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Communication

JCC Maccabi Games

Sub-Committee – May 4, 2026

Item No. 1

City of Vaughan Support: JCC Maccabi Games

JCC Maccabi Games Sub-Committee

May 4, 2026

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JCC Maccabi Games Overview



History of the Games

For the first time in 40 years, the JCC Maccabi Games and Access Games will be north of the border. Hosted by Prosserman JCC and Schwartz/Reisman Centre.

- ▶ Established in 1982
- ▶ The games empower Jewish teenagers through transformative experiences
- ▶ Engagement has grown from 300 to 3,000 Jewish teenage athletes participating in the games from across the globe
- ▶ Hosted for one week each summer in a different community within North America
- ▶ Olympic-style individual and team competitions for Jewish teen athletes, ages 13-17 years old
- ▶ To date, the games have impacted more than 130,000 Jewish teenagers from North America and around the world

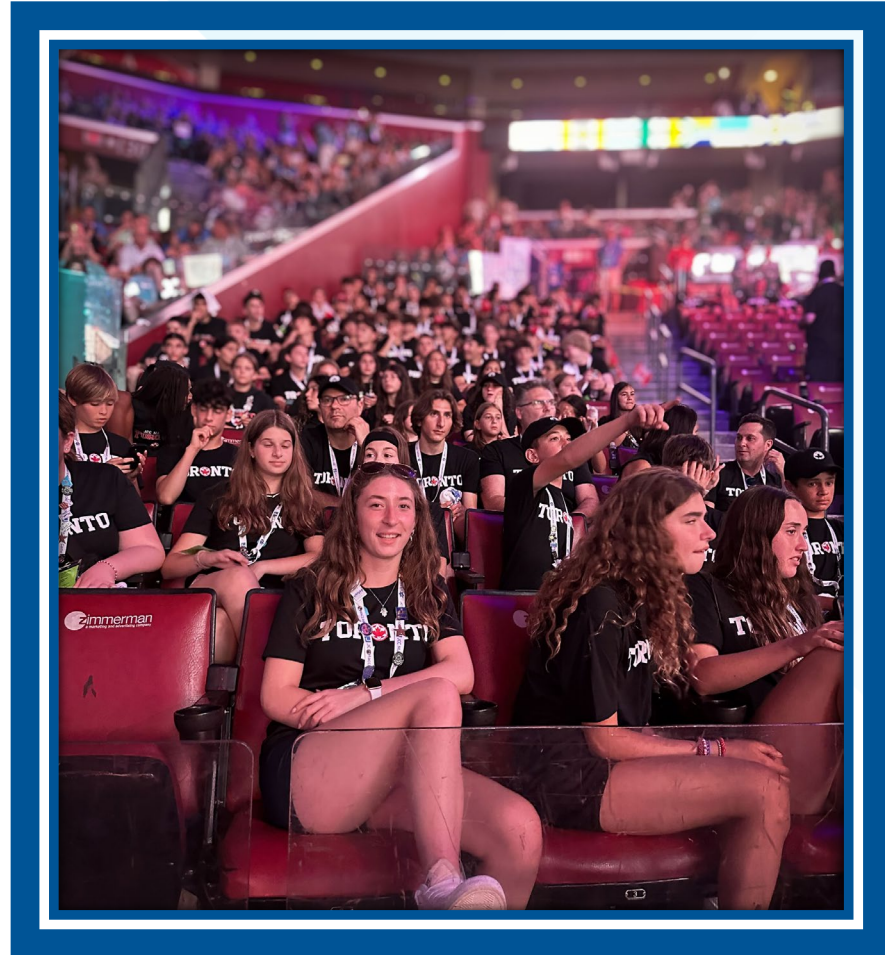
Quick facts about 2026

The JCC Maccabi Games are coming to Vaughan:

- ▶ Members Resolution passed in December 2024
- ▶ Vaughan was selected as the host city by the Jewish Community Centre America (JCCA)
- ▶ 2000+ teenage athletes will compete
- ▶ Expected attendance 15,000+
- ▶ Games hub will be located in Vaughan
- ▶ City owned and private sporting venues will be used for the games
- ▶ Expected to be the largest-scale sporting event ever to be held in the City of Vaughan to date

Key Games Dates

- ▶ Athletes Arrive – August 2
- ▶ Opening ceremonies – August 3
- ▶ Games begin – August 3
- ▶ Games end & Closing Party – August 6
- ▶ Athletes Depart – August 7



Access Games

August 2-5, 2026:

