

CITY HALL CONNECTS

Spring 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 spring.

Message from Mayor Steven Del Duca

Dear neighbour,

Our city has a long and proud history, one that's been influenced by champions and leaders who were passionate about delivering critical infrastructure, and recognizing that for us to move forward, we need to work hard.

Vaughan is ambitious, and our city has long been known for both its brains and its brawn. Now is the time for us to set the stage for our next act by nourishing our community's soul.

I'm proud to share that Vaughan is about to get front-row seats to this booming industry:

I am thrilled to announce that Vaughan will soon be home to a state-of-the-art performing arts and cultural centre. This initiative represents a significant investment in our city's cultural vitality and economic growth.

This new venue will be a cornerstone of the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre, symbolizing our commitment to embracing the arts as a catalyst for both personal and economic growth.

It's long-awaited and long talked about, but the time for talk is over. We're going to get it done.

But the good news for Vaughan doesn't end there.

On April 5, 2024, I was thrilled to join Premier Ford to officially announce the approval and funding of York University's School of Medicine, located in the Vaughan Healthcare Centre Precinct (VHCP). When ready, this new School of Medicine will play a vital role in addressing our community's healthcare needs and doctor shortage.

The partnership between the City of Vaughan, York University, Mackenzie Health and ventureLAB envisions the VHCP as a magnet for excellence in health research, education, commercialization and more. Our city is well on its way to becoming a world-class health innovation destination.

Our economy is strong, and our community is vibrant, and whether it's housing, transportation, community safety or harnessing the magic of the creative industries, we know that Vaughan is unstoppable. Bet on Vaughan—we are a city that continues to grow.

Steven Del Duca
Mayor



Protect yourself against auto theft

Get your **FREE** key fob protective bag today!

vaughan.ca/bylaw



Taking strong action on unauthorized car rallies

One of the many steps the City of Vaughan has taken to prioritize public safety is to prohibit any participation in unauthorized car rallies – which typically involve people gathering with modified vehicles to do stunts.

They can involve taking over private property, like parking lots, or roads. These events do not have a permit or permission from the City to take place. Unauthorized car rallies are disruptive to the quality of life in Vaughan and pose a significant risk to community safety. They often come with excessive noise, speeding, stunt driving and blocking or impeding motor or pedestrian traffic.

In March 2024, Vaughan Council approved changes to the City's [Special Events By-law](#) and [Noise By-law](#) to address this serious concern!



The Special Events By-law 047-2024 now prohibits any participation in unauthorized car rallies, including:

- sponsoring, collecting money for, co-ordinating, advertising or hosting an unauthorized car rally.
- spectating, attending or bringing a vehicle to an unauthorized car rally.
- driving or riding as a passenger in a motor vehicle at an unauthorized car rally.
- stopping, slowing or impeding the movement of traffic, including pedestrian traffic, as a consequence of an unauthorized car rally.
- being a vendor at an unauthorized car rally.

The Noise By-law 046-2024 prohibits anyone from emitting, causing or permitting noise from an unauthorized car rally.

Fines

The City and York Regional Police (YRP) are enforcing these by-law amendments. The maximum fine for participating in an unauthorized car rally is \$10,000 and the maximum fine for breaking the Noise By-law is \$5,000.

How to report

- To report a suspected unauthorized car rally, call Service Vaughan at **905-832-2281**.
- To report non-emergencies to YRP, call **1-866-876-5423**.
- If you have immediate safety concerns, call **9-1-1**.



Learn more at vaughan.ca/CarRallies

Promoting safe and healthy communities

Public safety is a leading priority for the City of Vaughan. We are committed to fostering a high quality of life through comprehensive initiatives, by-laws and fire protection services that promote safe and healthy communities.



Many steps are being taken to ensure our community continues to be a safe place for everyone who lives, works and visits here:

- In 2023, Mayor Steven Del Duca wrote to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the Minister of Public Safety calling for all levels of government to work together to ensure dangerous offenders are kept off the streets and to address the rise in auto thefts in Vaughan and York Region.

- The City held a series of public meetings last year on community safety to provide updates and hear about the issues that matter to you.

- To help fight auto theft, Vaughan residents can pick up a free key fob protective bag at any Vaughan community centre or the City Hall welcome desk.
- Ongoing partnerships with YRP are advancing community safety initiatives. For information and resources, visit yrp.ca.
- In March, Vaughan Council approved by-law amendments prohibiting unauthorized car rallies.

