

## Public speaker series

The Public Speaker Series will take place on April 10, April 24, and May 6 at the Vellore Village Community Centre Cafetorium (1 Villa Royale Avenue). The series will bring together experts for a public discussion on key issues facing Vaughan. The Speaker Series will introduce the public to many of the issues associated with the Official Plan and Environmental Master Plan, key components of the City's Growth Management Strategy. The Series will be informative and thought-provoking, as preparation for the Community Vision Workshops in late May and early June.

### Session 1: April 10, 7-9pm Defining a Sustainable Future

will explore the meaning of Sustainable Community Development and its implications for the growth and development of Vaughan. Speakers will provide examples of sustainable communities and/or practices and illustrate actions that can be taken within a community such as Vaughan to promote sustainability.

**Moderator:** Melanie Hare, Urban Strategies

**Speakers:** Pamela Robinson (Ryerson University; Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation) George Dark (Evergreen Foundation; Urban Strategies) Catherine O'Brien (Cape Breton University) James Micak (DPRA; Vaughan Environmental Master Plan)

### Session 2: April 24, 7-9pm The Importance of City Building and Place Making Initiatives

will explore the characteristics of successful urban places. Speakers will draw on their experience to highlight elements of successful places and actions that can be taken to improve the places in which we live. In doing so, the session will attempt to identify characteristics of successful place-making initiatives and actions that may be possible in a municipality such as Vaughan.

**Moderator:** Mark Reid, Urban Strategies

**Speakers:** Gil Penalosa (Walk & Bike for Life, Project for Public Spaces) Mark Lakeman (City Repair Project, Portland OR) Greg Weimerskirch (Urban Design Associates, Pittsburgh, PA)

**Be sure to visit the Vaughan Tomorrow website, a portal for information on all Official Plan project events, and important dates at [www.vaughtomorrow.ca](http://www.vaughtomorrow.ca)**

### Session 3: May 6, 7-9pm Vaughan as a 21st Century City

will explore the characteristics of the modern City in the 21st Century and what this means for understanding Vaughan. Speakers will identify strategies for successful management of growth and development in the coming 25 years. How do citizens identify with the City? How does the City relate to the Toronto region? What major transformations are taking place in the overall urban structure that Vaughan must respond to if it is to improve the quality of life for its residents and ensure a sustainable and prosperous future.

**Moderator:** Pino Di Mascio, Urban Strategies

**Speakers:** Mark Kingwell (U. of Toronto, Philosopher and Cultural Theorist) Roger Keil (York University, City Institute) Greg Baeker (Euclid Canada)

## Visioning workshops

Following the Public Speaker Series, five Visioning Workshops will be held in each of Vaughan's communities. These workshops will bring together people, issues and ideas to collaboratively explore challenges and opportunities for the future of the area. These workshops will be held in the following areas, on the following dates (check the website for workshop locations):

**Maple Visioning Workshop** - May 21, 7-9pm

**Thornhill** - May 27, 7-9pm

**Vaughan Corporate Centre** - May 28, 7-9pm

**Kleinburg** - June 4, 7-9pm

**Woodbridge** - June 11, 7-9pm

We encourage all residents to take part. You may register by visiting the website ([www.vaughtomorrow.ca](http://www.vaughtomorrow.ca))



## Vaughan Tomorrow

The City of Vaughan is undertaking an ambitious three year project to create a new Official Plan. The Official Plan is part of Vaughan's integrated Growth Management Strategy. It will address all elements of effective, sustainable and successful city-building, while managing projected growth over the next 25 years.