- ▶ Maccabi Access is a meaningful, inclusive experience designed for Jewish athletes ages 13-22 with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- ▶ 1:1 caregiver support
- ▶ **Over the course of this three-and-a-half-day program, participants will experience:**

- § **Athletic skill:** Athletic skill development and competition
- § **Hang time:** Interactive Jewish and Israel-focused programming
- § **JCC Cares:** Community service through JCC Cares
- § **Social Events:** Social events and cultural celebrations
- § **Community:** Opening and Closing Ceremonies with the full Games community



Economic Impact

The games are anticipated to generate over \$3.8 million:

- ▶ Local attractions, accommodations, and restaurants are ready to engage with attendees
- ▶ Events will be taking place around the city at various locations
- ▶ City of Vaughan and JCC are working closely to promote Vaughan and things to do between competitions

Governance Support

Dec. 3, 2024 - Members' Resolution

- ▶ Vaughan City Council unanimously passed a Members' Resolution by Mayor Steven Del Duca and Councillor Gila Martow at the Committee of the Whole on Dec. 3, 2024 officially welcoming the 2026 JCC Maccabi Games and committing to collaborating with the organizers to ensure the successful delivery of the games.



Dec. 3, 2024 - Members' Resolution

- ▶ It is therefore recommended:
 1. THAT the City of Vaughan officially recognizes, welcomes and congratulates the organizers of the 2026 JCC Maccabi Games on the news that Vaughan will have a critical role in helping host the competitions; and
 2. THAT City of Vaughan staff will continue to work in collaboration with the organizers for the 2026 JCC Maccabi Games to identify City of Vaughan venues and initiatives to ensure the successful delivery of these events; and
 3. THAT the Communications, Marketing and Engagement department leverages corporate communications channels to promote the 2026 JCC Maccabi Games;
 4. THAT the Economic Development department reports back to Council on the economic impact of the 2026 JCC Maccabi Games following its conclusion;
 5. THAT this Members' Resolution is approved by Council.

Advisory Committees

- ▶ JCC Maccabi Games Updates:
 - **Oct. 20, 2025:** JCC Maccabi Games Overview (Cultural Impact) – Amanda Dudek, Tourism Development Officer
 - **Oct. 27, 2025:** JCC Maccabi Games Overview (Accessibility) – Amanda Dudek, Tourism Development Officer
 - Standing weekly meetings of Economic Development and Communications, Marketing and Engagement departments to provide ongoing support.

Feb. 27, 2026 - Mayoral Decision

- ▶ Mayor Del Duca signs a Mayoral Decision establishing a Sub-Committee in support of the JCC Maccabi Games.
- ▶ Chaired by Ward 5 Councillor Gila Martow and Vice-Chaired by Ward 4 Councillor Chris Ainsworth, this Sub-Committee will help Council and City of Vaughan staff co-ordinate the needed support and logistics with the games' organizers.
- ▶ Inaugural sub-committee meeting: May 4, 2026
- ▶ Post-games sub-committee meeting: Sept. 2, 2026

Communications Update



Communications support to date:

- ▶ News release issued on Feb. 27 to support Member's Resolution: [Uniting the Jewish community through sport](#)
- ▶ Communications package issued to members of Council
 - Social media



Home / Vaughan News / Uniting The Jewish Community Through Sport

Uniting the Jewish community through sport

POSTED: Feb. 27, 2026 2:45 p.m. | CITY HALL | CITY NEWS

Mayor Del Duca establishes Sub-Committee in support of the JCC Maccabi Games

This summer, Vaughan will take centre stage as host city of the JCC Maccabi Games – the largest Jewish youth sporting event in the world.

With more than 20,000 athletes, coaches, families, volunteers and spectators from across North America headed our way for a week of Olympic-style competition and cultural celebration, Mayor Steven Del Duca has issued a [Mayoral Decision \(PDF\)](#) to establish a JCC Maccabi Games Sub-Committee to ensure it's a huge success! Chaired by Ward 5 Councillor Gila Martow and Vice-Chaired by Ward 4 Councillor Chris Ainsworth, this Sub-Committee will help Council and City of Vaughan staff coordinate the needed support and logistics with the games' organizers.