You can take an active role in fostering a safe and healthy community:

- To report by-law infractions, call Service Vaughan at **905-832-2281**.
- To report non-emergencies, call YRP at **1-866-876-5423**.
- If you have concerns for safety, call **9-1-1**.

Safety concerns?

Call YRP's non-emergency line for support: **1-866-876-5423**

For emergencies, dial 9-1-1

PROTECT WHAT MATTERS MOST. TEST YOUR SMOKE ALARMS TODAY.

Mayor Del Duca welcomes approval and funding for York University's School of Medicine in Vaughan



On March 26, Mayor Steven Del Duca joined Premier Doug Ford as he announced approval and funding for York University's School of Medicine as part of the Ontario Government's 2024 Budget. This critical infrastructure will have far-reaching impacts on future students and patients. When built, this new medical school will play a vital role in delivering more family doctors for communities like Vaughan. It is another important step forward on the

City's journey toward becoming a leading destination for healthcare excellence.

The School of Medicine is foundational to one of the City's most ambitious projects, the Vaughan Healthcare Centre Precinct (VHCP). Together, the City, York University, Mackenzie Health and ventureLAB are building the VHCP into a magnet for excellence in health research, education, commercialization and more.

Championing the arts and creative industries



In addition, Mayor Del Duca announced key initiatives the City is undertaking to position Vaughan as a leading destination and creative hub for residents, visitors, artists, entrepreneurs and industry leaders, including:

- Introducing the **Host in Vaughan Grant program**, a new fund to enhance tourism across the city.
- Advancing a new **Creative Arts and Cultural Industries Advisory Committee** of Council.
- Expanding the **ARTonBOXES** program to animate public spaces with more than 100 new public art installations.
- Building on the City's Memorandum of Understanding with the **McMichael Canadian Art Collection** and the **Vaughan International Film Festival** to advance the city's arts, culture and creative industries.
- Developing plans for a **cultural arts district** in the VMC.

On March 20, Mayor Steven Del Duca delivered his keynote address during the Annual Mayor's Luncheon presented by the Vaughan Chamber of Commerce and plans to build a performing and cultural arts centre took centre stage. Mayor Del Duca outlined a plan for the City of Vaughan to develop a performing and cultural arts centre within the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (VMC).

Kirby Road is being extended!



To improve transportation and mobility, reduce gridlock and help you travel more seamlessly throughout the community, we are extending Kirby Road between Dufferin Street and Bathurst Street.

The City hired KAPP Infrastructure Inc. to undertake the detailed design and construction of the road extension. The project is expected to break ground in late 2024 and is anticipated to be complete by summer 2026. The newly extended Kirby Road will feature:

- four lanes (two in each direction).
- a new bridge structure crossing East Patterson Creek.
- connections to a future underpass trail crossing at East Patterson Creek.
- an in-boulevard multi-use pathway for cyclists and pedestrians.
- drainage improvements.
- enhanced roadway lighting.
- intersection improvements at both Dufferin Street and Bathurst Street.
- updated traffic signals.

This extension will complete the missing link between east Vaughan to west Richmond Hill and make it easier to get across the city. It will also shorten travel times and provide additional pedestrian options for everyone living and working in the area.



Learn more at vaughan.ca/KirbyExtension

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

YORK REGION TRANSPORTATION, PUBLIC WORKS

Phone: 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75000 | TTY: 1-866-512-6228 | Email: transportation@york.ca
After hours emergency: 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75200



Make your spring clean 'green'!



The sun is out and the birds are chirping, which means you may be starting to spring clean in and around your home. To help you prepare for a fresh start, check out our top waste disposal tips and reminders:

- **Leaf and yard waste:** Vaughan's [leaf and yard waste collection](#) is back and started the week of April 16! The City will pick up yard waste materials every week on your regular collection day – please ensure they are placed at the curb no later than 7 a.m.

- **Catch basins:** While raking leaves, check if the catch basin closest to your home needs clearing. Catch basins blocked or covered by leaves and other debris can lead to water ponding and flooding on the road.
- **Organics:** Turn your fruit and vegetable scraps into garden fertilizer by starting [backyard composting](#). You can purchase a backyard composter through [Service Vaughan](#).
- **Large and bulky items:** The City picks up [large and bulky items](#) curbside, and each piece counts as one item toward the three-item garbage limit. The items must be kept dry and cannot exceed 68 kilograms (150 pounds) to reduce the weight for collection crews. Items must be free of all sharp and hazardous objects, such as nails. To check if an item is collected curbside, visit [vaughan.ca/waste](#).
- **Clothing:** Donate old, gently used and unwanted clothing to a [textile donation bin](#).
- **Household hazardous waste:** Dispose of household hazardous waste, such as batteries, pool chemicals and paint, at a [York Region waste depot](#). These items should never be placed in the garbage or poured down a drain.

