CITY HALL CONNECTS



Summer 2024

Be in the know

City Hall Connects is a City of Vaughan print publication delivered to every household and business in Vaughan to keep you updated on what's happening in our community. This edition includes information about important City milestones, transformative projects and exciting things to do this summer.

Message from Mayor Steven Del Duca

Dear neighbour,

Summer is an opportunity to enjoy the warmer weather, spend time with family and explore all the incredible amenities our city has to offer. Whether visiting one of our many pristine parks or trails, trying a new restaurant or cooling off by an outdoor pool, there's plenty of ways to spend your summer in Vaughan!

I am pleased to share the summer edition of City Hall Connects, which includes all the exciting and noteworthy news and events from the last few months. It also includes a look ahead to what we have in store for the rest of the year.

In May, we broke ground on the Canada Drive-America Avenue Bridge, which will connect two vibrant communities over Highway 400. This is just the latest example of the City's determination to fight traffic gridlock.

In June, we took the next step in our historic journey to develop Vaughan's state-of-the-art performing and cultural arts centre by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with QuadReal Property Group. The new venue will be a cornerstone of the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (VMC) and represents a significant investment in our city's cultural vitality and economic prosperity.

In July, we had the opportunity to gather for Vaughan Celebrates Canada Day and commemorated our country's 157th anniversary. Countless residents joined us for a day of music and fun, including a performance by Kardinal Offishall.

Together, Vaughan is making so much progress – and we have no intention of slowing down.

Wishing you and your family a happy summer!

Steven Del Duca Mayor



Building the city. Reducing gridlock. Keeping you moving.



The City is building a bridge over Highway 400 to connect Canada Drive and America Avenue. Once complete, the bridge will enhance Vaughan's transportation network, help alleviate traffic and gridlock, allow you to travel seamlessly from one community to another, and incentivize the accelerated development of 3,100 housing units in the surrounding areas.

The bridge will include a two-lane road with sidewalks and bicycle lanes on both sides –

this will improve overall traffic movement in the area, shorten travel times, offer better access to local amenities, create access to enhanced transit systems and promote sustainable transportation options with pedestrian and cycling networks. It will also help improve emergency services response times within the community.

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.

Construction of the bridge is underway and is anticipated to be complete by 2026.



Learn more at vaughan.ca/CDAABridge



Slower speeds, safer communities

You may have noticed new Community Safety Zones being implemented across Vaughan. As part of the MoveSmart Mobility Management Strategy, the City created a **Community Safety Zones Policy** (PDF) to bring more of these zones to areas where public safety is of special concern. This can include roadways near schools, neighbourhoods, daycare centres, playgrounds, parks, hospitals and seniors' residences. **Under the policy, all school zones in Vaughan will be designated Community Safety Zones.**

The purpose of a Community Safety Zone is to encourage drivers to slow down and improve safety for all road users. These zones, marked with provincially legislated signs, indicate to drivers they are within a zone where fines are increased through a special designation under the *Ontario Highway Traffic Act*. "Begins" and "Ends" signs are posted to clearly identify the area. The rules of the road do not



change within a Community Safety Zone; however, the penalties for violations are increased.



Learn more at vaughan.ca/SafetyZones

Unauthorized car rallies are not allowed in Vaughan

The City is prioritizing public safety by prohibiting any participation in unauthorized car rallies, including attending, organizing or advertising.

These events, which often come with excessive noise, speeding and stunt driving, do not have permission from the City to take place. The maximum fine for participating in an unauthorized car rally is \$10,000.

How to report

- To report a suspected unauthorized car rally, call Service Vaughan at 905-832-2281.
- To report non-emergencies to York Regional Police, call 1-866-876-5423.
- To report immediate safety concerns, call 9-1-1.



Learn more at vaughan.ca/CarRallies

Choose Active School Travel!

It's easy to hop in the car to take your kids to school, but there are so many other ways to get to class, like walking, wheeling with an assistive mobility device, cycling, scootering, rollerblading, skateboarding – the list goes on! In addition to adopting a healthier lifestyle, making the switch can also help improve road safety in our community.



As part of the City's MoveSmart Mobility
Management Strategy, the Active School
Travel program promotes any form of
human-powered travel to get to and from
school. In collaboration with York Region,
York Catholic District School Board, York Region
District School Board, York Region Public Health
and York Regional Police, the program is rolling
out across the following five new locations for
the 2024-25 school year:

- Fossil Hill Public School
- Mackenzie Glen Public School
- St. Veronica Catholic Elementary School
- Tanya Khan Public School
- Teston Village Public School

The program is designed to:

• enhance road safety and help manage

Protecting vulnerable social infrastructure

At the Council Meeting on June 25, 2024, Vaughan Council unanimously approved the Protecting Vulnerable Social Infrastructure By-law 143-2024, which was drafted after Council unanimously endorsed Mayor Steven Del Duca's Member's Resolution.

