

MEA Conference Draft Program July 2026, Universal Event Space, Vaughan V5

Tuesday, November 10	
5:00 PM– 9:00 PM	Registration Location- Lobby
7:00 PM– Midnight	Tradeshow Hospitality/Networking Event Location – Main Hall Sponsored by (xxx)

Wednesday, November 11: Morning	
7:00 AM– 4:00 PM	Registration Location - Lobby
7:00 AM– 8:30 AM	Breakfast Buffet Location – Main Hall
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	Opening Plenary Session Location – Main Hall - Opening Remarks & Land Acknowledgement – Vince Musacchio, Deputy City Manager, Planning and Infrastructure Development, City of Vaughan (5 minutes) - Welcome Message – Platinum Sponsor: Decast Ltd. (5 minutes) - MEA Executive Director Annual Update – Reg Russwurm, Chris Traini (OPS Advisor) (50 minutes)

Wednesday, November 11: Morning Technical Sessions			
	Studio 5 (Upper Level)	Studio 6 (Upper Level)	Main Hall
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Design Build Delivery Model: Canada Drive America Avenue Bridge over Highway 400 Presenters: Danesh Chaudhary, City of Vaughan Daniel Novielli, EllisDon	From Data to Decisions: Implementing a Digital Twin for Sanitary Sewer Condition and Capacity Management in the City of Vaughan Presenters: Jim Zhang, City of Vaughan Alex Ding, Smart City Water Inc.	MCEA/MPAP/AAP Update Presenters: Annamaria Cross, Ross Lashbrook, Jennifer Moulton, The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)

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10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Design Build Delivery Model: Kirby Road Extension Presenters: Jianbo Li, City of Vaughan Julia Maloney, Parsons Mike McMahon, Parsons	Digital Twins as Engines of Urban Planning Innovation, City of Vaughan Presenter: Juan Carlos Molina, City of Vaughan	
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Sponsor Break – Tradeshow, Networking, Technology Check		
10:50 AM – 11:00 AM	Main Hall – Remembrance Day Tribute & Moment of Silence		
11:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Innovative Procurement for a High-Risk Reconstruction Project: The Construction Review Panel - Construction Phase Presenter: Andrew Miller, City of Guelph	From Silos to Synergy: Advancing Construction Coordination with Shared Data Presenter: Tara Marshall, York Region	Hall preparations
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	A Different Kind of Municipal Infrastructure: Rapid Construction of a Micro-modular Shelter Site Presenter: Ashley Rammeloo, City of London	Planned Capital Construction Map - Real Time Project Information That Matters Presenters: Helen Gao, City of Vaughan Philip Cudiamat, City of Vaughan	

Wednesday, November 11: Awards Luncheon

12:00 PM- 1:30 PM	MEA Awards Luncheon Location – Main Hall Sponsored by (xxx) - Opening Remarks – Vince Musacchio, Deputy City Manager, Planning and Infrastructure Development, City of Vaughan - Awards Presentation - Penelope Palmer, MEA President
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Wednesday, November 11: Afternoon Technical Sessions			
	Studio 5 (Upper Level)	Studio 6 (Upper Level)	Main Hall
1:30 PM – 2:00 PM	Richmond Hill David Dunlap Observatory Park Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridge Presenter: Mohammad Kashani, City of Richmond Hill	Risk-Based Condition Assessment Program Development for Pressurized Municipal Infrastructure Presenters: Jim Zhang, City of Vaughan Mike Katz, City of Vaughan Daryush Esmaili, Aspire Consulting Group Ltd.	Hall preparations
2:00 PM – 2:30 PM	At the Cross Currents of Steel, Concrete and Electricity: Municipal Bridges Carrying High Voltage Utilities Presenter: Jackson Lee, City of Toronto	iROMS - Innovating the Future of Roads Operations Presenter: Daniel Sepe, City of Vaughan	
2:30 PM – 3:00 PM	Teston Road - Embracing Growth in the City of Vaughan Presenter: Jackson Marin, York Region	Culture Is the Hardest Infrastructure to Build: Lessons from a Municipal Lean Journey Presenter: Putera Camaro, City of Vaughan	Building the Next Generation of Transit in the GTHA Presenter: Zach Potashner, Metrolinx
3:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Sponsor Break – Tradeshow, Networking, Technology Check		
3:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Quality Assurance Tests and the Ramification of Results Inaccuracies on Municipal Infrastructure Projects Presenters: Scott Robinson, City of Oshawa Tyler Renaud, City of Hamilton Alen Keri, Concrete Ontario	Transportation Innovation Program Showcase: Integrating Innovation into the Environmental Assessment Process Presenter: Ryan Lanyon, City of Vaughan	Planners and Engineers: A Municipal Love Story (with conditions); How effective collaboration survives policy, pipes, and politics. Presenter: Margaret Josipovic, City of Vaughan

