



United Way
of York Region

Aurora • East Gwillimbury • Georgina • King
Markham • Newmarket • Richmond Hill
Vaughan • Whitchurch-Stouffville

...if
addressed.

Leading a dialogue on
the pace, face and place of growth
in York Region

Since 1976, United Way of York Region has united donors, volunteers, service providers and clients to improve the quality of life in the communities of York Region.

In preparation for the 2010 Strategic Planning and Priority Setting processes, United Way of York Region's Community Engagement and Research Committee initiated a review of existing research and data from a range of community partners.

One review, initially intended for United Way of York Region internal use, began to tell a story – of lessons learned from other jurisdictions and, most importantly, of opportunities for discussion and action in York Region. It is shared here to initiate a dialogue on what United Way of York Region believes to be the defining issue of our remarkable region: the intersection of pace of growth, face of growth and place of growth in York Region.

...if addressed. juxtaposes the findings of the seminal *Metro's Suburbs in Transition* report, released in 1979 by the then Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto, with current demographic trends and patterns of a vibrant and vast York Region.

...if addressed. is an inception document.

For United Way of York Region, **...if addressed.** sets the context for more defined initiatives: consultations across the region; decisions about how we invest the donations we receive; decisions about what new and different work we will do; discussions with existing and new partners on how we can work together on this complex defining social issue.

For the community **...if addressed.** is an invitation to get involved, share insight and work collectively on the issue that will singlehandedly shape our quality of life: the intersection of pace of growth, face of growth and place of growth in York Region.

In an increasingly urban region with all its rich diversity, strategic investments in the pace, face and place of growth will improve quality of life for all York Region residents

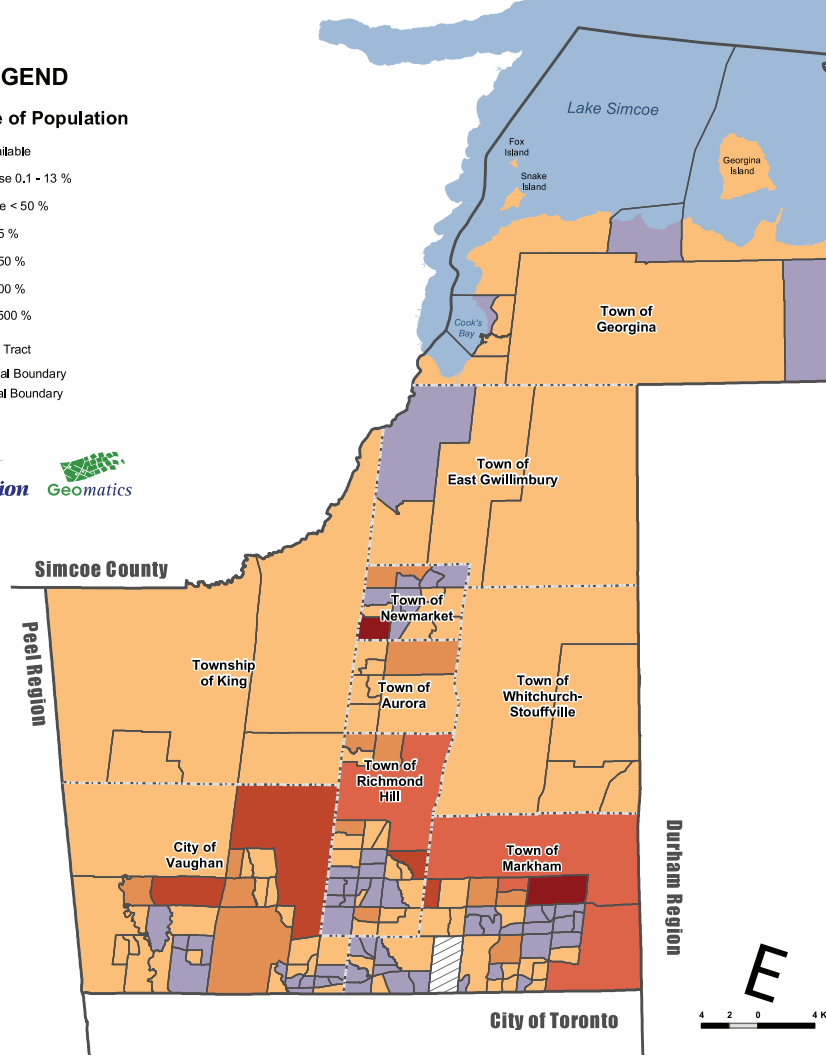
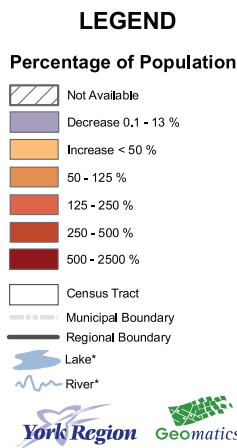
**...if
addressed.**

