



Vaughan Weekly

Run for Vaughan this Sunday

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By Angela Gismondi

The ninth annual Run for Vaughan will take place this Sunday, Sept. 29 at Canada's Wonderland in support of the Vaughan hospital.

The event is organized by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and brings the members of the entire Vaughan community together to have fun, stay fit and raise funds for Vaughan's new hospital. The goal is to make healthcare more accessible for the community.

"The Run for Vaughan is an exciting event that was created and organized by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in support of the development of the City of Vaughan's first hospital and healthcare facility," said Ambreen Khan, director of corporate relations for Run for Vaughan. "It is a fun event which brings together the community while raising money for a cause that will impact everybody's lives. Over the years we have gained a substantial amount of volunteers and participants from many different cultures and backgrounds from all over Vaughan, the GTA and other parts of the province all supporting the future Vaughan hospital project."

The last eight Run for Vaughan events have raised about \$400,000 with all funds forwarded to the Mackenzie Health Hospital Foundation for the Vaughan Hospital. This foundation has been charged with taking the lead role in raising funds for a new hospital in Vaughan, as Vaughan is the largest city in Canada without one.

"Healthcare is an issue that affects every single Canadian," said Khan. "Vaughan is one of the only major cities in Ontario without a hospital. Many of our residents have healthcare needs which often go unfulfilled. The security of a hospital will offer everybody much needed reassurance, peace of mind and more access in the event of emergency. A hospital in Vaughan will not only save lives, it will change lives."

This year, organizers hope to raise more money for the cause than ever before.

"The Run for Vaughan is a community effort for a community cause," explained Khan. "With the increase in popularity for our event, this year we are hoping to raise \$75,000 surpassing the amount raised in any other year."

Everyone is welcome to participate in the annual run and to bring family members and friends along. There are lots of options for participants of all skill levels. Participants can walk, jog or run in any of the races which include the one-kilometre fun run, the five and 10 kilometre runs. The 10-kilometre run begins at 8 a.m. and the one and five kilometre runs begin at 8:30 a.m..

“We encourage people of all ages, cultures and athletic abilities to attend,” said Khan. “Run for Vaughan brings out serious athletes as well as families who come to enjoy the festivities of the day.”

The run will take place this Sunday, Sept. 29 at Canada’s Wonderland, located at 9580 Jane St.. For more information, visit www.runforvaughan.com.

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