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4:00 PM – 4:30 PM	High RAP Leslie St Trial - Case Study, First-in-Canada Presenters: Kerolus Khalil, York Region Mehran Farashah, York Region	Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA), Detailed Design and Contract Administration Showcase: Colossus Road Extension crossing Highway 400 Lessons Learned Presenter: Walid Omar, City of Vaughan	Panel 1 – Reducing Friction and Improving Outcomes: A Contractor’s View on Municipal Project Delivery Moderator: Patrick McManus, GTSWCA Panelists: Bobby Pillitteri, CDC
4:30 PM – 5:00 PM	Kirby Road Emergency Slope Stabilization and Culvert Repair Presenters: Tim Plummer, City of Vaughan Nicholas Bellissimo, Accardi Engineering Group	Integrating the Planning Process and Environmental Assessments: Municipal or Developer-Led? Lessons from Vaughan’s Experience Presenter: Samar Saadi Nejad, City of Vaughan	Contracting Anthony DiBattista, Clearway Construction George DiPede, North Rock Construction Mohan Toor, City of Vaughan

Wednesday, November 11: Social Event

7:00 PM - Midnight	Wednesday Night Social Location – The Lazy Bear Lodge, Wonderland, 1 Canada's Wonderland Drive, Vaughan (Transportation provided, leaving from venue parking lot, starting at 6:30pm, last return at 12:30am) Sponsored by (xxx) • Rides – 7pm-9pm – Thunder Run and Klockworks • Games – 7pm-9pm • Caricature Artist – 8pm – 10pm • Karaoke – 10pm-Midnight • Smores Fire Pit - 7pm-11pm • Food – 7pm-11pm • Drinks – 2 drink tickets, cash bar afterwards, complementary hot/cold non-alcoholic beverages
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Thursday, November 12: Morning	
7:00 AM– 4:00 PM	Registration Location - Lobby
7:00 AM– 8:30 AM	Breakfast Buffet Location – Main Hall

Thursday, November 12: Morning Technical Sessions, AGM & Lunch			
	Studio 5 (Upper Level)	Studio 6 (Upper Level)	Main Hall
8:30 AM – 9:00 AM	From Average to Awesome – Implementing Vaughan Stormwater Flood Mitigation Projects through the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF) Program Presenters: Alan Manlucu, City of Vaughan Cristina Giroli, City of Vaughan William Cowlin, Aquafor Beech Limited	The transformation of North Maple Regional Park: A Story of Process and Place Presenters: Jennifer Cappola-Logullo, City of Vaughan Tricia Fidelino, City of Vaughan Matt Williams, O2 Planning + Design Inc.	Ontario Provincial Standards Update Presenter: Jason Kittle, The Ministry of Transportation Ontario (MTO)
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Flood Hazard Mapping for Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Communities Presenter: Hadiseh Bolkhari, Town of Caledon	Shaped by the River: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Doctors McLean District Park Redevelopment and Trail Connectivity Along the Humber River Corridor Presenters: Alexis Moxley, City of Vaughan Mark Schollen, Schollen & Company Inc.	
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Sponsor Break – Tradeshow, Networking, Technology Check		