- **Curbside Giveaway Days:** This city-wide waste reduction program is coming back soon! Reduce, reuse and recycle your gently used household items by placing them at the curb of your property for your neighbours to take for free. [Participate](#) in the first weekend on Saturday, May 25 and Sunday, May 26.

Not sure where a waste item belongs? You can check using the City's online ['What Goes Where?'](#) sorting tool. You can also download the free [Recycle Coach](#) app from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play](#) to learn what items go in what bin. The app provides waste-less tips and a personalized collection schedule with optional alerts on what to put to the curb each week.



Learn more at [vaughan.ca/waste](#)

How to pay your taxes

There are many easy and cashless ways to pay your property taxes in Vaughan:

- **Pre-authorized payment plans**, including a six-instalment and a 10-instalment option.
- **Post-dated cheques** made payable to the City of Vaughan that correspond with the amounts and due dates printed on the tax stubs.

- **Financial institutions**, either in person, through the bank machine, online or via telephone.
- **At City Hall**, placed in marked drop-off boxes at each entrance.
- **By mail**, with a cheque payable to the City of Vaughan and sent in the return envelope enclosed with the payment stub.

Keep in mind, all City facilities are cashless.



Learn more at [vaughan.ca/PropertyTax](#)

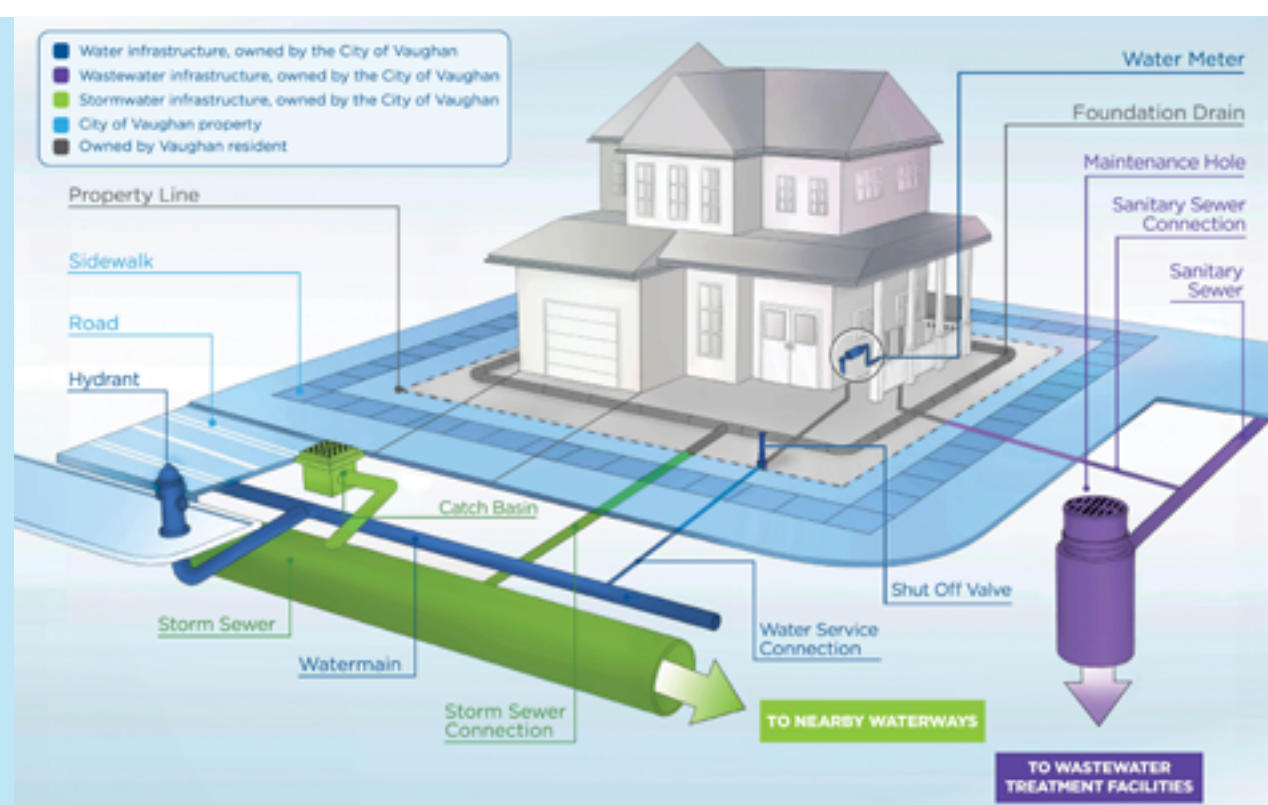


Water, wastewater and stormwater systems around the home

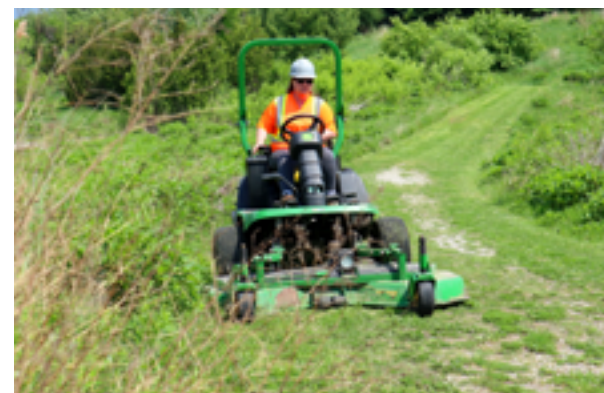
Did you know three different water systems run in and around your home? Vaughan's water, wastewater and stormwater systems work together to ensure safe and reliable drinking water comes out of your taps, wastewater exits when you flush a toilet and stormwater drains from your property when it rains.



Learn more at [vaughan.ca/water](#)



Keeping Vaughan clean, safe and beautiful this spring



It's getting warmer outside, and the City's dedicated Public Works crews have begun their annual spring maintenance and cleanup efforts around the community. They are working hard to keep Vaughan's public spaces safe and beautiful.

Here are some of the services you'll start to see ramping up over the next few weeks:

Weekly leaf and yard waste collection is on now!

It's time to get raking! The City is picking up leaf and yard waste materials every week on your scheduled collection day. Biweekly collection begins the week of **June 11**.



Learn more at [vaughan.ca/waste](#)

- **Catch basins** in residential areas are cleaned on a three-year rotation. This process involves using a vacuum truck to remove accumulated sediment and debris. This service takes place from April to May.
