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Keeping our community informed.

vaughan.ca/news



Winter 2022

Message from Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua



Dear Neighbour,

Happy New Year! I hope you and your family had a safe and peaceful holiday season. With a new year upon us, let us take this time to renew our sense of hope and optimism for the future.

2021 did not come without its challenges; however, I am incredibly proud of our community for triumphing over the adversity brought on by the global COVID-19 pandemic. As we continue our journey together, it is clear that Vaughan is emerging stronger than ever.

As home to Canada's first smart hospital, York Region's first subway stations with another on the way, a vibrant downtown core, a 900-acre park and a top-tier university, Vaughan upholds its position as a city of choice. Since 2010, more than 60,000 jobs have been created, and hundreds more are on the horizon, with

international corporations recognizing the value of the Vaughan Advantage and investing in our world-class city. As a result, Vaughan is undergoing a remarkable transformation – and the critical task of city-building is more important now than ever.

In December, Council approved the City of Vaughan's 2022 Budget, which is the roadmap that will guide our efforts and set the priorities for the year to come. Vaughan proudly maintains one of the lowest and most competitive tax rates in the Greater Toronto Area. Our sound approach to public finances and commitment to open, accountable and transparent governance is being recognized. Recently, the Toronto Star published an article with the headline, "Vaughan tops the list of the least expensive cities for residential property taxes." This is yet another testament to our ability to be fiscally responsible while providing value for your hard-earned tax dollars.

The work to restore our prosperous and thriving economy continues. The City remains dedicated to supporting Vaughan's small business community of 19,000 companies that employ more than 225,000 people because we know our strength lies in their success.

The Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (VMC) is rising to new and unprecedented heights. The heart of our emerging downtown is now home to several transformational transit projects, including the VMC Subway, seven high rise

towers that are now fully occupied, two new commercial office buildings, which have created more than 2,000 jobs, immersive public art projects and community event spaces, and many more exciting projects that are currently underway. A city that uses investment-ready planning thinks strategically about how we can best attract job-creating investments, create new and welcoming neighbourhoods, and ensure we have the public transit and infrastructure in place to move people, goods, services and our economy forward.

A high standard of living, accessible location, exceptional amenities, development opportunities, subway connections, and so much more are what make Vaughan the place to be. These city-building initiatives result from a laser-focused approach to provide an exceptional quality of life for everyone who lives and works here.

Building on this momentum, Vaughan's vision is becoming a reality. By continuing to work together, we will unleash our city's full potential and shape a promising future for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Hon. Maurizio Bevilacqua, P.C.
Mayor

VAUGHAN NEWS



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vaughan.ca/COVID19
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CONTACT US
vaughan.ca/AccessVaughan
905-832-2281
(Toll free: 1-844-832-2112)
accessvaughan@vaughan.ca



2022 Budget reflects Vaughan's commitment to keeping tax rates low

On Dec. 9, 2021, Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua and Members of Council approved the City of Vaughan's 2022 Budget and 2023 to 2026 Capital Plan. Building on the City's commitment to keeping tax rates low while delivering quality public services, the approved citizen-focused budget aims to advance city-building, achieve customer service and accomplish results.

It includes an operating budget of \$512.8 million and capital investments of \$271.8 million to support and advance the Council-approved priorities and long-term vision. The budget builds upon the City's existing strong foundation and accounts for sustainable growth with opportunities to enrich lives through arts, culture, parks,

trails and recreation. In addition, it delivers on the City's mission of Citizens First Through Service Excellence and investing in the community's future.

With this approved budget, Vaughan maintains one of the lowest and most competitive tax rates in the Greater Toronto Area. The property-tax supported operating budget for 2022 is \$333.2 million; this includes a two per cent property tax levy increase which funds the more than 200 programs and services families rely on, including garbage collection, snow clearing and fire prevention education.

For more information on the City's budget, visit vaughan.ca/budget.



GREATER TORONTO'S TOP 2022 EMPLOYERS

Vaughan's greatest resource is its staff – and the City employs best-practices to ensure its workforce has the full support of the organization. And it's being noticed. On Dec. 3, 2021, it was announced the City of Vaughan is one of the Greater Toronto's Top Employers for 2022 – the second year in a row the City has received this prestigious recognition.

The City's commitment to its people – the approximately 1,600 staff members who dedicate their time and talents to making the City run as effectively and efficiently as possible – enables the organization to deliver upon its Council-approved priorities. As an equal opportunity employer and a forward-looking municipality, the City remains committed to fostering a dynamic workplace that is diverse, inclusive and welcoming.



For more information, visit vaughan.ca/careers.



Electronic-participation Committee of the Whole and Council Meetings Keep City Business Moving Forward

The City of Vaughan continues to manage the evolving global COVID-19 pandemic and encourages physical distancing practices to keep citizens and staff safe. In support of this direction, Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua and Members of Council will continue to hold electronic-participation Committee of the Whole and Council meetings to move important City business forward.



While Vaughan City Hall remains closed to the public, citizens are still encouraged to participate – virtually. In addition to tuning in to electronic-participation meetings at vaughan.ca/LiveCouncil, individuals can submit a written communication for review by Members of Council as part of an agenda item or request to speak via teleconference (through a computer, app or by phone). Requests for written or verbal communications can be made by calling Access Vaughan at 905-832-2281 or emailing the Office of the City Clerk at clerks@vaughan.ca.

The communication must:

- relate to a matter on the agenda.
- clearly state the request or message you wish to convey.
- include your name and contact information.



Please be advised, the name and address of any citizen submitting a communication will appear in the public record and will be posted online following the meeting. For more information about submitting a communication, visit vaughan.ca/HaveYourSay.



Questions regarding this process can be directed to Access Vaughan at 905-832-2281 or accessvaughan@vaughan.ca. Visit vaughan.ca/CouncilMeetings for more information about upcoming meetings, including agendas.



Vaughan, At Your Service

See for yourself why Vaughan is a great place to live, play, work and retire.



City crews continue to keep you safe this winter season

The City's winter maintenance crews are out in 'flurry' force to provide you with efficient, reliable and high-level winter services – whether it's reducing ice on roads or clearing snow from local streets, paths and sidewalks, the City's crews strive to ensure you can travel safely regardless of the weather.

The City's winter maintenance program includes salting, windrow-clearing, plowing and snow removal along more than 2,000 lane-kilometres of roads and 1,000 kilometres of sidewalks throughout the city.

- **Snowplowing:** Plowing begins as soon as five centimetres (two inches) of snow have accumulated on public roads. The City aims to plow all roads within 16 hours after a snowfall has ended. Main roads are plowed first within four hours to keep them clear for emergency and transit vehicles before moving to residential areas.
- **Salting:** During a heavy snowfall or major storm, the City will salt and clear sidewalks in main public areas before moving to residential areas. Residential streets are cleared within 12 hours after a snowfall has ended. Services on major roads in Vaughan, such as Bathurst Street, Dufferin Street, Keele Street and Major Mackenzie Drive, are maintained by York Region. For a full list of regional roads, visit york.ca/roads. Sidewalks are cleared within

48 hours after a snowfall has ended. The priority is sidewalks on main roads, followed by sidewalks on residential side streets.