This by-law, which is now in effect in the city of Vaughan, prohibits nuisance demonstrations that intimidate or incite hatred, violence or intolerance within 100 metres of the property line of our vulnerable social infrastructure, such as a place of worship, school, childcare centre, hospital or congregate care facility (e.g., assisted living facility). The maximum fine for violating the by-law is \$100,000.

This makes Vaughan the first municipality in Canada to take this important step.

The by-law does not prohibit peaceful gatherings, protests or demonstrations, including activities part of a labour union strike. The goal is to prevent protests that are no longer peaceful, and intimidate and incite hatred or violence.

City of Vaughan enforcement staff will continue to work with York Regional Police to ensure there is an appropriate enforcement protocol in place.



Learn more at vaughan.ca/bylaw

vehicle congestion around school zones.

- educate and raise awareness among the community about the benefits of active and sustainable travel.
- improve air quality in school zones by reducing pollution and greenhouse gases made by vehicles.
- improve students' physical and mental health, social development and academic performance.
- build lifelong habits of active and independent mobility.
- raise awareness of road safety being a shared value and responsibility.
- encourage students to reap the benefits of active school travel while having fun.



Learn more at vaughan.ca/
ActiveSchoolTravel

Road improvements in your community

York Region is working on road improvements to keep assets in good repair, enhance safety and accommodate growth in the city of Vaughan.

Stay informed about Regional road construction projects

- Visit york.ca/VaughanConstruction for project information, traffic impacts and answers to frequently asked questions
- Connect with us by phone or email

- Follow @YorkRegionGovt on X and Facebook
- Use traffic and navigation tools to help plan your commute



New performing and cultural arts centre coming to Vaughan



During a special signing ceremony on June 20, the City of Vaughan and QuadReal Property Group (QuadReal) entered into a **Memorandum of Understanding** (MOU) to guide planning for a state-of-the-art performing and cultural arts centre in the VMC.

The new venue, which will be situated in QuadReal's Assembly Park community, will be a cornerstone of the VMC and a significant investment in the city's cultural vitality and economic prosperity. A feasibility study conducted in 2019 estimated a cultural facility in the VMC can stimulate more than \$100 million in economic activity related to one-time construction and has the potential to inject more than \$2.5 million directly into the local and regional economy every year.



Learn more at vaughanbusiness.ca/
PerformingArtsCentre

2024 Mayor's Gala

In June, more than 750 passionate individuals joined Mayor Steven Del Duca at the 2024 Mayor's Gala in support of the Spirit of Generosity. This important initiative, led by the Mayor, has contributed millions of dollars to worthy causes throughout Vaughan, including more than 200 non-profit and community organizations, such as children and youth groups, healthcare initiatives, seniors' organizations and special needs programs.



Hosted by Mocha Frap and Maria Papadakis from KISS 92.5, the gala included performances by Matt Dusk and Cirque Revolution, and offered the opportunity for Mayor Del Duca to thank all the residents, entrepreneurs and businesses that have supported the Spirit of Generosity throughout the years.

During his address, Mayor Del Duca spoke about Vaughan's ambition as a city and its proud history, which has been influenced by champions and leaders who are committed to building the community through giving back.

The Mayor also reflected on the remarkable advancements the City has made over the past year, with shovels in the ground to fight gridlock, the approval and funding of the York University School of Medicine and the officially announced development of a performing and cultural arts centre in the heart of the VMC.



Read Mayor Del Duca's statement at vaughan.ca/news

Vaughan's Key to the City awarded to Andrea Bocelli

In April, Mayor Steven Del Duca presented the Key to the City of Vaughan to philanthropist and world-renowned singer Andrea Bocelli in recognition of his extensive contributions to



charity, arts and culture. The ceremony took place while he and his wife Veronica were in Vaughan to accept the Humanitarian Award from Chai Lifeline Canada at the Harmony and Hope Gala.

For more than 30 years, Andrea's angelic voice has touched the hearts of many. His 15 solo albums have sold more than 70 million records worldwide.

Andrea's global humanitarian work is focused on empowering people and communities in poverty, illiteracy and distress by promoting and supporting projects that overcome barriers and drive people towards their full potential. He is

New cycling facilities coming to Jane Street!



