

## **MEMBERS' RESOLUTION**

### **Committee of the Whole (1)**

---

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 04, 2026

**TITLE: DEDICATING MAX EISEN MEMORIAL PARK**

**FROM:**

Mayor Steven Del Duca  
Councillor Gila Martow

---

**Whereas**, Vaughan is home to an active, engaged, thoughtful, dedicated and long-standing Jewish and Israeli community committed to fostering inclusive, tolerant and welcoming neighbourhoods for all people. Vaughan has one of the largest Jewish populations outside of Israel. Vaughan's total Jewish and Israeli population constitutes 23 per cent of the entire Jewish and Israeli population in the Toronto Census Metropolitan Area (CMA). Vaughan also has the highest percentage of those with knowledge of Hebrew in the Toronto CMA: it is home to 36 per cent of all speakers in the Toronto CMA who have a working knowledge of Hebrew (source: 2016 Census of Canada, Statistics Canada); and

**Whereas**, in 1993, Vaughan Mayor Lorna Jackson first signed an economic and cultural partnership between Vaughan and the City of Ramla, Israel, as part of Vaughan's commitment to fostering and maintaining stronger relations between Vaughan, the Jewish community and the State of Israel. During a 2019 City-led economic and cultural development mission to Israel, Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua signed a renewed partnership agreement between Vaughan and Ramla; and

**Whereas**, the Vaughan-Ramla relationship is one of the City of Vaughan's oldest international partnerships, and on November 23, 2021, a virtual summit took place between Vaughan and Ramla, consisting of elected representatives and stakeholders. The summit discussion focused on five policy areas that both municipalities would work to advance including *Combatting Antisemitism, Racism and Encouraging Interfaith*

*Dialogue.* Vaughan Council endorsed a City staff report about the virtual summit at the February 8, 2022, Committee of the Whole (2) meeting; and

**Whereas**, the City officially recognizes Jewish Heritage Month and holds an annual flag-raising ceremony for Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel Independence Day. On September 17, 2024, Council endorsed a Members' Resolution by Mayor Steven Del Duca and Ward 5 Councillor Gila Martow to install a Vaughan gateway sign, which included the fabrication of a menorah to be incorporated into the sign. Celebrations like the City's annual Chanukah ceremony are a much-anticipated tradition enjoyed by people of all backgrounds and faiths; and

**Whereas**, at the December 3, 2024, Committee of the Whole (1) meeting, Vaughan Council endorsed a Members' Resolution from Mayor Del Duca and Councillor Martow to support the 2026 JCC Maccabi Games, which is expected to bring together more than 2,000 Jewish teen athletes from across North America, including local Vaughan youth, to compete in Olympic-style events. Beyond athletic achievement, the Games are a celebration of Jewish identity, resilience and community building at a time when collective connection is of the utmost importance; and

**Whereas**, the City has partnered and supported organizations like the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs and the Canadian Jewish Political Affairs Committee, to inform, engage and empower City staff, and by extension the broader community, about how naming and calling out antisemitism and building allyship can work toward countering Jew hatred; and

**Whereas**, these City efforts to fight back against Jew hatred and antisemitism build on Vaughan Council's decision to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism and to formally mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day annually. The City's Council-approved *Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan 2022-2026* is committed to combating religious intolerance, and of note, antisemitism and Islamophobia; and

**Whereas**, the City proclaims January 27 as Holocaust Remembrance Day to commemorate the genocide of more than six million Jews and other groups by the Nazi regime; and

**Whereas**, on July 7, 2022, author, public speaker and Holocaust educator Max Eisen died at the age of 93. Mr. Eisen survived the horrors of Auschwitz, Melk and Ebensee before being liberated on May 6, 1945; and

**Whereas**, the legacy of Mr. Eisen has been honoured with the Key to the City and the Order of Vaughan. Since 2022, the City has proclaimed May 6 annually as Max Eisen Day; and

**Whereas**, Mr. Eisen was a tireless advocate for Holocaust education, served as a teacher with the non-profit human rights organization, Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies, and was a dedicated contributor to the March of the Living, the Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre, and the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion; and

**Whereas**, Mr. Eisen lived a life dedicated to sharing his experiences with thousands of Canadians in communities across the country, and especially here in Vaughan.

**It is therefore recommended:**

1. THAT consistent with the Council-approved directive from the September 20, 2022, Committee of the Whole (2) meeting for City staff to identify “*a landmark, including a city park, trail, or other suitable infrastructure to be named in recognition of Max Eisen, followed by a ceremonial unveiling event*” and that in accordance with the City of Vaughan’s Naming City Parks, Open Spaces, Community Facilities and Other Municipal Buildings and Properties (TPF-006) corporate policy, Council approves the renaming of York Hill District Park located in Ward 5 to be renamed Max Eisen Memorial Park.
2. THAT consistent with the Council-approved directive from the September 20, 2022, Committee of the Whole (2) meeting, the ceremonial unveiling event takes place to align with May 6, 2026, which is proclaimed as Max Eisen Day in Vaughan.
3. THAT a plaque be installed at the future Max Eisen Memorial Park paying tribute to Mr. Eisen’s life, work and legacy as a globally respected human rights champion.
4. THAT this Members’ Resolution be approved by Council.

**Financial and Staff Resource Impact**

This Members’ Resolution has no financial or staff resource impact.

**Attachments**

[February 8, 2022, Committee of the Whole \(2\) Report: 2021 VAUGHAN-RAMLA SUMMIT: DEVELOPING A CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP ACTION PLAN](#)

[September 20, 2022, Committee of the Whole \(2\) Member’s Resolution: HONOURING THE LEGACY OF MAX EISEN, AUTHOR, TEACHER, FRIEND](#)

[City of Vaughan Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan 2022 - 2026](#)