- **Brining:** Before a snowfall, the City helps prepare roads by spraying brine, a liquid made of rock salt and water. It is sprayed on the road surface in anticipation of freezing temperatures to prevent the formation of black ice or in advance of a winter snow event. The liquid brine works immediately as a barrier, so precipitation doesn't stick to the road and slippery conditions are avoided.
- **Windrow clearing:** The City offers a windrow-clearing service to residents. Within four hours after the plow has passed, the residential windrow-clearing machines will clear a portion of the driveway entrance to allow a car to pass through.



Age-friendly future

As the older-adult population in Vaughan continues to grow, it is important to support their health and well-being while looking to the future to ensure they can age with dignity, respect and independence. The City of Vaughan is taking steps to create a more age-friendly community where all residents can be active and engaged members of society at every stage of life – including retirement.

The City developed an Age-Friendly Community Action Plan by studying local data and key age-friendly indicators, reviewing best practices and promising approaches from other communities and capturing insights, feedback and ideas from residents and community stakeholders. To date, the City has conducted three community workshops, a survey, focus groups and interviews.

The Age-Friendly Community Action Plan was developed under the direction and guidance of the City's Older Adult Task Force. The task force's mandate is to make recommendations on implementing action items related to the City's Older Adult Strategy. The strategy will explore opportunities to move towards an age-friendly community and promote healthy seniors.

The Age-Friendly Community Action Plan will go to Council in February. Upon approval, implementation of the plan will begin shortly after.

Vaughan's Age-Friendly Community Action Plan reinforces the City's commitment to Active, Safe and Diverse Communities, a strategic priority in the Council-approved **2018-2022 Term of Council Service Excellence Strategic Plan** that aims to enhance well-being, enrich Vaughan's communities and maintain safety in the community.

With a fleet of more than 100 vehicles comprised of combination salter/snowplow units, windrow machines, sidewalk machines, pickup trucks equipped with plows and salters, cul-de-sac-clearing machines and anti-icing units, crews are ready for whatever weather the Canadian winter throws their way.

For more information on the City's winter maintenance service levels, visit vaughan.ca/snow.



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Signed up and haven't received City news lately?

Try checking your junk mail.





#PlayVaughanLocal this winter season!

Have you been feeling cooped up at home? Get outdoors ... safely! While following advice from York Region on [public health safety measures](#), try exercising outside and enjoy the fresh air.

Visit [vaughan.ca/PlayVaughanLocal](#) for your guide to all the exciting activities and adventures in Vaughan. Find complete information about the City's various trails and neighbourhood walks, off-leash dog park, outdoor skating rinks, toboggan hill and more.

If you take pictures while safely enjoying an outdoor activity in Vaughan, share your good times on social media with the hashtag #PlayVaughanLocal. Let your fellow residents know there is plenty of fun to be had for all ages in Vaughan's beautiful outdoors – just steps away from home.

After great success in its inaugural year, the City's snowshoe loaner program returns for the season. If you're hitting the trails or exploring a park in Vaughan this season, sign up to borrow snowshoes for the full winter experience. The snowshoe loaner program is free for residents and bookings can be made through [vaughan.perfectmind.com](#). Snowshoes are loaned on a weekly basis



for four days from Thursday to Sunday and include one set of snowshoes per person, while quantities last. Following an online booking, residents will be contacted by Recreation Services' staff within 24 hours to co-ordinate a curbside pickup time and the completion of a mandatory waiver. A \$50 security deposit is required upon booking, which will be refunded when the snowshoes are returned.

Registration dates for the four-day loan are available every Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. on a week-to-week basis. If you require assistance registering, call Access Vaughan at 905-832-2281 or email [RecCSD@vaughan.ca](#).

All equipment comes prepackaged and has been individually inspected, cleaned and disinfected. Snowshoes are available at Al Palladini Community Centre, Dufferin Clark Community Centre, North Thornhill Community Centre and Vellore Village Community Centre every Thursday. Snowshoes are to be returned to the same community centre from which they were loaned on the Monday after your rental. For more information, visit [vaughan.ca/GreatWalks](#). Visit [vaughan.ca/PlayVaughanLocal](#) for more information on all seasonal outdoor activities within the city.



Vaccination reduces risk of infection, severe outcomes and helps slow the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

[york.ca/COVID19Vaccine](#)

York Region

Have a question about a service in Vaughan?

Access Vaughan, the City's contact centre, is standing by, ready to help

905-832-2281
(toll-free: 1-844-832-2112)
accessvaughan@vaughan.ca
[vaughan.ca/AccessVaughan](#)

Service Vaughan
Delivering Service Excellence

Reporting a municipal issue has never been easier!

The City's online reporting tool – **Service Vaughan** – is an easy way to submit a service request, report on non-emergency City services and track many submissions **24 hours a day, seven days a week**.

Visit [vaughan.ca/ServiceVaughan](#).

Play, learn and grow

Register for a program with Recreation Services

The City of Vaughan is committed to providing accessible recreation programs and facilities that support a vibrant and healthy community. With a schedule customized for every season, the City is proud to offer a wide variety of classes, camps, fitness memberships and free community events that promote health, wellness and active living for all ages. There is something to keep everyone busy, whether looking to play virtually with friends, learn a new skill or master a growing talent. Look through the latest Recreation Vaughan eGuide to find a program or class that piques your interest.

P.A. Day programs and March Break camps

Are you looking for a fun way to pass the next P.A. Day? Or do you want a program that will educate and entertain your child during March Break? Recreation Vaughan has you covered with various programs that involve arts and crafts, games, sports and exploring the outdoors.



Visit vaughan.ca/camps to learn more about the programs available.



Recreational skating and shinny hockey

Is someone in your household hoping to be the next Mitch Marner or Tessa Virtue? Or are you looking for a way to keep the family active and warm this winter? Check out Vaughan's indoor and outdoor skating rinks. Drop-in recreational skating and shinny hockey are available at Vaughan's five indoor arenas until March. You can also skate anytime for free at one of Vaughan's five outdoor rinks until March, weather permitting. Outdoor rinks are unsupervised unless otherwise stated in the recreational skating and shinny hockey schedule.



Before you lace up your skates, visit vaughan.ca/skate to see if pre-registration is required, read the Skating Rink Guidelines and view the recreational skating and shinny hockey schedule.

Online registration system

In January 2021, the City of Vaughan upgraded its online registration system. The new, easy-to-use system – called PerfectMind – is mobile-friendly and offers enhanced features, such as easier navigation, secure online payment and improved account management. To set up a new account, visit vaughan.perfectmind.com and select “Sign up.”



To learn more about the online recreation registration system, visit vaughan.ca/recreation to watch the City's video on

how to register for an account online or read the **Frequently Asked Questions**. You can also call **Access Vaughan** at 905-832-2281 or email RecCSD@vaughan.ca for assistance.

Vaughan Community Centres

The City's 10 community centres feature swimming pools, fitness centres, arenas, sports fields and courts, and activity rooms. Other City facilities include a community theatre, an outdoor pool, and an award-winning nine-hole golf course and a ski hill.