The City's active transportation network – from sidewalks and bike lanes, to multi-use pathways and recreational trails – continues to grow. This includes the new cycling facilities coming to Jane Street!

Known as the Jane Street Uptown Link, the project includes eight kilometres of new in-boulevard cycle tracks (designated spaces for bike riders separated from those walking or driving that are marked with a bicycle symbol, arrow and diamond), four kilometres of new sidewalks and four kilometres of streetlight enhancements along Jane Street, from Highway 7 to Teston Road.

The first phase of this project includes work along Jane Street, from Highway 7 to Major Mackenzie Drive, which is underway. The second phase will include the construction for the remainder of Jane Street, from Major Mackenzie Drive to Teston Road, in 2025.



Learn more at vaughan.ca/cycling





committed to giving back so the less fortunate or most vulnerable members of our society can achieve a life full of opportunity and beauty.

Andrea remains deeply connected to his Italian roots. Vaughan is home to one of the largest Italian populations in Canada, and the City continues to celebrate the contributions of Italian Canadians here at home and across the country.



Read Mayor Del Duca's statement at vaughan.ca/news

Check your toilet for water leaks

Did you know that undetected water leaks in your home could be causing higher-than-usual water and wastewater bills? The most common culprit is toilets.

To test if you have a leaky toilet:

- 1. Remove the tank lid from the back of the toilet.
- Put one dye tablet or five drops of food colouring in the toilet tank. If you don't have these materials, you can also use Worcestershire sauce or another dark liquid.





- 3. Close the toilet lid and wait 30 minutes do not use or flush the toilet during this time. Then look at the water in the toilet bowl. If you see coloured water, you may have a leak. If the bowl is clear and all the coloured water remains in the tank, that means the toilet likely doesn't have a leak.
- 4. Repeat these steps with every toilet in your home.
- 5. If you think you have a water leak, call a licensed plumber to investigate and repair it.



Learn more at vaughan.ca/water

Only rain goes down the drain!

You play a role in keeping Vaughan's catch basins – also known as stormwater drains – clean and clear to prevent blockages and flooding.

Rainwater and melted snow are all that should go down a catch basin to protect the environment and the source of Vaughan's drinking water.

DO NOT put anything down catch basins, including:

- fats, oils, grease and food scraps.
- gasoline, pool chemicals and water.
- soapy water off vehicles.
- yard waste.



Learn more at vaughan.ca/stormwater

Water conservation

It's that time of year – outdoor water use limits are in effect until Monday, Sept. 30.

Watering of lawns and gardens is allowed on residential properties from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on the following calendar days:

- Even-numbered days for even-numbered street addresses.
- Odd-numbered days for odd-numbered street addresses.



Learn more at vaughan.ca/water

Book your next park picnic!

You can make a reservation at one of these City-operated parks:

- Chatfield District Park (100 Lawford Rd.)
- Doctors McLean District Park (8100 Islington Ave.)
- Mackenzie Glen District Park (220 Cranston Park Ave.)
- Maxey Park (199 Willis Rd.)
- Sonoma Heights Community Park (100 Sunset Ridge)



Learn more at vaughan.ca/FacilityRentals

Curbside Giveaway Days

Your 'trash' is another person's treasure – at least, that's the case during Curbside Giveaway Days!

This waste reduction program encourages you to place gently used items at the curb of your property for your neighbours to come and take, free of charge.

The next Curbside Giveaway Days are on Saturday, Aug. 24 and Sunday, Aug. 25.



Learn more at vaughan.ca/waste

ROAD CLOSED LOCAL TRAFFIC ONLY

Everything you need to know about construction season in Vaughan



Learn more at vaughan.ca/
DisruptionsAndClosures

Help keep Vaughan beautiful



Do you know about the Property Standards By-law and the Long Grass and Weeds By-law?

These by-laws help ensure we keep Vaughan clean, safe and looking its best. Not only can unkempt lawns and properties take away from the beauty of the community, but overgrown grass and weeds can attract vermin and pests as well as create barriers for pedestrians and motorists.

Here's what you need to know:

Grass and weeds must not exceed
 20 centimetres (approximately eight inches)
 in height

- Vehicles, boats and trailers that are inoperable, dilapidated, abandoned or without a licence plate are not permitted on any lot, property or roadway.
- Trees and hedges must be trimmed to maintain safety and visibility for drivers, and not block people from using the sidewalk.
- Firewood, garden equipment and building materials must be stored neatly in a rear yard, not in side or front yards or be visible from the street.
- All yards must be kept clean and free from rubbish, garbage, brush, waste, litter, trade waste and other debris, construction bins (unless actively being used), machinery and open excavations.