- **Grass cutting** begins in May and continues until October, for a total of 13 rotations on a bi-weekly basis.
- **Mechanical litter collection** – earlier this month, our crews resumed using Madvac, an innovative vacuum that targets hard-to-reach areas – to collect litter from Vaughan's parks, open spaces, paths and trails. This service runs until November.
- **Stormwater management ponds** undergo grass cutting and litter collection, for a total of three rotations, from May to October.

Dandelion season is around the corner

Dandelions typically bloom in May and June. While they are not harmful to your pets, lawn or garden, they can be an eyesore. Crews regularly cut the grass on City property to keep dandelions at a minimum. Even with regular cuts, areas may appear unkempt as weeds grow faster than grass.



Learn more at [vaughan.ca/parks](#)

- **Street sweeping** began earlier this month and runs until November.
- **Traffic services** staff will begin refreshing pavement markings and installing flexi-posts in May. They then remove the flexi-posts in November to accommodate the City's extensive winter maintenance program.
- **Fire hydrants** are inspected annually, and repainted yellow every five years. Inspections begin in April and end in November.

All spring operations are subject to weather conditions.



Learn more at [vaughan.ca/seasonal](#)

Stormwater ponds in Vaughan

Vaughan has more than 150 stormwater ponds, which collect rainfall and other runoff. They are built to reduce flooding, protect the environment from contaminants and erosion, create a habitat for wildlife and more. **But they are not made for play! Please keep a safe distance away.**



Learn more at [vaughan.ca/stormwater](#)

Living with wildlife

Vaughan is home to many wild animals including coyotes, raccoons, foxes and squirrels. As the weather gets warmer, it is normal to see them around the community. Keep these simple tips in mind so you and your family can live peacefully with urban wildlife.

Coyotes

If you encounter a coyote, keep your distance and keep pets on a short leash. If the coyote approaches you directly:

- **stop:** pick up children and small pets, if necessary.
- **stand your ground:** never run from a coyote, fox or domestic dog.
- **make yourself big:** wave your hands above your head.
- **be loud and assertive:** shout, stomp your feet and clap your hands.
- **use a noisemaker:** it could be your voice, pots and pans banged together, a shaker can (such as a pop can filled with pebbles), a plastic bag snapped around or an umbrella popped open and closed.
- **slowly back away:** be assertive as you leave so the animal knows it is not welcome.