As the City continues to provide quality leisure programs and activities to residents, the City is also invested in making your visit to a community centre easy and enjoyable. That's why all recreation facilities are equipped with free Wi-Fi and have accessibility features, like ramps and automatic door openers. This City is also actively evaluating and upgrading its centres to ensure the facilities meet the community's needs, like creating family change rooms.

VAUGHAN'S RECREATION FACILITIES AND COMMUNITY LIBRARIES TEMPORARILY CLOSED

Did you know that Vaughan community centres are also your one-stop shop for up-to-date information and much more? You can even purchase garbage tags, gift certificates, postage stamps, green bins and blue boxes. Remember, community centres are cashless facilities. Many payment options are available, such as online registration through your vaughan.perfectmind.com account using a credit card, in-person using debit, credit or cheque, or by using existing credit on your Recreation Services client account.



Visit vaughan.ca/recreation for centre locations, hours of operation, features and amenities.

Safety is our top priority

The City of Vaughan continues to work with all levels of government to respond to COVID-19 and as the requirements to show proof of vaccination and proof of identification evolve. Individuals age 12 years and older are required to provide proof they are fully vaccinated and have received their final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days prior to entering a City facility, unless the individual qualifies for an exemption. This applies to anyone actively participating in organized sports (including dance, martial arts, swimming and skating); coaching, officiating at organized sports or volunteering; or spectating at organized sports. In addition, all individuals visiting a recreational facility must comply with all other requirements under the *Reopening Ontario Act* and its regulations that apply to the facility. Remember to come prepared and be ready to show proof of vaccination and proof of identification when entering a community centre. Don't miss out on all the fun Recreation Vaughan has to offer. All ages and abilities are welcome to take part.



Visit vaughan.ca/recreation today to learn how you and your family can play along with others, learn something new and grow your passion.

Learn more about the 2022 Interim Property Tax bill mailed to residents registered in the City's Pre-authorized Tax Payment (PTP) program

“Do not pay” message on bill confirms instalments will be automatically withdrawn on the bill's listed due dates. No further action from PTP program members is required to make a payment.

vaughan.ca/PropertyTax



Prepare your home for winter

Follow these tips to prevent frozen pipes

Identify your home's freezing points

When the weather dips below freezing, check your home's pipes. Pipes in areas like crawl spaces, unheated rooms, basements, garages and exterior walls can be especially prone to freezing and bursting.



Protect your pipes

Where pipes are exposed to the cold, wrap them with insulation or heat tape (even fabric or newspaper can help).



Strengthen your defences

Seal any cracks and holes that allow cold outside air inside, especially near water lines. Close off crawl spaces, fix drafty windows, insulate walls and attics and plug drafts around doors.



Give pipes a helping hand

Keep the temperature in your home above eight degrees Celsius (46.4 degrees Fahrenheit) especially near the water meter.

But if your pipes DO freeze...

Before reporting a frozen pipe, contact a plumber to thaw it, or verify its location. Ensure water is turned off at the main shut-off valve prior to thawing pipes.



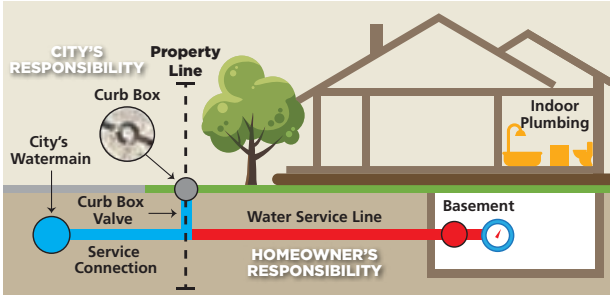
If the plumber confirms the frozen pipe is from the City's watermain, contact Access Vaughan at 905-832-2281.

Your frozen-pipe responsibility

The City of Vaughan is responsible for pipes beyond the property line, typically marked by the curb box in the lawn or driveway.

Homeowners are responsible for maintaining and replacing water pipes inside their homes and from the home to the property line.

If you suspect your pipes might be frozen and water continues to run from any cold-water tap within your home, it is likely an internal plumbing issue.



STAY OFF stormwater ponds!

Here's why...

The water is constantly flowing in and out of the pond, resulting in unstable ice quality.

The thickness of the ice is highly unpredictable.

The water may include road salt and other contaminants that impact the quality of the ice.

Winter placement for waste bins

NEVER place bins on top of, or behind snowbanks.

Set waste bins approximately one metre from the curb on the right-hand side of the driveway when facing the home.


Driveway Road

Sidewalk Driveway Road

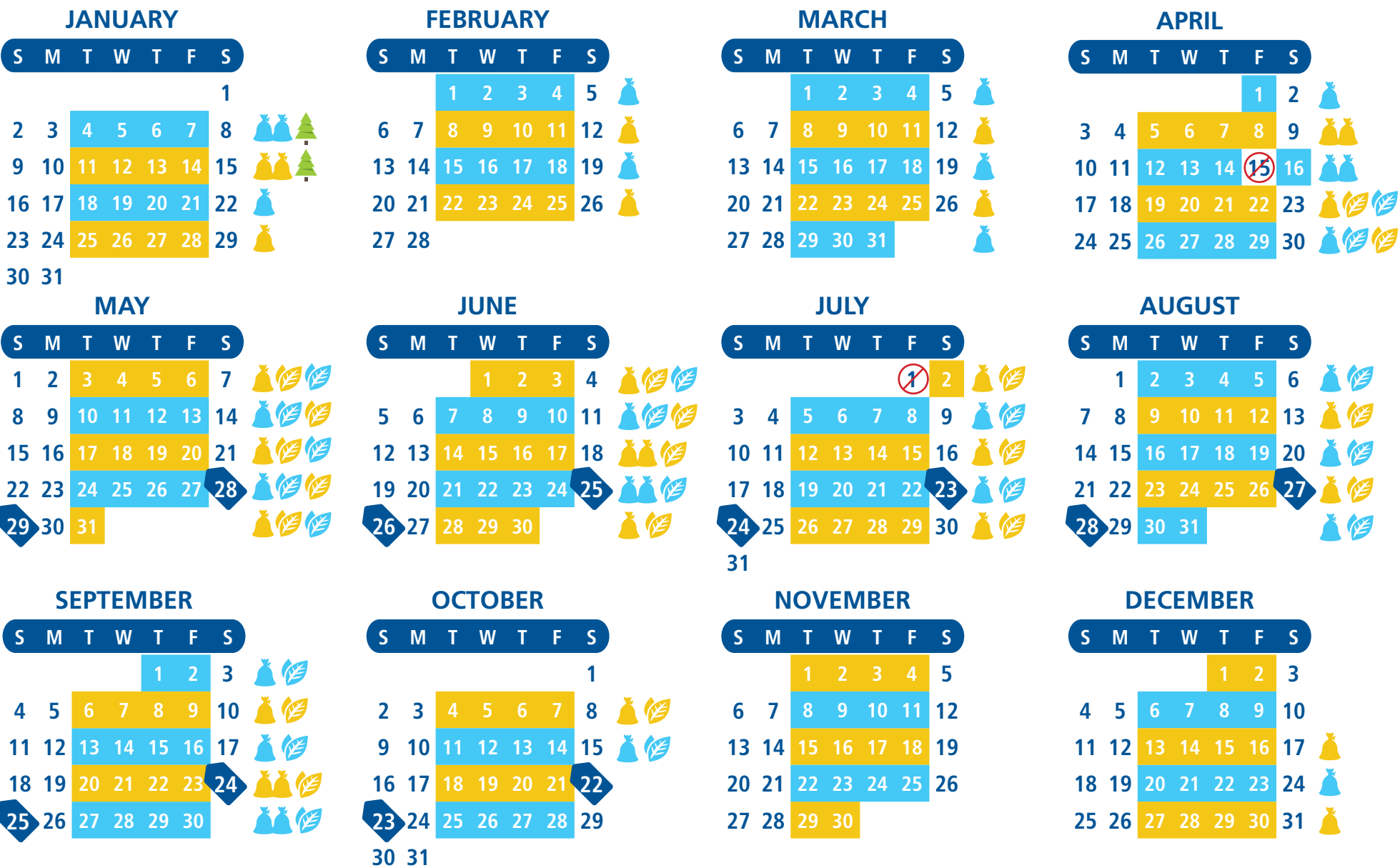
Watch the video.






