Mayor Bevilacqua to present 2018 Order of Vaughan
Four individuals to be invested with the City's highest civic honour at special ceremony

2018 Order of Vaughan Recipient Citations

Maria Castro – *Not-for-Profit*
Maria Castro is the past President of the Hospice Vaughan Board of Directors, where she has served for nearly six years. Ms. Castro became the Co-Chair for the "Better Ending" Residential Initiative and Capital Campaign Committee, formed in January 2015, with a vision to build a Centre of Excellence 10-bed Residential Hospice for the delivery of hospice palliative care in Vaughan. Ms. Castro's ability to inspire change and her dedication to the service of others embodies the true spirit of leadership. With more than 20 years of experience in senior and executive roles, Ms. Castro currently holds the position of Chief Financial Officer at Picco Engineering.

Michael DeGasperis – *Health and Wellness, Business, Philanthropy, Not-for-Profit, Environment*
As a developer and home builder, Michael DeGasperis is the Founder, President and CEO of Arista Homes and the Vice President of the TACC Group of Companies. Mr. DeGasperis is also a long-standing champion of the Mackenzie Vaughan Hospital and has undertaken countless other philanthropic endeavors over the past two decades. Mr. DeGasperis serves on many charitable boards and committees, including ASVV Charity, whose mandate is to assist local families that are challenged to meet the financial obligations of supporting special needs children. He has led his professional team for more than 23 years and has built more than 10,000 homes across the GTA – including several award-winning signature communities in Vaughan. Mr. DeGasperis remains determined to grow his businesses and positively impact local families whenever possible, while maintaining his reputation as an exemplary Vaughan corporate citizen and resident.

Altaf Stationwala – *Public Service*

Altaf Stationwala is President and CEO of Mackenzie Health. Under his guidance, Mackenzie Health is re-envisioning its care delivery model to embrace a connected health strategy that utilizes digital communications and the Internet of Healthcare Things. Mr. Stationwala has been instrumental in ensuring our local hospital delivers the exceptional services our patients and their families deserve. In June 2015, he established the Mackenzie Innovation Institute (Mi2), a catalyst for disruptive technologies in the health care industry through research, education and training. Mr. Stationwala draws on his experience as Chair on the Board of Directors of the Ontario Hospital Association, as well as his role as Member of the Board of GS1 Canada, a neutral, not-for-profit organization that enables more than 20,000 organizations of all sizes from more than 20 sectors across Canada to enhance their efficiency and cost effectiveness by adopting electronic supply chain best practices.

Robert Charles Wilson – *Arts and Entertainment*

Robert Charles Wilson is a globally-acclaimed science-fiction writer. Mr. Wilson won the World Science Fiction Society's Hugo Award - the top international "Academy Award" of the field for Best Novel of the Year (for SPIN, in 2006), and has six other Hugo nominations to his name. Mr. Wilson also won the John W. Campbell Memorial Award - the field's top juried honour, presented by the Gunn Center for the Study of Science Fiction at the University of Kansas; the Philip K. Dick Award for best sci-fi paperback of the year; the Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award for best short story of the year; and three Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Awards (Auroras), two for best novel and one for best short story. In translation, his work has won top sci-fi awards across the globe, including Japan's Seiun award in 2009; Germany's Kurd Lasswitz Preis in 2007; France's Grand Prix de l'Imaginaire in 2007; and Israel's Geffen Award in 2006. Vaughan is proudly home to one of Canada's top authors and one of the top science-fiction writers in the world.

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ABOUT VAUGHAN: The City of Vaughan is one of Canada's fastest growing cities with a population of more than 335,000. Incorporated in 1991, Vaughan includes the communities of Concord, Kleinburg, Maple, Thornhill and Woodbridge. This culturally diverse municipality is located in the heart of York Region and the Greater Toronto Area.