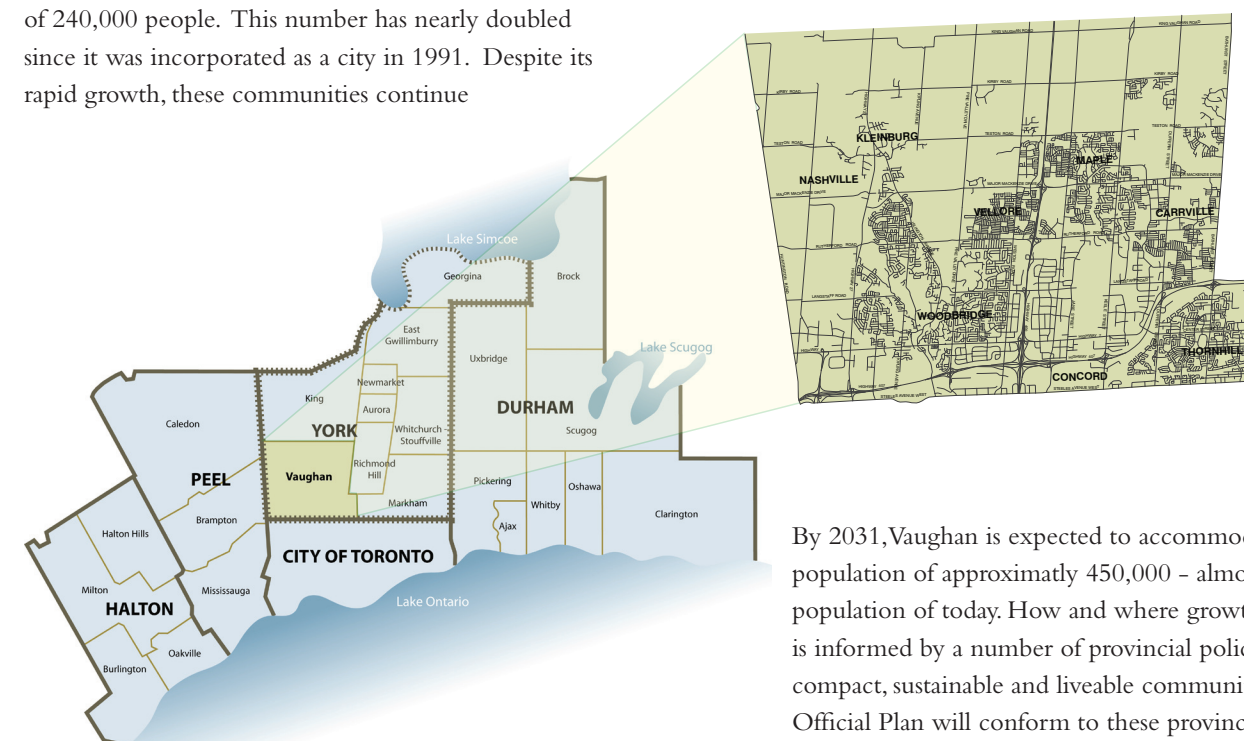
## The City of Vaughan – one of Canada's fastest growing cities

The City of Vaughan is located in York Region, bounded by Lake Simcoe in the north and Steeles Avenue in the south. The Region of York is part of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) that includes the Regional Municipalities of York, Halton, Peel, Durham, and the City of Toronto.

In 1971 Vaughan Township merged with the Village of Woodbridge to form the Town of Vaughan. Today, Vaughan is one of Canada's fastest growing cities with a population of 240,000 people. This number has nearly doubled since it was incorporated as a city in 1991. Despite its rapid growth, these communities continue

to maintain their distinct identity adding to the city's unique character. Protection of woodlots, the Humber River and the Greenbelt has also helped to form the Vaughan of today, one that is steeped in natural heritage. What will the Vaughan of tomorrow look like?

By the year 2031, some 2.8 million new residents and 1.4 million new jobs are to be added to the Greater Golden Horseshoe area. In order to appropriately manage this growth, the Province of Ontario created the Places to Grow program, to ensure that regional growth supports economic prosperity, protects the environment and helps communities achieve a high quality of life.



By 2031, Vaughan is expected to accommodate a projected population of approximately 450,000 - almost double the population of today. How and where growth will happen is informed by a number of provincial policies to create more compact, sustainable and liveable communities. The new Official Plan will conform to these provincial policies and set out an urban structure and appropriate policies to guide growth and development over the next 25 years.