Clear a space for your bins!

2022 Waste Collection Calendar

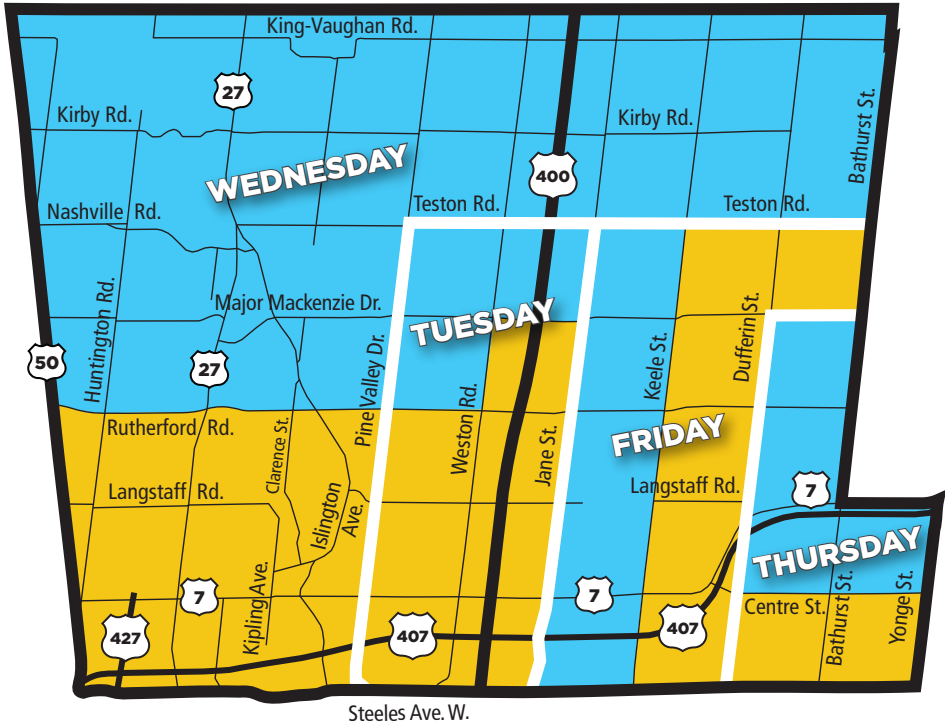
 **UNLIMITED** weekly blue box recycling and green bin organic collection.

 Garbage is collected every other week on the scheduled collection day.



-  Garbage collection
-  Leaf and yard waste collection
-  **Double-Up Days:**
Dispose of up to six garbage items
-  Christmas tree collection
-  Curbside Giveaway Days
-  Collection moved to the following day

Waste Collection Map



- Garbage is collected every other week on the scheduled collection day.
- To determine your collection schedule:
- Find where you live on the map.
 - Note your collection day and if you live in a **blue zone** or **yellow zone**.
 - Follow your colour throughout the calendar and use the symbols in the legend to determine what to set out at the curb.

My zone is: _____

My collection day is: _____



DON'T MISS
WASTE COLLECTION!
Set out by 7 a.m.



To download a blue or yellow schedule, or look up your address, visit vaughan.ca/WasteCalendar



#SlowDownVaughan

Pick up a free #SlowDownVaughan sign at your local community centre or library.



vaughan.ca/SlowDownVaughan

MOVESMART



Have Your Say!

The City of Vaughan values the voice of the public and provides opportunity to have constructive dialogue with the community that is open, transparent, accessible and inclusive. There have been, and continue to be, many ways to get involved in City projects and decisions that matter to you. Here is information about some recent engagements:

Vaughan Transportation Plan

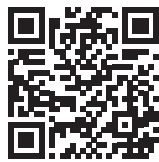
What is your preferred way to commute? What additional transportation options do you think Vaughan should offer? The City's first transportation plan was completed in 2012, and, since then, much has changed with respect to traffic and transportation. The updated Vaughan Transportation Plan will provide a long-term outlook and identify projects that will help provide a greater range of transportation choices to reduce the number of vehicles on the road. This past fall, the Vaughan community was invited to join a live virtual presentation and discussion and participate in a self-guided virtual open house.



For more information, visit vaughan.ca/TransportationPlan.

City-wide Sports Facilities Needs Assessment Study

The City of Vaughan is conducting the City-wide Sports Facilities Needs Assessment Study to help inform the planning of parks and outdoor sports facilities like baseball diamonds, soccer fields, basketball courts and tennis courts. The needs assessment will review the City's current inventory of outdoor sports fields and courts, identify opportunities to better utilize existing facilities and recommend locations for new or upgraded facilities. In late 2021, the City invited the public to provide input on the need for additional sports facilities and improvements to existing facilities throughout Vaughan.



For more information, visit vaughan.ca/SportsFacilities.



UPCOMING ENGAGEMENT:

Bartley Smith Greenway

The City is undertaking the Bartley Smith Greenway Trail Feasibility Study to determine how to complete the development of a three-kilometre gap in the trail between McNaughton Road and Rutherford Road. In October 2021, the City invited the community to participate in an online survey to weigh in on proposed route options and road crossings. The City will be hosting a virtual Public Open House this winter to share progress to-date and provide the public with another opportunity to join the conversation.



Visit vaughan.ca/BartleySmithTrail for more information and updates.



Stay in the know on opportunities to have your say!

Learn about current opportunities to get involved by visiting vaughan.ca/HaveYourSay and



subscribe to the City's engagement mailing list to receive updates directly to your inbox.

Fireworks By-law Review

Did you know the City of Vaughan has a Fireworks By-law? Or that fireworks can only be set off on Victoria Day and Canada Day until 11 p.m. without a permit? The City reviews its by-laws on a regular basis and is in the process of reviewing and updating the Fireworks By-law. Last fall, more than 900 participants completed an online survey to share their thoughts on the current Fireworks By-law, and whether or not there are any new rules or regulations the City should consider putting in place.



Find out more at vaughan.ca/fireworks.



Vaughan's Accessibility Champions

Celebrating this year's accessibility heroes!