Communications support to date:

- ▶ Article featured in the March/April edition of [The Voice in Action \(page 14\)](#)



Communications support to date:

- ▶ Welcome video of the Mayor featured on torontojccmaccabi.com



Economic Development Update



Project Engagement Touchpoints

► Site Selection

- First visit: September 12, 2024
 - TRIO Sportsplex, Zanchin Automotive Soccer Centre, Vaughan Grove, North Maple Regional Park, Concord/Thornhill Regional Park, 360 Soccer
- Second visit: March 25, 2025
 - Rosemount CC & Westmount, North Thornhill CC, GTA Sportsplex Vaughan, Aloft Hotel, North Maple Regional Park, Vellore Village CC, Vaughan Grove
- Third visit: April 30, 2025
 - Vaughan Grove, North Maple Regional Park, **Meeting with the Mayor at City Hall**, GTA Sportsplex Vaughan, Paramount Ice, Concord/Thornhill Regional Park, Rosemount CC & Westmount
- Fourth visit: April 26, 2026
 - 52 Delegation heads from across the world will visit Vaughan Grove & Concord/Thornhill Regional Park as part of a 2-day workshop ahead of the games



Support

- ▶ Bi-weekly & bi-monthly touchpoints with JCC team
 - To date over 50 touchpoints meetings
- ▶ Hotel & Accommodations
 - Lead inquiry sent 10/2/25
 - Total # of room nights secured: approximately 850
 - Hotels secured: Novotel Toronto Vaughan Centre, Homewood Suites by Hilton Toronto Vaughan, SpringHill Suites by Marriott Toronto Vaughan, Residence Inn by Marriott Toronto Vaughan
 - Novotel will host all Access Games athletes

Support

- ▶ Awareness to special interest committees
 - Inclusion and Community Outreach Advisory Committee - October 20, 2026
 - Accessibility Advisory Committee – October 27, 2026
- ▶ Stakeholder introductions
 - Canada's Wonderland
 - 407 ETR
 - Vaughan International Film Festival
 - Dave & Buster's Vaughan
 - York Region – Transportation, Capital Infrastructure Services, Public Works

Access Games Athletes at Novotel Vaughan

- ▶ Novotel Vaughan will host all Access Games athletes
 - Visiting Access Athletes & their caregivers
 - 15 minutes from Hub
 - Breakfast every morning at hotel



One night only: Canada's Wonderland

- ▶ Canada's Wonderland
 - Host all athletes for an evening of fun on Tuesday, August 4, 2026
 - Access to all amenities in the park
 - Courtyard will be used for food