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10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	The Storm Before the Stormwater: Overcoming Contractor Default at Gallanough Park Presenters: Monica Vacca, City of Vaughan, Shpend Hoxha, City of Vaughan Mark Bassingthwaite, Resilient Consulting Becky Turbitt, Resilient Consulting	Delivering More, Faster: A Multi Corridor Approach to Active Transportation Implementation Presenters: Dorothy Kowpak, City of Vaughan Jianbo Li, City of Vaughan	Panel 2 - Bridging the Gap: Developers and Municipal Engineers Delivering Communities Moderator: Ary Rezvanifar, City of Vaughan Panelists: Gabriel DiMartino, Trinity Point Developments Aaron Hershoff, TACC Developments Carlo Stefanutti, Fieldgate Land Development Group Lauren Crawford, City of Vaughan
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Innovative Approach to SWM using Non-Conventional Stormwater Management Facilities (NCSWMFs) in the City of Markham Presenters: Imtiaz Shah, City of Markham Marjorie MacDonald, Resilient Consulting Corp.	Vaughan's Shared Micromobility Pilot: Key Insights in Public Engagement and Data Management Presenters: Jillian Britto, City of Vaughan Qing Su, City of Vaughan	
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM		MEA Annual General Meeting	Hall preparations
12:00PM – 1:00PM			Lunch Buffet

Thursday, November 12: Afternoon Events

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Technical Tours – Descriptions provided on last page (Transportation provided, leaving from the venue parking lot 1pm) 1. Wonderland (Cap of 100 delegates) Group A - first 50 delegates – departing 1:00 pm, returning 3:30pm Group B - next 50 delegates – departing 2:30pm, returning 5:00pm Sponsored by (xxx)
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	2. Vaughan Metropolitan Center (VMC) Departing 1:00 pm, returning 3:30pm Sponsored by (xxx) 3. North Maple Regional Park (NMRP) Departing 1:00 pm, returning 3:30pm Sponsored by (xxx) Steve Carrol East vs. West Hockey Classic Location – The Sports Village, 2600 Rutherford Road, Vaughan (Transportation provided, leaving from the venue parking lot 1pm, returning 4:30pm) Sponsored by (xxx)
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Hospitality/Networking Event Location – Main Hall Sponsored by (xxx)

Thursday, November 12: Evening Events	
5:15 PM – 6:15 PM	VIP Reception (by invitation only) Location – Studio 6 Sponsored by (xxx)
5:45 PM – 6:30 PM	General Reception Location – Main Hall Sponsored by (xxx)
6:30 PM – 9:30 PM	MEA President's Gala Location – Main Hall Speech by Honorable Mayor Steven Del Duca, City of Vaughan Keynote Speaker – Julie Angus – Leading Adventurer/Bestselling Author/Entrepreneur/Scientist Angus draws on lessons learned in extreme environments to motivate and inspire audiences to reach their goals and overcome challenges. Sponsored by (xxx)

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9:30 PM – 10:30 PM	Bridge Breaking Contest Location - Main Hall Sponsored by (xxx)
9:30 PM – Midnight	Hospitality/Networking Event Location – Main Hall Sponsored by (xxx)

Friday, November 13: Morning

7:00 AM– 12:00 PM	Registration Location - Lobby
7:00 AM– 8:30 AM	Breakfast Buffet Location – Main Hall
8:15 AM	Prize Draw

Friday, November 13: Morning Technical Sessions

	Studio 5 (Upper Level)	Studio 6 (Upper Level)
8:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Development Engineering Showcase: Board of Trade Subdivision – From Golf Course to New Community Presenters: Matt Pascoe, City of Vaughan Koryun Shahbikian, Schaeffers Consulting Engineers	From Strategy to Success - The Diversion Centre Model is Working Presenter: Don Kudo, County of Wellington
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Northeast Vaughan Water Servicing: Unique Characteristics of Constructing Regional Infrastructure within Development Areas Presenters: Liam Sykes, Associated Engineering Allanna Yahoda, York Region	Consolidated Linear Infrastructure Environmental Compliance Approval (CLI-ECA): Approaches and Insights from the City of Vaughan Presenter: Dushyanthi Vivekananthan, City of Vaughan
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Building Ahead of the Pipe: A Framework for Wastewater Capacity Allocation Under Constrained Infrastructure Conditions Presenter: Nick Larson, Agile Infrastructure	Peel Region's Dragonfly Strategy - Downspout Disconnection Presenter: Will McIntyre, Resilient Consulting