On Dec. 13, 2021, the City of Vaughan hosted a virtual ceremony to recognize the 2021 Vaughan Accessibility Champion Awards recipients.

Established in 2019 by the City of Vaughan's Accessibility Advisory Committee, the 2021 Accessibility Champion Awards were presented to selected recipients in the following four categories:

- an individual
- a small business with fewer than 20 employees
- a medium or large business with 20 or more employees
- an individual with a disability

The live-streamed event was hosted by Bryan Keshen, a member of the Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee, a former 2019 Accessibility Champion Award recipient and President and Chief Executive Officer at REENA, and included virtual greetings from Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua and Chair of the committee Regional Councillor Linda Jackson. In addition, award recipients provided remarks, including Elio Riggillo, winner in the Individual with a Disability category; Meenu Sikand, winner in the

Individual category; John Groe, winner in the Small Business category; and Marnie and Rena Schwartz from ViBE Dance and Fitness, winner in the Medium or Large Business category.

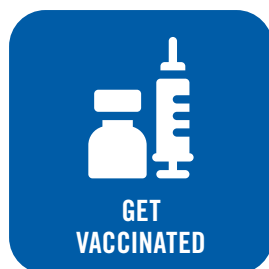
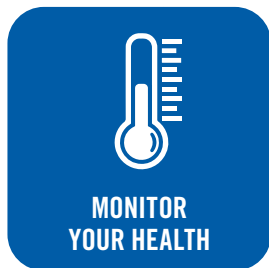
Acknowledging community leaders through the Vaughan Accessibility Champion Awards reflects the City's commitment to advancing an inclusive and accessible community. The awards also align with several priorities outlined in the 2018-2022 Term of Council Service Excellence Strategic Plan, including enhancing citizen experience, contributing to an active, safe and diverse community, and city-building that fosters community well-being in public spaces.



To watch a video of the event and learn more about how the City champions accessibility, visit vaughan.ca/accessibility.

COVID-19 isn't ready to give up the fight

Help strengthen our armour.
Join the battle to protect
your community by following
these public health
measures:



Learn more at
york.ca/covid19

Destination VMC

Vaughan is constantly evolving – and the transformation of the city’s downtown is leading the charge. The Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (VMC) is emerging as a bustling hub that provides residents, businesses and visitors with all amenities of an urban lifestyle: multi-use office towers, residences, subway access, green space, urban squares, retail areas, restaurants, walking and cycling paths, and more.

The VMC is the largest and most ambitious project in the City of Vaughan’s history, and it continues to transform. The City is committed to ensuring that the downtown is developed as a complete and balanced community with high-density mixed uses that are transit-supportive and pedestrian-friendly, in addition to offering a vibrant sense of place, high-quality of life and environmentally sustainable design approaches.

With approximately 179 hectares of development opportunities, the VMC continues to attract residential and commercial investments – much of which is grounded in momentous construction projects that contribute to the VMC’s growing skyline.

More than a decade into its evolution, it is now time to focus on initiatives that can help people live in, work at and get around the core with easier commutes, green space and parks, easier pick-ups and drop-offs and accessible visitor parking – all in an effort to create a seamless experience in, out and around the VMC.

Here are some projects currently underway within the VMC:

VMC Secondary Plan Update

With rapid growth, increased interest in residential developments, expanding workforce and growing visitor and commuter numbers, the City has initiated an update to the existing VMC Secondary Plan – and your help is needed! In fall 2020, the City kicked off this update by collecting public feedback on the issues, strengths and opportunities in the area. In March 2021, the City held an online, self-guided Public Open House to share key findings of the study to date and offer citizens the opportunity to provide feedback and ideas to help guide future growth and transformation in the VMC. As the study progresses, there will continue to be additional ways to get involved and have your say.



Visit vaughan.ca/VMCPlan to learn more about the study.

VMC Transportation Master Plan Update

A Transportation Master Plan Update is underway to guide the City’s approach to transportation and land-use planning in the VMC. The planned VMC road network was developed almost a decade ago as part of the City’s 2012 Transportation Master Plan. Since then, transportation throughout Vaughan has expanded and evolved, including the opening of the VMC subway station and bus terminal. An updated mobility review is now required to support the area’s development through 2041. An implementation plan for transportation infrastructure improvements, policies and programs will also be created as part of the update. In addition, two Municipal Class Environmental Assessments are being advanced as part of the transportation update to extend Millway Avenue and Interchange Way.



Learn more at vaughan.ca/VMCTMP.

VMC Parks and Wayfinding Master Plan Update – Implementation Plan

By undertaking the VMC Parks and Wayfinding Master Plan, the City will guide the timely development of parks and open spaces in the VMC and create a signage strategy to make the area easier to navigate. Public engagement is a vital component of this plan as feedback continues to be incorporated in the development of the VMC Parks and Wayfinding Master Plan to date and includes refinements to the master plan, and the development of signage concepts.



Learn more about the project at vaughan.ca/VMCParks.

Phase 2 – VMC Development of Cultural and Performing Arts Centre

Cultural hubs are amenities that create community and have social and economic benefits, including city-building and placemaking, investment attraction, job creation, tourism attraction, academic and social innovations and civic pride. The City recently completed Phase 1 of a feasibility study to assess market demand, community needs and development concepts to support the development of a Performing and Cultural Arts Centre within the VMC. Phase 2 will build on Phase 1’s findings by conducting a site selection and developing an operating model and it will provide a model and value proposition opportunity for the potential development and partnership of a state-of-the-art multi-purpose cultural facility to demonstrate viability based on an economic self-sufficiency revenue source model.



Learn more at vaughan.ca/art.

Black Creek Renewal Update

The City previously completed the Black Creek Storm Water Optimization Study Master Plan Class Environmental Assessment. The study identified a range of alternative solutions to reduce flooding and flood damages, improve water quality and limit stream bank erosion in Black Creek. The preferred solution to address flooding was determined to be the reconstruction and renewal of Black Creek between the Edgeley Pond (north of Highway 7) and Highway 407. The VMC Black Creek Renewal Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study, in the area east of Jane Street from south of Highway 7 to north of Highway 407, will consider different potential alignments and physical forms for Black Creek within the study area and establish a plan for the renewal of Black Creek that will be compatible with the proposed land uses within the study area.



Learn more about the study at vaughan.ca/BlackCreek.



To learn more about everything happening in and around the VMC, visit myvmc.ca.



Explore more in Vaughan

As the New Year begins, make it your resolution to explore more in Vaughan. The city has a lot to offer, not just for travellers, but also local residents. There's a vibrant downtown core, unique visitor experiences, great dining establishments, accessible City park amenities, lush trails and so much more. Find out for yourself why Vaughan has become a year-round destination to shop, dine and play.

Shop local

Search the racks at Vaughan Mills for the latest trends, or stroll through the one-of-a-kind boutiques in Kleinburg Village. Vaughan is full of retailers that support local artisans, makers and small businesses.

Show your support by:

- shopping in-person, online or curbside at a local business.
- buying gift cards from local stores.



Visit visitvaughan.ca/shop for a list of shops where you can find your new favourite thing.



