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- Questions? Please contact us at [W5Update@vaughan.ca](mailto:W5Update@vaughan.ca)

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## Gallanough Resource Centre

Have you ever visited this volunteer run "gem" in our community? Located at the end of Brooke Street, just south of Arnold (near Yonge), the Gallanough Resource Centre provides a wide range of library type services to the neighbourhood.

Mayor Garnet A. Williams presided over the original opening ceremony on October 18, 1975 when the facility began its life as the Gallanough Library, part of the Vaughan Public Library system. The Gallanough continued in that role until, because of budgetary issues, the Library was closed in May 1996. Local residents took up the challenge – they didn't want to lose their local neighbourhood library – to develop a business plan to reopen the building as an independent resource centre.

The Gallanough Resource Centre reopened quietly on November 8, 1999 as a community run, volunteer facility. As a Not for Profit Corporation with Charitable Status the Gallanough is managed by a community based Board of Directors.

The City of Vaughan pays for the expenses related to the care of the building and supports the salary of a part-time staff member. Everything else is supported through a combination of membership fees, donations and a variety of grants.

More and more books, magazines and videos are added every month. There are also four computers with many games, educational applications and a fast Internet connection. Why not take the time to enjoy this local resource centre in the heart of Ward 5!

## Web Links

City of Vaughan - [www.vaughan.ca](http://www.vaughan.ca)

York Region Police - [www.yrp.ca](http://www.yrp.ca)

[www.yorkregiontransit.com](http://www.yorkregiontransit.com)

[www.greeningvaughan.ca](http://www.greeningvaughan.ca)

## ROADWATCH

<http://city.vaughan.on.ca/community/CitizenReportForm.cfm>

## Important Recycling Information



Have you had your recyclables that you put into a plastic garbage bag picked up in the past? Well, not any more!!

The City has recently been advised by the Region (we are responsible for collection, they are responsible for disposal of garbage and recycled materials) that their recyclables sorting centre cannot manage these materials when placed in plastic bags. The bags end up in land fill. The problem, it seems, was that when they built the facility a couple of years ago, they decided to not include a capability to rip and dispose of the bags.

The Greening Vaughan Advisory Committee will consider this issue at its next meeting in early March and will decide whether it will ask Council to raise the matter of adding this capacity to the sorting centre.



### **Local Teacher Wins Trip to Florida, Sponsored by the Fire Safety Council**

**Councillor Alan Shefman presented a certificate on behalf of the Mayor and Members of Council to Rosanna Iannette of Holy Family School**

## No "Time" to Play

Vaughan prides itself on providing a very high level of services and being responsive to the needs of its residents.

Recently a Ward 5 resident contacted our office looking to see what we could do to help out his basketball mad children. The two boys love basketball but were not able to find a time when they could get on a court in one of Vaughan's Community Centres during the winter months. It seemed that the available times were either inconvenient for them or were dominated by older players.

They simply wanted, along with some of their friends, to have some non-competitive time in the gym to play basketball.

We asked for the details – how old the children were, when they wanted to play, where they lived – to get an idea about what service was being requested. This information was passed on to our local recreation staff. Within days, we received an email back from the resident, expressing his thanks for what had been arranged, an hour of open time once a week at one of our community centres. As he said about our staff: “I am just speechless as to your quick and professional action. You took this matter as it was your only matter.”

Thanks to Karen, Domenic and Monika for some great work.

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## So what does a Vaughan City Councillor do? #2 (*An ongoing series*)

Last edition of the W5Update we started a new series on the job of a municipal councillor. I described some of the dynamics of both the Council Meeting and the Committee of the Whole – the two most important meetings that we hold on a regular basis. (go to [www.vaughan.ca](http://www.vaughan.ca) to see the February 12 edition if you missed it).

This article looks at the Committee of the Whole (CW) Working Session and the Public Hearing Committee meetings.

### The CW Working Session

The CW Working Session takes place generally twice a month, from 9:30 – 2:00 on the Tuesday following a Council meeting. All members of Council sit on the Committee. The purpose of the meeting is to consider reports and issues that require more time and a more relaxed environment than our usual CW's.

Council often receives detailed staff reports about new initiatives or complex issues at these sessions. Most often reports are received rather than approved at Working Session. It is common that members of Council will respond to staff reports and provide further guidance before an item is brought to the Committee of the Whole for formal consideration. For example, at a recent Working Session, in response to a Council request, staff presented an overview of the key changes to the Municipal Act that were approved by the Provincial Government in early January.

These changes, amongst others, will allow a municipality to establish such positions as an Integrity Commissioner and an Ombudsman.

### Public Hearing Committee:

This meeting also takes place on average twice a month except in the summer months. This is a statutory committee – required under

the Planning Act – to allow interested parties to speak to development applications that are being presented to Council. The Public hearing takes place on Monday evenings, following a Committee of the Whole meeting. The session is open to anyone who wants to speak in response of any of the applications on the agenda. It is quite informal, with deputations being made by individuals, community groups such as Ratepayers and the development applicant. The Public Hearing is the first opportunity to gage public response to an application. It allows both Council and the applicant to hear from the public. It also gives staff the opportunity to consider the issues raised as they review the application. Council only “receives” the application at the meeting, with no decisions being made at the time.

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## Upcoming Meetings

Thornhill Heritage District Study Public Consultation  
Thornhill Presbyterian Church, 271 Centre Street  
Thursday March 8, 2007  
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

**Public Budget Consultation Meeting**  
**Garnet A. Williams Community Centre, 501 Clark Avenue W.**  
**Monday March 19, 2007**  
**7 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

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## PASS IT ON!!

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**AND**

**Stay tuned,  
For a new and improved W5Update in the upcoming months**