Top 10 things to do in Vaughan

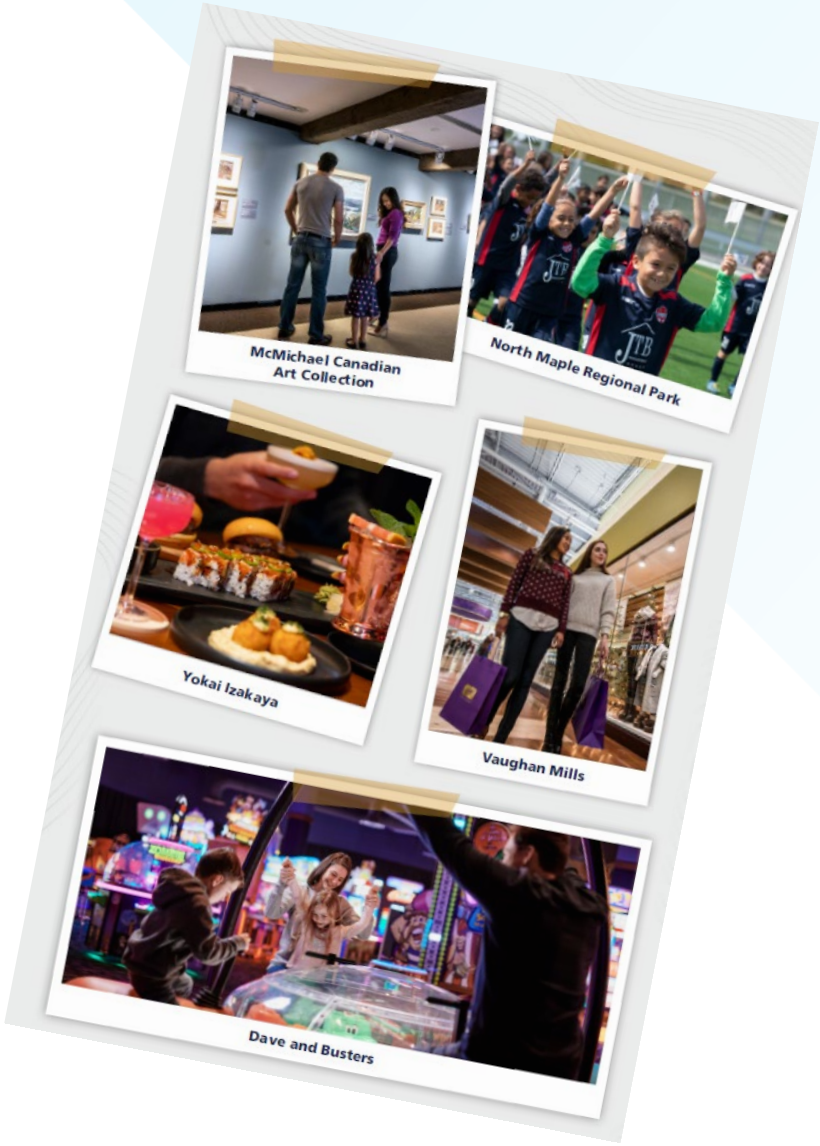
Top 10 things to do in Vaughan

Attract attendees with extraordinary experiences

From **sports, festivals, roller coasters, art, shopping or dining**, your guests will find everything they're looking for here. Recognized by the International Festivals and Events Association as a 2025 World Festival and Event City Award recipient, Vaughan is the perfect place to generate excitement and create lasting memories.

- 1 Feel the G-forces at **Canada's Wonderland**
- 2 Step back into 1860s country life at **The Village at Black Creek**
- 3 Hear the buzz of honeybees at the **Kortright Centre**
- 4 Uncork and unwind in the stock cellar of **Magnotta Winery**
- 5 Click, play and create in vivid colours at the **LEGOLAND® Discovery Centre**
- 6 Explore contemporary Canadian and Indigenous art at the **McMichael Canadian Art Collection**
- 7 Hang out and take a selfie with a lizard at **Reptilla Zoo**
- 8 Shop over 400 stores at **Vaughan Mills and Promenade Shopping Centre**
- 9 Stroll the village main streets of heritage districts in **Kleinburg, Maple, Woodbridge and Thornhill**
- 10 Enjoy a **culinary experience** in Vaughan, where flavours from around the world await

Canada's Wonderland



Community Services Update



Safety, Security & Emergency Management Coordination and Collaboration

- ▶ Active participation in multi-agency engagement with York Regional Police (YRP), Toronto Police Service (TPS), By-law Enforcement, Corporate Security, Maccabi Games Security, Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital, Mackenzie Health, Canada's Wonderland and the Vaughan Emergency Planning Office.
- ▶ Coordinated special events planning, including collaboration with Client Services (permitting), Fire and Emergency Planning staff to support safe, secure, and compliant event.

Recreation Services Update – Indoor Amenities

Recreation Services has been working closely with the JCC Maccabi organizing committee to accommodate the following indoor spaces for the duration of the Maccabi Games (August 2-6th; 8:00am – 4:00pm):

- ▶ Rosemount Community Centre Gymnasiums 1-4
- ▶ The City Playhouse Theatre
- ▶ The Sports Village Arena Ice pads A,B,C,D (Aug. 3-5; 8:00am-5:00pm)

Recreation Services Update – Outdoor Amenities

Recreation Services has also been working closely with the JCC Maccabi organizing committee to accommodate the following outdoor spaces for the duration of the Maccabi Games (August 2-6th; Full day Sunday, Monday-Thursday 8:00am – 4:00pm):

- ▶ Concord Thornhill Regional Park Artificial Turf
- ▶ Concord Thornhill Regional Park Premium Grass 1-2
- ▶ Concord Thornhill Regional Park Softball 1-2
- ▶ Concord Thornhill Regional Park Baseball 3-4
- ▶ Concord Thornhill Regional Park Snack Bar
- ▶ Honey and Barry Memorial Park Senior Soccer
- ▶ Honey and Barry Memorial Park Junior Baseball
- ▶ Jean Augustine Premium Baseball

Recreation Services Update – Outdoor Amenities

- ▶ Vaughan Grove Sports Park Artificial Turf #1 (Stadium Field)
- ▶ Vaughan Grove Sports Park Artificial Turf #2
- ▶ Vaughan Grove Sports Park Premium Grass
- ▶ Vaughan Grove Sports Park Holy Cross 9v9
- ▶ Vaughan Grove Sports Park Mini fields 1-2
- ▶ Vaughan Grove Sports Baseball 1-2
- ▶ Vaughan Grove Sports Baseball 3-4
- ▶ Vaughan Grove Sports Snack Bar



Questions.

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