Dine local

Do you have a tried-and-true favourite neighbourhood restaurant? Or do you want to try a new spot for the first time? Vaughan has some world-class dining experiences ready for your taste buds to discover.

Show your support by:

- ordering takeout or delivery from a Vaughan restaurant or café.
- dining safely in a restaurant in the city.
- buying gift cards from local restaurants.



Visit visitvaughan.ca/dine for a list of fantastic dining establishments.

Play local

Whether visiting the newest feature at the hottest attraction, going on nature walks through the City's trails and local parks, skating outdoors or skiing, Vaughan has something for everyone.

Show your support by:

- purchasing an admission ticket.
- buying gift cards from local attractions.
- planning the perfect outdoor excursion for your family and friends.



Visit visitvaughan.ca/pitstops for a list of exciting attractions.



For a list of outdoor City amenities – all guaranteed to give you memories to last a lifetime - visit vaughan.ca/PlayVaughanLocal.

Share the local love

When you find a great spot in Vaughan, share the local love with your family and friends by using **#ShopVaughanLocal**, **#DineVaughanLocal** or **#PlayVaughanLocal** on social media.

Be a confident consumer

Many Vaughan businesses are showing their commitment to providing a safe shop-in and dine-in customer experience through two consumer confidence identifiers: the POST Promise and the Safe Travels Stamp. These nationally and internationally recognized identifiers are visual cues acknowledging the business is working to prevent the spread of COVID-19, following public health measures and supporting a safe in-store experience.

To help you find the right store or business, view the City of Vaughan's Open for Business online directory at vaughan.ca/OpenForBusiness. It includes many services and Vaughan-based businesses that are open or providing modified

operations in person, by phone, online, takeout or delivery.



Vaughan businesses interested in being included in the list may apply at vaughan.ca/OpenForBusiness.

Business Owners

As COVID-19 continues to evolve, the City remains committed to working with all levels of government to support entrepreneurs and small business owners. Maintaining the competitiveness of the local economy throughout the global pandemic is a priority.

If you are a Vaughan business owner looking to reassure a safe dine-in and shop-in customer experience through the POST Promise and the Safe Travels Stamp, here is what you need to know:

- **POST PROMISE:** a self-declaration for any business through a national not-for-profit corporation built specifically for this effort. Taking the POST Promise is a pre-requisite for the Safe Travels Stamp and the Vaughan Safe Travels Toolkit.



- **SAFE TRAVELS STAMP AND VAUGHAN TOOLKIT:** a nationally recognized program for tourism businesses, including restaurants, through the World Travel and Tourism Corporation and the Tourism Industry Association of Ontario (TIAO). This kit includes marketing assets to share the stamp on your business' website, social media channels, e-newsletter, counter signs, window decals and more, all shipped free of charge.



To learn more and to apply, visit vaughanbusiness.ca/ConsumerConfidence.



So, as you look for new adventures this winter, check out visitvaughan.ca for the ultimate staycation ideas – right here in your own city.

On-street Parking Solutions Within the VMC



As of October 2021, new on-street parking options have been made available on New Park Place, Apple Mill Road and Buttermill Avenue within Vaughan's downtown core.

Through the development of the City of Vaughan's VMC Parking Strategy, additional measures were identified that are needed to address public parking in the core to support the emerging mixed-use community. In response, a pilot project has begun and will continue for two years to permit paid on-street parking options within the VMC. The paid solutions are managed through ParkedIn's pay-by-license-plate

meter technology – a mobile payment platform by Precise ParkLink allowing users to scan, pay and proceed to their destination securely, quickly and easily. Visitors can simply pay for parking by downloading the ParkedIn mobile app and using the Scan-to-Pay option available at the parking facility, as well as traditional methods like cash, coins or credit cards.



For more information, visit myvmc.ca/parking.

City building advances in Vaughan

As one of the fastest-growing municipalities in Canada, Vaughan continues to be a city of choice! A high standard of living, accessible location, world-class amenities, development opportunities, subway connection and so much more contribute to the demand that fuels record-breaking construction values in Vaughan year after year.

Since 2010, more than \$13 billion in building permits have been issued by the City and despite the global COVID-19 pandemic, city-building did not slow down in 2021.

Several city-wide and focused studies have been identified and are currently underway that will guide development for intensification areas. Some of the projects include:



Weston 7 Secondary Plan and Transportation Master Plan:
vaughan.ca/Weston7



Vaughan Official Plan Review: vaughan.ca/OPR



Vaughan Transportation Plan: vaughan.ca/TransportationPlan



VMC Parks and Wayfinding Master Plan:
vaughan.ca/VMCParks



Integrated Urban Water Master Plan:
vaughan.ca/UrbanWaterPlan

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the City has continued to provide essential city-building services such as building code enforcement, processing of building permits, conducting inspections and issuing occupancy permits – all to keep Vaughan growing, innovating and adapting to the needs of the community.

The City has also continued to innovate its processes to ensure planning approvals and shovel-ready projects can move forward throughout the pandemic, including introducing digital development application submissions, electronic-participation Pre-application Consultation meetings, and virtual Heritage Vaughan and Design Review Panel meetings.



To help maintain Vaughan's resilient economy and streamline city-building processes, the City expanded its online service

delivery to accept, review and approve development engineering permit applications through vaughan.ca/ServiceVaughan. The portal also allows users – both building industry professionals and citizens – to apply and pay for grading and pool permits, in addition to other planning-related permits.



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Early Bird and Grand Prizes!

Proceeds to benefit
Mackenzie Health.



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Green Directions Vaughan – at home!

The City of Vaughan is fostering a sustainable, green city for current and future generations to enjoy – even in the winter. The City's commitment to sustainability has been central to many City-led green initiatives and actions, including Green Directions Vaughan, the City's strategy and plan to make the community even more sustainable. Created in 2009 and updated in 2019, this long-term plan leads the City to a more sustainable future by addressing environmental, cultural, social and economic values.

Guided by a definition of sustainability, environmental ethics and a set of principles, Green Directions Vaughan outlines the City's approach to maintaining a healthy and natural environment, vibrant communities and a strong economy through six goals and more than 70 actions. Together, Vaughan's residents, community groups, businesses, industry leaders and environmental groups will be able to successfully reach these shared goals.

This winter, the City challenges you to find your own green direction and help make

Vaughan an even more green city. Here are five tips for you to enhance sustainability efforts in your home this winter:

1. Don't leave your car running in the driveway to warm it up. Driving warms up your vehicle faster than sitting idle with the engine running! Instead, idle for 10 seconds or less, and when in your car is in park position, turn the vehicle off instead of sitting idle. Idling for more than 10 seconds uses more fuel than it takes to restart your vehicle. You can also take public transit during really chilly days.
2. Install weather stripping on windows and doors to help reduce household energy use. A rolled-up towel works too! As well, replacing furnace filters every month, bundling up in warm clothing and using a warm blanket when sleeping or relaxing instead of turning up the heat, opening your curtains on sunny days and closing them at night, and swapping incandescent outdoor and holiday lights to LED lights can help reduce the overall energy consumption in your home.