# Managing growth

In 2007, the City of Vaughan initiated a Growth Management Strategy to help guide growth to 2031. The strategy has four components: the Vaughan Vision 2020 Strategic Plan, the Environmental Master Plan, the Official Plan review and several functional Master Plans. The planning process will address issues that face Vaughan over the next 25 years. In 2007 DPRAs was hired to prepare the Environmental Master Plan and a project team, led by Urban Strategies Inc., has been hired to prepare the new Official Plan. Key to the Growth Management Strategy is establishing a framework for developing sustainable communities. The Public Speaker Series kicks off the public consultation program for both the Environmental Master Plan and Official Plan. (See back cover)



# What is an Official Plan?



The Official Plan is a legal document approved by the City of Vaughan and the Region of York, which describes policies and objectives for future land use. It reflects a community vision for future change and development.

The Province requires that a municipality's Official Plan be updated every 5 years to conform to current provincial policies. Regular updating of the Plan ensures that the guidelines, objectives the vision for city planning stays responsive to current issues and conditions. The existing Plan has over 600 amendments that need to be combined into one simplified document based on a clear and concise vision.

The new Official Plan will provide guidance for the physical development of the municipality over a 25-year period while taking into consideration important social, economic and environmental issues and objectives. The Plan will provide a policy framework that will guide the following:

- Where new development can locate
- How existing and future neighbourhoods will be strengthened
- How Vaughan's environment will be enhanced
- What municipal services, such as roads, water mains, sewers and parks, will be provided
- When and where Vaughan will grow

# The Official Plan project

The project began in November 2007 and is expected to be completed by September 2010. The Visioning process, taking place between January-September 2008, is a key component of the Official Plan project. During this period a series of public engagement activities and events will provide Vaughan's citizens with an opportunity to voice what they see as both opportunities and challenges to growth planning in Vaughan.

Visioning workshops will be held in Spring 2008 to identify "principles" for managing growth and will be followed up by community workshops in Fall 2008 to explore "growth scenarios". Following the Visioning process detailed planning work will take place in the Focused Area Studies for existing communities and policy directions for specific growth and development vision. A Draft New Official Plan is intended to be available publicly in early 2010 and new Official Plan will be before City Council in September 2010. Throughout the Visioning Process a number of background papers will be released on central issues that the Official Plan will address.



# Youth engagement

Meaningful engagement with youth is a key component in the City's Vision 2020 mandate. This builds upon Vaughan's initiatives for youth engagement- it is the first municipality in Canada to appoint a Youth Councillor. In February 2008, the Youth Media Project began with workshops in high school classrooms introducing students to issues around growth planning and their communities. Over the semester these classes will create short videos that explore what they see as important planning issues in their communities. These videos will be available through the project website and screened at the *Be Heard Symposium!* on May 22. For more information on the Youth Engagement Strategy, or how to get involved, please contact Andrea Winkler at [awinkler@urbanstrategies.com](mailto:awinkler@urbanstrategies.com).



# Get involved

Throughout this process, there will be a number of opportunities to get involved. The official website will be regularly updated with information on upcoming events, project information and studies. It will also provide an opportunity for event registration and to sign-up for regular project updates. ([www.vaughantomorrow.ca](http://www.vaughantomorrow.ca))

A series of Citizen Bulletins will summarize specific issues and the general intent of the proposed policies. Available on the website, these papers are meant to begin a public discussion on some of the central issues for planning in Vaughan such as:

- Population and Housing
- Provincial and Regional Planning Context
- Natural Environment and Heritage
- Sustainable Community Development
- Urban Structure
- Employment Trends and Projections
- City Building

# The documentary



A short documentary on Vaughan and the visioning process will provide a visual history of the city and identify current issues and opportunities looking into the future. The documentary will be available for wide release in September 2008 along with the Official Plan Visioning document.

Send us your footage! We are looking for historical footage of Vaughan. If you have film or video that you would like to contribute, please contact Andrea Winkler at [awinkler@urbanstrategies.com](mailto:awinkler@urbanstrategies.com).