Learn more at vaughan.ca/bylaw



Beat the summer heat at our splashpads

Feeling the heat? Come cool off at one of the City's splashpads! Locations are open daily and subject to weather and surface conditions.



Learn more at vaughan.ca/splashpads



Building our city now and into the future

To ensure the well-being of the community, the City is undertaking initiatives to help ease the flow of people and goods, deliver parks and leisure spaces, uphold water and wastewater systems, preserve the environment, promote accessibility... and so much more.

In 2023, some of these important city-building initiatives included progress on the Kirby Road Extension and Canada Drive-America Avenue Bridge, which will improve the flow of traffic throughout Vaughan. In addition, the City's award-winning active transportation infrastructure continues to advance, and planning is underway for future parks, facilities, roads, bridges and the things we cannot see but are vital, such as underground pipes.

The <u>2023 Infrastructure Development</u> <u>Delivery Report</u> (PDF) highlights how these projects are coming to life:

- The City invested \$102.48 million in state
 of good repair projects and \$92.39 million
 in growth-related projects, for a total
 of \$194.87 million in expenditures.
- An investment of **\$55.1 million** was made to **125 road and bridge projects**.

- An investment of \$34.54 million was made to 58 water, wastewater and stormwater projects.
- An investment of **\$71.73 million** was made to **118 facility projects**.
- An investment of **\$20.50 million** was made to **103 parks and open spaces projects**.
- An investment of **\$12.94 million** was made to **31 active transportation projects**.

In total, **\$195 million in infrastructure projects** was completed in 2023.

The Infrastructure Development portfolio continues to develop long-range infrastructure planning studies to support future growth. Projects include the Teston Road Environmental Assessment, the Vaughan Transportation Plan, the Urban Water Plan, the Yonge North Subway Extension, widening Highway 7, the Yonge-Steeles Corridor Secondary Plan and more.



Learn more at vaughan.ca

Public Meetings will continue in September

Vaughan is a city in demand. And as one of the fastest-growing cities in Canada, it continues to evolve. But city building doesn't happen overnight. Well before construction begins, developments undergo a careful review by City of Vaughan staff, Vaughan Council, public agencies (such as the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, York Region and provincial ministries, where appropriate) ... and you!



Have you ever wondered about the process of approving applications or how they're reviewed? Do you have questions about what happens during a Public Meeting or how you can get involved?



Learn more at vaughan.ca/
PlanningProcess

Planning for the future of North Maple Regional Park



North Maple Regional Park (NMRP) is the City's largest and most ambitious park project. Work to transform the site into a signature destination is underway – and we're calling on you to have a say!

Phase 2 of the park development, known as the enabling works, is 75 per cent complete and includes site grading, servicing and environmental restoration on 52 hectares (130 acres) of land to prepare the site for future recreational facilities and amenities. Here are some highlights:

- Grading and servicing of the City's first cricket field and event area is complete and is anticipated to open for play in 2025.
- Restoration of the pond and wetland expansion is currently underway by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, with final planting and other finishing works nearing completion.
- Construction of an accessible multi-use path and additional trails is underway.

 The existing park driveway will be expanded to include a second park entrance with access to Keele Street. A new traffic signal at the park's north entrance will also be installed.

The City is also beginning the NMRP Master Plan. This long-term plan will provide an outline for future programming, management and amenities for the full 900-acre site. The Master Plan will focus on three key pillars – restoring nature, engaging the community and providing spaces for play, and will take approximately two years to complete.

What types of activities, programming and amenities would you like to see at the park? Join the conversation.



Learn more at vaughan.ca/NMRP

Supporting businesses during construction!

The City understands that local businesses may be temporarily impacted during construction like the **Kleinburg Village**Improvements project. These ongoing infrastructure improvements are key for the long-term health of the city's economy and will enable a climate for business success.

The Vaughan Business and Entrepreneurship Centre (VBEC) has developed an online resource for impacted businesses – available at vaughanbusiness.ca/ConstructionSupport.

Access free Open for Business toolkits, find e-commerce and digital adoption strategies, tap into business directories and browse available funding opportunities!



Get listed on visitvaughan.ca!

Do you own or operate a visitor destination such as an art, culture, sport, recreation, retail or wellness attraction, restaurant, festival or event in Vaughan? Access free promotional opportunities through Tourism Vaughan's <u>visitvaughan.ca</u> website — a one-stop shop to attract visitors and help them plan a memorable trip to the city!

Local businesses and events play an important role in driving visitors to the community. That's why Tourism Vaughan wants to ensure your business or event is reaching the right audiences.