Metro's Suburbs in Transition, 1979

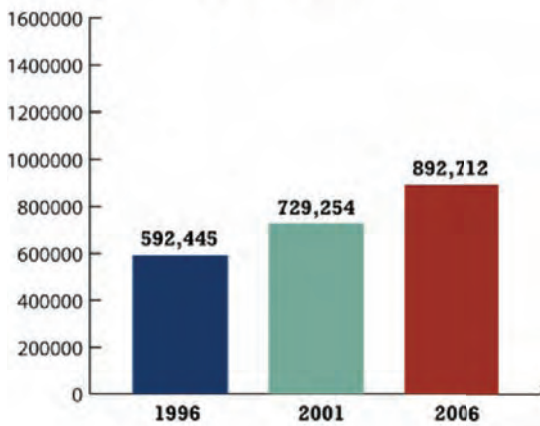
“High levels of population growth, in contrast to high levels of population change, are of special concern to social planners. The large scale settlement of people into new areas requires more than the provision of physical accommodations, roads, utilities, stores and schools.



York Region's Population Change 2001-2006 by Census Tract



York Region's Population Census 1996-2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006, Planning and Development Services Department

York Region's Population, 1976-2006

Municipalities	1976	1986	1996	2006
Aurora	14,520	21,720	36,000	49,140
East Gwillimbury	10,837	15,215	20,418	22,418
Georgina	18,882	23,363	35,917	45,619
King	14,297	16,573	18,820	20,327
Markham	57,274	119,066	179,068	273,805
Newmarket	25,266	36,285	58,998	78,245
Richmond Hill	35,376	48,590	105,060	173,931
Vaughan	18,120	67,595	136,892	243,723
Whitchurch-Stouffville	13,129	15,725	20,485	26,149
York Region	207,700	364,133	611,659	933,357

1976 to 2001 based on Statistics Canada Census Data
 2006 based on York Region Planning Department Population Estimate

York Region
 Pace of growth

Metro's Suburbs in Transition, 1979

“ There is a critical need to address the process of suburban planning so that it works with and reflects the diverse social interests of the municipality. The call is for responsible public frameworks of policy, planning and service provision which will address and respond to the needs of the new social majorities.

”

“Impressive figures on income in the region may conceal embedded problems with low income and poverty and suggest low income residents may not be able to reap the social and economic mobility that the region offers.”

-The Pembina Institute et.al., Ontario Community Sustainability Report-2007, page 47

“According to the 2006 Census, about 1 in 8, or 112,500 residents face or are at risk of facing economic hardships due to low income. This represents an increase of 55% from the 2001 Census. About 29% of the residents living in low income households are children less than 18 years of age.”