Never feed wildlife

Directly or unintentionally feeding wild animals (like leaving food in parks or birdfeeders) will

increase their tolerance to people and pets – and is also subject to a \$500 fine!

Be a responsible pet owner

Always keep dogs on leashes when outdoors if you're not in a safe, enclosed backyard. And keep cats indoors or in a secure outdoor enclosure. Free-roaming pets are vulnerable to a multitude of dangers. Almost all conflicts between wildlife and dogs occur when they are off-leash.

Do not invite unwanted houseguests

Keep your home properly sealed so wildlife stays where it belongs – outdoors. Remove attractants by picking up dog feces, cleaning outdoor grills and securing recycling and compost bins. Put waste out the morning of your collection day, rather than leaving it on the street overnight. Collect and store bins and any uncollected garbage on the same day.

To report a sick or injured wild animal, call the City at **905-832-2281**.



Learn more at [vaughan.ca/AnimalServices](#)

Make your voice heard!



Have you ever wondered about the process of approving planning applications or how they're reviewed? Do you have questions about what happens during a Public Meeting? You can learn more about Vaughan's planning process and how you can get involved by visiting [vaughan.ca/PlanningProcess](#).



Watch what happens during a Public Process Planning Meeting.

Strengthening diversity in Vaughan

Vaughan is a diverse city where residents contribute to a mosaic of rich history and vibrant future with their cultural, economic and social achievements.

The City's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategy outlines our dedication to enhancing a true sense of belonging. It also aims to identify and address systemic discrimination and inequities in access to municipal services, community participation and civic engagement.

Here are a few ways we are strengthening inclusion and diversity in Vaughan:

Cultural events

The city is enriched by people from all walks of life who make up our unique and beautiful community. By creating opportunities to celebrate and learn about cultural and faith-based observances, including Tamil Heritage Month, Black History Month, Nowruz (the City held its inaugural event this year), Culture Days festivities, Menorah lightings, Christmas Tree lighting and many more, we are fostering a diverse and welcoming community that is inclusive and respectful, where everyone can engage and participate. To learn about Vaughan's cultural and festive events taking place throughout the year, visit vaughan.ca/events.



Speaking out against injustice

Vaughan is a city that stands up to all forms of hate, intolerance and discrimination, including anti-Black racism, antisemitism and Islamophobia. As a member of the [Municipal Diversity and Inclusion Group](#) and an endorsee of the [Inclusion Charter for York Region](#), we have joined the

#EndHateYR campaign. This regional initiative helps bring awareness to hate-motivated crimes and incidents, the impact on individuals and the community, and how community members can work together to eliminate hate and support those impacted. Learn more at york.ca/EndHate.



Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

We are paving the way to a more accessible and inclusive city! This commitment is reflected in our [2023-2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan \(MYAP\)](#), which outlines our strategic approach to advancing accessibility and inclusion, and how we will create a barrier-free community for all residents, visitors and businesses. The MYAP is a living document designed to be flexible and adaptive to the evolving needs of the Vaughan community. The plan will be reviewed, assessed and updated regularly to ensure its continued effectiveness and relevance. Learn more at vaughan.ca/accessibility.

Language Line

A true sense of belonging is created when diversity, inclusion and equity combine to make all people feel welcome and included. Part of that includes ensuring residents can get information about City services in the language they are most comfortable with. To do that, the City is proud to offer Language Line, an over-the-phone interpretation system that provides verbal translation in more than 150 languages. This service is free and can be requested when calling our Service Vaughan contact centre. Learn more at vaughan.ca/ServiceVaughan.

We will continue to build a pluralistic, tolerant, diverse and inclusive community – where all people are welcome to create better, more promising lives for themselves and their families.



Learn more at vaughan.ca/DEI

VAUGHAN Summer camps

Register now!

View the 2024 Summer Camps Brochure at vaughan.ca/camps

Support local: Shop and dine in Vaughan



Of the more than 19,500 businesses in Vaughan, more than 87 per cent are small enterprises. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy – that's why supporting local is so important. Home to a wide range of local businesses and restaurants, it's easy to shop and dine local in Vaughan!

