- Joining virtually: Speak live via teleconference to the Mayor and Members of Council during a meeting.



- **Calling in:** Speak live by phone during a meeting.
- **Emailing:** Submit written communication for review by Council as part of an agenda item.

For full meeting schedules and agendas, vist vaughan.ca/CouncilMeetings

Watch live meetings at vaughan.ca/LiveCouncil



Watch this video to learn more about what happens during a Public Meeting.

# Accepting applications **Nominations are** now open for the 2025 Order of Vaughan vaughan.ca/**OrderofVaughan**

## Service Vaughan

Contact us to learn about a City service or program and to report a municipal issue.

- Visit: vaughan.ca/ServiceVaughan
- Call: 905-832-2281 Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Report municipal emergencies 24-7 by pressing 0
- Email: <a href="mailto:service@vaughan.ca">service@vaughan.ca</a> Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Come in: Vaughan City Hall 2141 Major Mackenzie Dr. Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



