



Welcome to My New E-Newsletter !

I am pleased to bring you the new W5Update...etc.etc.

Vaughan Supports Province's Rapid Transit Initiative

I am very pleased to let you know that on June 15, 2007, the government of Ontario announced the plan to expand rapid transit service across the Greater Toronto Area, the MoveOntario 2020 plan calls for \$17.5 billion in funding to complete 52 rapid transit initiatives over the next 12 years. Several projects included in the plan will provide improved public transit services in Vaughan. A new rapid transit project highlighted in the announcement is the extension of the Yonge subway line north from Finch station along Vaughan's eastern boundary to Highway 7. Subway service in Thornhill will generate economic and quality of life benefits for our resident by providing increased access to our businesses and better transit services.

Integrity Commissioner

Vaughan Council recently approved the creation of the position of Integrity Commissioner. The Commissioner will be responsible for ensuring that the City's Code of Conduct concerning elected officials is being practiced. This position will have four distinct functions: advisory, complaint investigation, complaint adjudication and education.

Vaughan 2007 Budget

Vaughan Council approved the City's 2007 Operating and Capital budgets which provide funding for additional parkland, recreation facilities, the preservation of heritage areas, and expanded environmental programs. The budget includes the development of more than 21 hectares of parkland, construction of the North Thornhill Community Centre, a heritage conservation district for Woodbridge, and the full implementation of the Green Bin organic recycling initiative. Council approved \$176.6 million in operating costs and \$69.5 million in capital projects. The residential tax increase contained in the City's 2007 budget is 4.43 per cent, which equates to approximately \$10 for every \$100,000 in a property's assessed value. The average residential property in Vaughan assessed at \$412,070 will have an approximate tax increase of \$44.64. Seventy-five per cent of property taxes collected go to the Province and the Region of York. Only 25 per cent is under the control of the City of Vaughan and is used to provide services such as fire and rescue, road maintenance, snow removal, waste collection, recreation and other services.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

June 25, 2007

Council 1:00 p.m.

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Vaughan Approves Bylaw Protecting Trees on Private Property.

Vaughan Council has passed a bylaw prohibiting the removal of trees from private property without a permit. The bylaw applies to any tree more than 20 centimetres in diameter on properties up to half a hectare in size. The removal of any tree more than 20 centimetres in diameter requires a City permit. The permit application process will be posted to the City's website and a public education program will emphasize the importance of protecting trees and the benefits they provide. Contravention of the bylaw by individuals can result in a fine of up to \$10,000 for a first offence. A subsequent conviction can carry a fine of not more than \$25,000. Any corporation convicted of a first-time offence can face a maximum fine of \$50,000. A further conviction can carry a fine of up to \$100,000.

Tell everybody about W5Update!!

We want to be able to let more Ward 5 residents know about what's going on in their neighbourhood and across the city. Please forward your copy of W5Update to your friends, or, if you prefer, send us their email address and we will send them a copy for their consideration.

Missed an edition of W5Update? View current and past editions and sign up for W5Update on the Vaughan website
<http://tinyurl.com/295ybc>