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# *Celebrating A Remarkable 20 Year History*



**VAUGHAN C.A.R.E.S.**  
P.O. BOX 865, MAPLE, ONTARIO L6A 1S8  
vaughancares@live.ca





### 1980s

From its humble beginnings fighting against the disposal of contaminated airport waste at the Keele Valley Landfill in 1988, the group formalized itself and was incorporated on May 23, 1989. A group of concerned residents from various community organizations met around the kitchen table and came up with the name “Vaughan Committee of Associations to Restore Environmental Safety.” Those were the heady days of passion and altruism as members engaged in opposition to all that was wrong with a system that had no sympathy for public health and little respect for public participation.

Vaughan C.A.R.E.S. continued its fight against the expropriation of lands in Maple by the City of Toronto and was hugely and unexpectedly successful.

### 1990s

This era brought about the heydays of the Interim Waste Authority (IWA). The IWA was created by the provincial government under Bob Rae. Their mandate was to site 3 new landfills in the Greater Toronto Area with Toronto’s garbage being trucked to York Region. Of the many preliminary sites being investigated in York Region, six of them were in Vaughan, most in the vicinity of Maple.

This tenacious and committed group fully embraced the battle against the six proposed landfill sites. Their unrelenting opposition to siting a new landfill in the community saw the unification of all residents. They came out in the thousands to protest the very idea of hosting a second mega-dump in Vaughan. Vaughan C.A.R.E.S.’ mantra became “Equity & Fairness”. History shows that the group was extremely successful in ensuring that the second mega-dump never materialized. This allowed for the progression of development in the Maple and north Woodbridge communities to take place. A second mega-dump would have ensured the death of a close knit and vibrant community.

No sooner had the new provincial government under Mike Harris disbanded the IWA, members of Vaughan C.A.R.E.S. regrouped and began an intensive assault on the City of Toronto to have the Keele Valley Landfill closed. It took another seven years of continuous opposition to finally convince the City of Toronto to close the site once it reached capacity. Vaughan C.A.R.E.S. threw the biggest “dump closure” party the world has ever seen when they locked the gates of the Keele Valley Landfill once and for all on December 31, 2002. Even CNN was asking what all the fuss was about!



### 2000s

Today the group continues with its commitment to the environment and its vigilance on behalf of the community. Vaughan C.A.R.E.S is a fully participating member of the Region of York’s Joint Committee with Durham for a future energy from waste facility. The association supports the 3Rs through various initiatives and has made deputations to the Region of York in support of Community Environmental Centres. Vaughan C.A.R.E.S. continues to collaborate with the Ministry of the Environment and the City of Vaughan as the need arises over transfer stations, property contamination and other environmental issues.

This year marks an historic milestone for Vaughan C.A.R.E.S. and its members as it celebrates being 20 years young with a bright and busy future ahead. The organization will continue to educate residents about the importance of safeguarding the environment for the next generation.