3. Eat what's in season. Eating locally reduces emissions from transportation and supports local farmers and the economy. Research farmers markets that are open year-round and look for the Foodland Ontario logo at grocery stores.
4. Purchase your winter gear from second-hand, thrift or vintage clothing stores. This can help keep items out of landfills and reduce your household waste.
5. Reduce salt usage this winter. Do this by shoveling snow first, only salting areas where people walk, and reading the manufacturers label on the salt to optimize quantity and temperatures for salting.

Try these tips and share your sustainability efforts on social media by tagging the City and using the hashtag #GreenDirectionsVaughan.



Learn more about these initiatives and more by visiting vaughan.ca/GreenDirections.

How did that building get there?

Vaughan's planning process, explained.

As one of the fastest-growing cities in Canada, Vaughan is continually growing and changing – and the City is managing this evolution. Buildings don't just get there. All developments undergo a careful review by City staff, Vaughan Council and public agencies, including the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, York Region and provincial ministries where appropriate...and you! Did you know you could have a say on development proposals before shovels hit the ground? Have you ever wondered how development proposals are approved? Or do you want to know more about submitting applications?

Here's how it works:

Development refers to any activity resulting in a change of land use, construction of a new building or the creation of a parcel of land. **Development applications** are proposals put forward by a landowner – these are carefully considered and reviewed to ensure consistency with municipal, regional and provincial plans and policies.

The following types of policies, plans and by-laws are what guide development in the city:

- Provincial and regional plans and policies
- Secondary Plans
- Vaughan's Official Plan
- Zoning By-laws

Development proposals must go through the following four-step review and decision-making process:

- **Step 1:** Pre-applications are submitted to the City
- **Step 2:** Public meetings are held to share the proposed application
- **Step 3:** City staff review the application
- **Step 4:** Council makes a decision

In advance of submitting an application, the landowner must consult with the City's Development Planning staff. Once the application has been submitted, a sign is posted on the site to let the community know what is being proposed and a written notice is sent to residents living within 150 metres (sometimes more) of the site in question, informing them of an upcoming public meeting. The public meeting is for the landowner to present the draft plan and for Council to hear the community's input. No decision is made at this time.



Following the public meeting, City staff review the application, including supporting materials and all comments made at the meeting or submitted in writing. A comprehensive report is also prepared for Council's review at a future Committee of the Whole. During this meeting, a recommendation on the application will be made. At the following meeting of Council, Vaughan Council will hold a formal vote to approve, amend or refuse the application.



As part of the City's commitment to open and accessible government, Council encourages citizens to get involved in the decision-making process. You can get involved by learning more about the application at vaughan.ca/maps and clicking on the "PLANit" button, or by:

- speaking to Council live via telephone or teleconference during a Committee of the Whole Meeting.
- submitting a written communication for review by Members of Council as part of an agenda item.



What kind of city do you want Vaughan to be in 30 years?

Vaughan has a population of 341,600 people and 240,200 jobs. Over the next three decades, it is projected Vaughan will become home to 227,100 more people and provide nearly 111,800 additional jobs. This expected growth will account for almost one-third of York Region's growth to 2051.

The City is now updating its current Vaughan Official Plan through the Official Plan Review to plan for new growth in a way that is strategic, thoughtful, appropriate and aligned with what Vaughan residents and businesses value most.

You can play a big role in the Official Plan Review as it progresses. What you share will help the City identify needs and priorities and shape the future of Vaughan. Throughout the review process, the City will ask questions like:

- How and where should growth happen?
- What kind of city do you want Vaughan to be in 30 years?
- How would you like to get around the city?

DID YOU KNOW?

The City reviews the following six types of development applications, governed by the *Planning Act*: Draft Plan of Condominiums, Draft Plan of Subdivisions, Official Plan Amendments, Part-Lot Control Exceptions, Site Development Applications and Zoning By-law Amendments.

- speaking directly with your Local or Regional Councillor.
- contacting the City planner directly via Access Vaughan at 905-832-2281 or accessvaughan@vaughan.ca.



Visit vaughan.ca/PlanningProcess for additional information on the planning process, land-use plans, development applications and to find more details about how you can get involved.

- What does a complete community look like to you?
- How can Vaughan be more sustainable?

There have been and will continue to be opportunities to get involved and have your say throughout the Official Plan Review process. With workshops, online surveys, public meetings and more, there are many ways to **Get Inspired; Get Involved!**



For more information and to register to receive updates, visit vaughan.ca/OPR or contact the Official Plan Review team by email at oprmanager@vaughan.ca or by phone at 905-832-2281, ext. 8699.

COMING SOON: Online permit and licence purchases and renewals

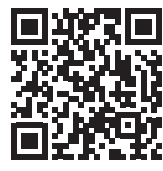
Licences and permits are required to do many things in the city, like running a business, hosting a special event, owning an animal and doing construction on your home. Many of the licences and permits managed by By-law and Compliance, Licensing and Permit Services will soon be available online through Service Vaughan. You will be able to apply for, renew and pay for a variety of licences and permits, as well as check the status of your application, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Service Vaughan is an online, easily accessible and efficient first point of contact for many service requests, including reporting an issue with a streetlight, requesting street maintenance and purchasing garbage tags.

The City of Vaughan continues to modify and transition many services and programs online to better support citizens and businesses. The Service Vaughan platform is one of these innovations. By going digital, the City has seen and continues to see significant process improvements, increased efficiency and cost savings, all while protecting the health and well-being of staff and citizens during the global COVID-19 pandemic.



Visit vaughan.ca/ServiceVaughan to learn about all the services you can access online and create your online account.



To learn more about the licences and permits managed by By-law and Compliance, Licensing and Permit Services, visit vaughan.ca/bylaw.



One-stop shop for all your business needs

As COVID-19 has evolved over the past two years, the City of Vaughan has remained committed to working with all levels of government to support entrepreneurs and small business owners. Maintaining the competitiveness of the local economy throughout the global pandemic continues to be a priority.

Vaughan Business Resilience Plan

In June 2020, the City jumped into action and launched the Vaughan Business Resilience Plan as an immediate and long-term plan to help Vaughan's business community build capacity to adapt to the post-pandemic world. Through this plan, the City's Economic and Cultural Development department will continue to:

- help businesses and the economy build resilience.
- build resilience into key economic opportunities and strategic sectors like healthcare, supply chain and manufacturing, and tourism.
- share Vaughan's reimagined public spaces within physical distancing guidelines and invite the community to experience Vaughan's culture and arts.

Advisory consultations

The Economic and Cultural Development department offers advisory consultations to entrepreneurs and businesses of all stages and sizes. Whether you're thinking about your first venture idea or looking for solutions to complex industry challenges, the team can provide resources, training and hands-on assistance to help you start or grow your business in Vaughan.

Or maybe you are interested in expanding or relocating in Vaughan. The team can also help by supporting your real estate search, connecting you to the right people, sharing information on Vaughan, and advising on other opportunities and challenges.



Consultations are available via tele- or video-conference, email and phone. Visit vaughanbusiness.ca to book a consultation.

Partnership opportunities

The City of Vaughan offers a variety of partnership opportunities and customized sponsorships. From purchasing the Naming Rights to a city facility, to program partnerships and infrastructure support, the City can customize an opportunity that not only meets your business objectives, but also allows you to give back through an investment in your community.