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10:00 AM – 10:15 AM	Break – Networking, Technology Check- Upper level	
10:15 AM – 10:45 AM	Growing Municipal Engineers: From Early Career to Leadership Presenter: Michael Cappucci, Town of LaSalle	Before We Borrow: Comparing World Class Cities for Sustainable Infrastructure Success Presenter: Vivian Yao, City of Toronto
10:45 AM – 11:15 AM	Rapid Digital Field Data Collection Presenter: Robert Mayer, City of Vaughan	Wastewater Energy Transfer (WET) and Aquifer Mapping for a World-Class, Climate-Ready City Presenters: Jarrett Carriere, J.L. Richards and Associates Mark Salerno, J.L. Richards and Associates

Friday, November 13: Closing Session & Lunch	
11:30 PM – 12:00 PM	Conference Closing Session – Prize Draws and Closing Remarks Location – Main Hall
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Grab-n-go Boxed Lunch Location – Main Hall

Technical Tour Descriptions

No PPE is required; however, attendees are encouraged to dress appropriately for weather conditions and extended periods outdoors.

Canada's Wonderland

Canada's Wonderland is the country's largest theme park and the epicenter of fun and excitement in Vaughan! This tour features two stops in the 120-hectare park—the iconic Wonder Mountain and Wonderland's maintenance shop.

Standing in the shadow of Wonder Mountain is an experience in itself, but going inside is next level! Participants will tour the mountain's mechanical plant, get a behind-the-scenes look at two of the park's haunted attractions, and learn about the energy storage and launch control system for Alpen Fury, the longest, tallest and fastest launch coaster in Canada.

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Out of the mountain and into Wonderland's massive maintenance shop, participants will see where rides are maintained and rebuilt, signs are designed, fabricated and assembled, props and decorations are created, and the park's wooden and fiberglass elements are crafted and restored.

Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (VMC)

Join a guided exploration of Vaughan's emerging downtown core, anchored at the northern terminus of TTC Subway Line 1 and stationed on York Region's Highway 7 Bus Rapid Transit corridor. This tour will showcase how the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre is taking shape through thoughtfully designed parklands, community spaces, and privately owned public areas - many already in use or nearing completion. Participants will gain insight into how active transportation networks, traffic calming strategies, and seamless transit connectivity are being integrated to support a vibrant, accessible, and people-focused urban environment. Stormwater Management strategies for the Black Creek, running centrally through the VMC, will be explored with the Edgeley Pond and Park retrofit and Black Creek Renewal projects. The tour will also highlight efforts to animate street frontages and embed essential community services into the fabric of this growing downtown.

The experience will focus on ground-level spaces on the north side of the VMC, with guided walks between key points of interest. Portions of the tour will extend into the underground pedestrian connections linking major transit hubs, offering a comprehensive view of both above and below-grade infrastructure.

North Maple Regional Park (NMRP)

Learn about what it takes to transform 900 acres of complex, varied land and former landfill into one of Canada's most ambitious regional parks. This guided site tour of North Maple Regional Park invites participants to explore the park firsthand. The park spans a mosaic of land parcels—including two former landfill sites along the Oak Ridges Moraine—each carrying distinct layers of cultural, ecological, and land-use history. As participants move through the landscape, they will see how decades of waste management, community advocacy, and ecological recovery have informed a 25-year master plan organized around three guiding principles: RESTORE the land, ENGAGE the community, and invite everyone to PLAY.

The tour will highlight key infrastructure and restoration projects complete and underway across the site, including capped landfill systems, stormwater and servicing infrastructure, rehabilitation of ecologically significant areas, trail and multi-use

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networks, and emerging recreation areas. Along the way, discussions will focus on the realities of delivering a generational municipal project across multiple parcels with radically different conditions—navigating layered regulatory approvals, managing uncertainty tied to landfill performance and timelines, and balancing ecological sensitivity with public access. By walking through areas at different stages of restoration and development, participants will gain insight into how long-term vision is translated into phased, practical action—and how ambitious park-making on post-industrial and evolving landscapes is shaping the future of public space in Ontario.