Learn more at vaughan.ca/GetListed

Business advisory services

The VBEC continues to be the one-stop-shop for new and existing business owners – like you – to access the latest resources and tools to help start or grow your business in Vaughan!

The VBEC provides an expansive list of services, including:

- one-on-one consultations with expert business advisors.
- business planning support, including marketing strategies, financial forecast and cash flow and general business development.
- information on the development process, regulations, zoning, licensing, permits, business registration and legal structure.
- end-to-end site selection support.
- connections to funding sources, financing and grants.
- connections to business professionals, organizations and resources from various levels of government.
- research and business intelligence support.
- business development and marketing support for tourism organizations.
- business workshops, seminars, events and networking opportunities.



To learn more or schedule an appointment, visit **vaughanbusiness.ca**, email **ed@vaughan.ca** or call 905-832-8526.





STEAM Kits

Dive into hands-on learning experiences that blend science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics.

Visit any VPL library, or for more information, check out vaughanpl.info





Celebrating diversity in Vaughan

The City strives to foster a culture that is inclusive and respectful, where all residents, employees, businesses and visitors are provided accessible opportunities to engage and participate. One way the City does this is by celebrating heritage months and commemorative days throughout the year.

On May 6, Mayor Steven Del Duca and Members of Council invited the community to celebrate South Asian Heritage Month at an event commemorating the richness of South Asian art, heritage and culture.



South Asian Heritage Month event

On June 2, Mayor Del Duca and Members of Council gathered again with the community to recognize Italian Heritage Month. This event celebrated Italian heritage and culture through music, dance and food. The events showcased the important contributions Canadians of South Asian and Italian descent make and have made to build our city and other cities throughout our country and shape our nation's proud past and promising future.

These events are just a few examples of the work the City is doing to honour our diversity and showcase the many cultures that make up our beautiful city.



Italian Heritage Month event

Join us for these upcoming celebrations:

Pakistan Independence Day celebration

Wednesday, Aug. 14, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Vaughan City Hall

India Independence Day celebration

Thursday, Aug. 15, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at Vaughan City Hall



Visit <u>vaughan.ca/events</u> to register your attendance for free. See you there!

To learn about more cultural and faith-based observances and festive events taking place throughout the year, visit <u>vaughan.ca/events</u>.



South Asian Heritage Month event

Recognizing youth in sports

Recently, Mayor Del Duca and Members of Council celebrated several local youth sports teams for their outstanding seasons. From coaches and staff to family and friends, everyone contributes to the success of these teams. Participating in sports goes beyond the game; it also teaches positive habits that will serve our young people throughout life and support the future of Vaughan.



Vaughan Rangers U12 hockey team



Woodbridge Lions U16 girls basketball team

Recognizing Vaughan's 2024 Accessibility Champions!

The Accessibility Champion Awards are presented every other year to businesses, groups and individuals helping to foster an accessible environment in Vaughan.



Congratulations to the 2024 Accessibility Champions:

- Anthony D'Ambrosio in the Student category.
- **Deborah Helfand** in the Individual category.
- Kayla Children's Centre in the Medium Business category.
- Mobile Radiance Dental Hygiene
 Services in the Small Business (For-Profit) category.
- Sara Elizabeth Centre/Blue Veil Charity in the Small Business (Non-Profit) category.



Learn more at vaughan.ca/accessibility





2022-2026 **Members of Council**



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



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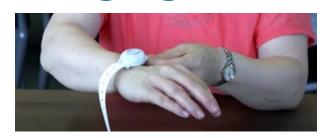
905-832-2281, ext. 8342



Gila Martow Ward 5 Councillor

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Bringing loved ones home with Project Lifesaver



York Regional Police (YRP) is focused on protecting vulnerable members of the community through Project Lifesaver. This program combines radio technology with a co-ordinated police response to locate wandering and disoriented loved ones living with Alzheimer's, autism or other conditions or disorders. Participants wear a wristband emitting a tracking signal that YRP can locate with radio technology. When caregivers notify YRP that their loved one is missing, a Search and Rescue team responds to the area where the person was last seen and uses a specialized mobile-location tracking system.

To be eligible for the program, individuals must be living with a cognitive impairment, reside with or be monitored by a caregiver, live in York Region, not operate a vehicle, and not be involved in unescorted activities.



Learn more at yrp.ca

Are you searching for a challenging, rewarding and motivating career?

Vaughan is your place to grow.



Learn more at vaughan.ca/careers





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: service@vaughan.ca 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.



VAUGHAN