For more information, visit vaughan.ca/CorporatePartnerships.

Workshops

The team also hosts educational webinars and workshops on various topics, including innovation, business resiliency, business planning, marketing and finance.



Visit vaughanbusiness.ca/events to see the event listing.



To stay informed on the City of Vaughan's latest business resources and initiatives, sign up for the Economic and Cultural Development department's eNewsletters at vaughanbusiness.ca/enewsletters.

By continually aligning its people, priorities, processes and technology, the Economic and Cultural Development department delivers services and programs that enhance the City's economic prosperity, investment and social capital.



To see how the Economic and Cultural Development department can help you start or grow your business, visit vaughanbusiness.ca.

What to know when you need a tow

The City of Vaughan's Licensing By-law 315-2005 regulates how tow truck operators can conduct business in Vaughan and what information they must provide to citizens. The City also sets tow truck rates after a collision to protect the public from excessive charges at a time when people are vulnerable.

In the event of a motor-vehicle collision, you may need the assistance of a tow truck. Here are a few things to keep in mind.

- After a collision, you should:
- Call police at 9-1-1 if someone is hurt, if you think the other driver has committed a crime, such as impaired driving, or if there is significant damage.

- Remove vehicles from the roadway, if it is safe to do so.
- Exchange information with the other people involved, including witnesses.
- Call your insurance provider.

Know your rights

- As a customer, you are entitled to:
- decide who will tow your vehicle.
 - decide where your vehicle will be towed, including to your residence.
 - review the towing rate sheet and all details and costs before your vehicle is towed.
 - refuse to accept a tow for any reason.

How to identify licensed tow trucks

- All Vaughan-licensed tow trucks display a City-issued decal on the side of their vehicle. The decal has the letter "V" and up to four digits.
- All Vaughan-licensed tow truck operators must have a licence photo identification document.



To learn more, visit vaughan.ca/TowTruck.

Wildlife in Vaughan

Vaughan is home to many types of wild animals, such as raccoons, skunks, birds and coyotes. Often the best way to prevent issues with wildlife is to make small changes on your property and in your actions. For example, removing food sources, water and shelter will encourage wildlife to go elsewhere.

Directly or unintentionally feeding a wild animal will increase their tolerance to people and pets as they begin to associate people with food. Here are a few things you can do:

- Seal household garbage and compost containers.
- Keep outdoor barbecues clean.
- Do not feed your domestic pets outside.
- Reconsider bird feeders as they attract small mammals, which encourage larger wild animals to visit your yard.

Coyotes

Coyote sightings in cities and rural areas are common and should not be cause for alarm. If a coyote approaches you directly:

- Stop. Pick up small children and pets.
- Shout loudly, wave your arms high in the air or snap a plastic bag.
- Back away slowly while remaining calm.
- Never run or turn your back on a coyote.

Sick or injured wild animals

Officers are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to respond to calls about sick or injured wildlife. To file a report, call Vaughan Animal Services at 905-832-2281.



For more information, visit vaughan.ca/AnimalServices or call 905-832-2281.



Service Animals

The City of Vaughan welcomes service animals at all municipal facilities.

Service Animals Save Lives

Service animals can save lives and improve the quality of life for people with disabilities by performing specific functions and services to assist the individual. That includes guide dogs for people who are blind or partially sighted, cats to aid people living with anxiety, and rats trained to be alert to muscle spasms.

What can you do to support people with service animals?

- Put the person first – the animal won't mind.
- Assume independence. The service animal and the handler are one independent unit. The handler knows best how to handle their animal. If you think someone could use some

- help, ask how you can help before stepping in.
- Recognize that people can bring their service animals to any public space.
- Don't distract service animals. Help service animals do a good job by saving snacks and cuddles for your pets at home.

Did you know?

The *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* requires businesses to allow people with disabilities to bring their service animals onto business premises in whatever areas customers are generally allowed.



For more information, visit vaughan.ca/AnimalServices or call 905-832-2281.

Public Works is always innovating

Providing you with quality services remains the priority. That's why the City has launched many technological innovations in Public Works to keep Vaughan moving.

Here are just some of the innovations the team is currently utilizing.

Winter maintenance using Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The City uses AI technology in its winter maintenance operations to leverage weather forecasts, data from actual road conditions. This, paired with Vaughan's operating best practices, informs the best treatment for roads and sidewalks.

In the past three winter seasons, the City reduced salt usage by 30 per cent per operation with an average salt reduction of 4,000 tons per winter. This led to an annual savings of approximately \$400,000. AI also allowed for better visibility into road treatments up to 24 hours in advance so staff could plan and advise the community with greater certainty on how the City will respond to a winter event.

Garbage bin sensors

To combat garbage bin overflow in parks, the City has placed sensors under the lids of select bins allowing staff to monitor the fill-levels remotely and receive notifications when they need to be emptied. The sensors use real-time and historical data to optimize waste collection schedules along routes, saving on fuel, labour and fleet maintenance.

Since the launch in the summer of 2021, the City has installed 60 sensors in parks and has reduced the average distance traveled to empty waste bins by 18 per cent. Additionally, more than 130,000 litres of garbage have been collected from the outfitted cans, reducing the amount of overflow in bins and litter in parks.

Smart Hydrants

In 2020, the City installed five Smart Hydrant kits as a pilot project. The devices provide the City with useful insights into the water system, such as drops in pressure, temperature information and more. The Smart Hydrant kits have real-time system monitoring, data storage and analytics to identify potential leaks within infrastructure and their locations to generate alerts to staff to investigate.

Currently, the City is working to secure 10 more Smart Hydrant kits to add to its infrastructure.

Love your park; leave no mark

Littering has a negative impact on everyone – from park visitors to wildlife

vaughan.ca/litter

City of Vaughan Mayor and Members of Council



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Mayor of Vaughan



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Six outstanding individuals invested into the 2021 Order of Vaughan

On Tuesday, Dec. 21, Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua presided over the City's virtual Order of Vaughan investiture ceremony as six people were appointed to the Order of Vaughan in 2021. The Order of Vaughan is the highest civic honour the City may bestow on individuals who exemplify extraordinary citizenship and better the community.

The following six remarkable individuals received the Order in 2021 for their pivotal role in shaping the community:

- **Bryan Keshen** – in recognition of contributions to Accessibility
- **Elvira Caria** – in recognition of contributions to Public Service

- **Iolanda De Simone Masci** – in recognition of contributions to Philanthropy
- **Joseph Sgro** – in recognition of contributions to Health and Wellness
- **Dr. Karine Rashkovsky** – in recognition of contributions to Education
- **Dr. Mark Terry** – in recognition of contributions to Media and Communications

The Order of Vaughan inaugural ceremony took place in 2016 during the City's 25th anniversary year. The award was created to pay tribute to individuals who have made a meaningful impact on Vaughan's civic life and dedicate their time and talent to the city's ongoing success. It

recognizes leaders within the following categories: arts and entertainment, media and communications, athletics, health and wellness, business, philanthropy, public service, education, science and technology, not-for-profit, equity and diversity, accessibility, and environment and spirituality.



To learn more about the Order of Vaughan, visit vaughan.ca/OrderOfVaughan.