Here's how you can show your local love:

- Dine at a Vaughan restaurant or café, or order takeout or delivery.
- Shop at a local business, in person or online.
- Purchase gift cards from local retailers or restaurants.
- Source local products when shopping with large online retailers.
- Leave a positive review on your favourite local restaurant or business' online profiles.

See what's on the menu at visitvaughan.ca/dine

View local store listings at visitvaughan.ca/shop

Get your business 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? We can help you promote it! All you have to do is request a listing on Tourism Vaughan's visitvaughan.ca website – a one-stop shop to attract visitors and help them plan a memorable trip to the city!



Learn more at visitvaughan.ca/GetListed

Host in Vaughan!

Our new grant program supports events that draw tourists here



Did you know the tourism sector creates one in 15 jobs nationwide and infuses more than \$100 billion into the Canadian economy? Tourism is a cornerstone of Vaughan's economic prosperity, which is why our Tourism Vaughan team has launched the [Host in Vaughan Grant](#) – a new fund to enhance tourism across the city!

This grant aims to boost tourism in Vaughan by encouraging visits and participation at local events, as well as by establishing strong partnerships between stakeholders in the Vaughan tourism sector.

This program was recently announced by Mayor Steven Del Duca as part of the City's ongoing efforts to highlight the arts and creative industries. Applications for the first intake period are being accepted now until **Wednesday, May 15**.

The Host in Vaughan Grant will help grow existing events and projects in Vaughan and attract new ones to the city. Funding is available for sports events, business conferences, tourism partnerships, major festivals and events, and community activations.



Learn more at hostinvaughan.ca/grant

Shop and dine local

Support Kleinburg Village

vaughan.ca/KleinburgVillage



Starter Company Plus

Start your business with the Vaughan Business and Entrepreneurship Centre!



If you've been considering starting a new business or looking for ways to expand your existing venture in Vaughan, you don't want to miss out on the City of Vaughan's [Starter Company Plus](#) program! The next application period is now open until **Monday, June 10**.

Through this program, the City offers tailored training for various business types, including brick-and-mortar, food and beverage, new startup and home-based, and technology

ventures to develop a business plan, marketing strategy, budget and financial forecast. The program includes one-on-one consultations with one of the City's business advisors who will support the development of your new business plan as well as the opportunity to apply for up to \$5,000 in provincial grant funding to execute it. Qualifying startup and home-based businesses will also be enrolled in training sessions offered through the Business Planning Launchpad Series while food- and tech-based businesses will be offered sector-specific mentorship and training delivered in partnership with York University's YSpace.

Application intake is ongoing for those interested in applying for grant funding.



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

Impaired vision or dyslexia shouldn't be a barrier to reading.

With the free CELA service, you can access over 1 million items with your library card.

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

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





2022-2026 Members of Council



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



Steven Del Duca
Mayor

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



Linda Jackson
Deputy Mayor, Local and Regional Councillor

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



Mario Ferri
Local and Regional Councillor

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



Gino Rosati
Local and Regional Councillor

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



Mario G. Racco
Local and Regional Councillor

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



Marilyn Iafrate
Ward 1 Councillor

marilyn.iafrate@vaughan.ca
905-832-2281, ext. 8344



Adriano Volpentesta
Ward 2 Councillor

adriano.volpentesta@vaughan.ca
905-832-2281, ext. 8877



Rosanna DeFrancesca
Ward 3 Councillor

rosanna.defrancesca@vaughan.ca
905-832-2281, ext. 8339



Chris Ainsworth
Ward 4 Councillor

chris.ainsworth@vaughan.ca
905-832-2281, ext. 8342

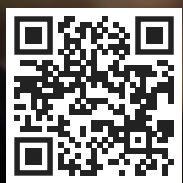


Gila Martow
Ward 5 Councillor

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

Help us deliver a better reading experience

TAKE THE SURVEY



Sign up for news from your neighbourhood

Looking for a way to stay informed about what's happening in your neighbourhood? The best way to know what's going on in Vaughan is through the Mayor and Members of Council's eNewsletters! These eNewsletters provide timely information and news from your community. Topics can include events, weather alerts, engagement opportunities, disruption notices, Public Meetings, community programs and so much more. And since news is distributed directly from your Mayor, local Ward Councillor or Regional Councillors, the information you receive will be specific to the area you live in.



Learn more at vaughan.ca/subscribe



Not sure which ward you live in?

Visit vaughan.ca/WardBoundary to view a map of Vaughan's current ward boundaries.

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.