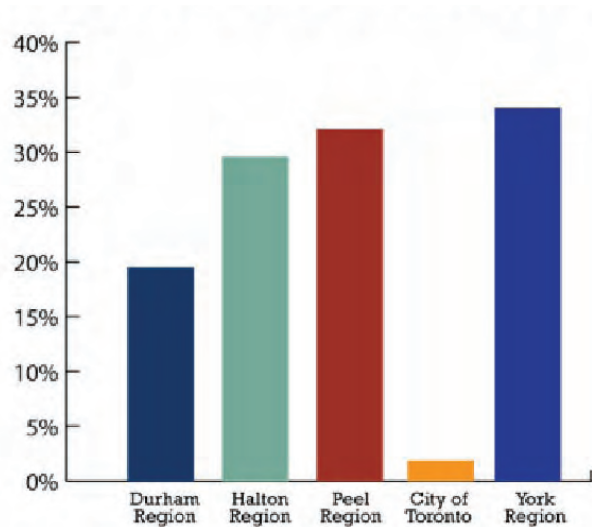
-Regional Municipality of York Council, June 19, 2008, Report #5

York Region
Face of growth

Immigrants

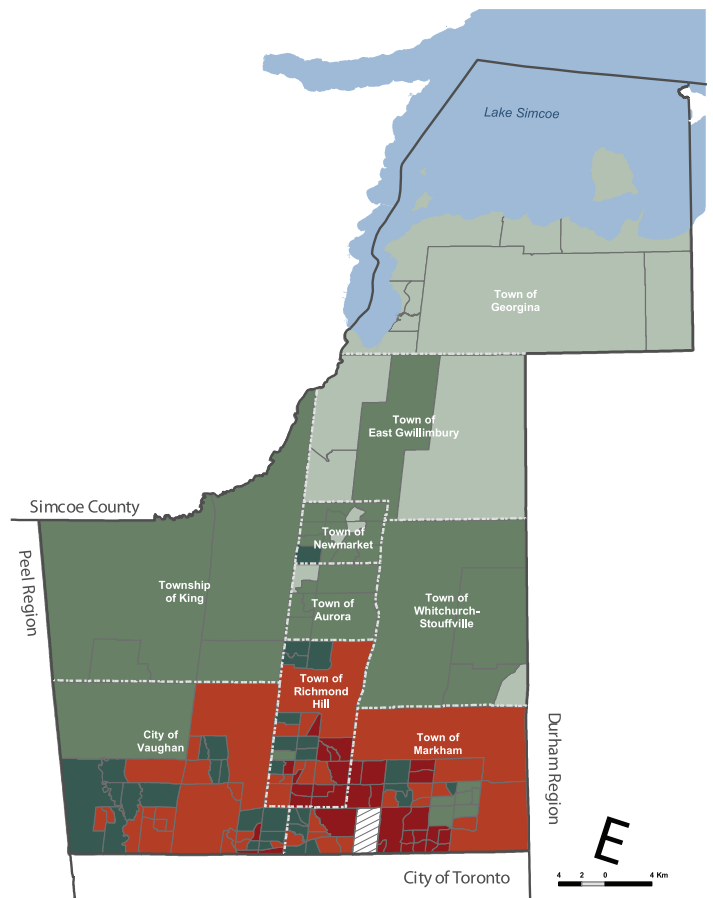
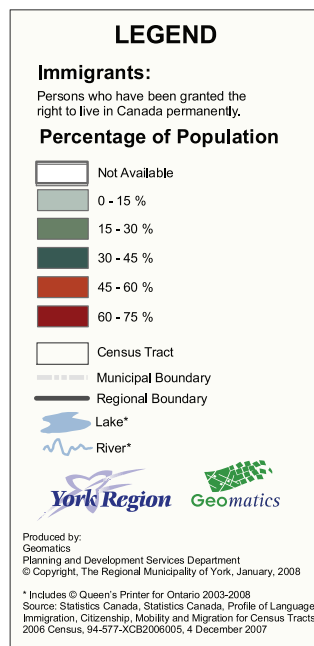
- Number of immigrants living in York Region between 2001 and 2006 grew by 34% from 283,790 to 380,535. This is the highest growth rate in the GTA.
- Number of recent immigrants increased by 7%. York Region has the third highest number of recent immigrants in the GTA.

Change in the Total Immigrant Population for GTA Municipalities, 2001-2006



Sources: Statistics Canada, Census 2001 and 2006, Region of York

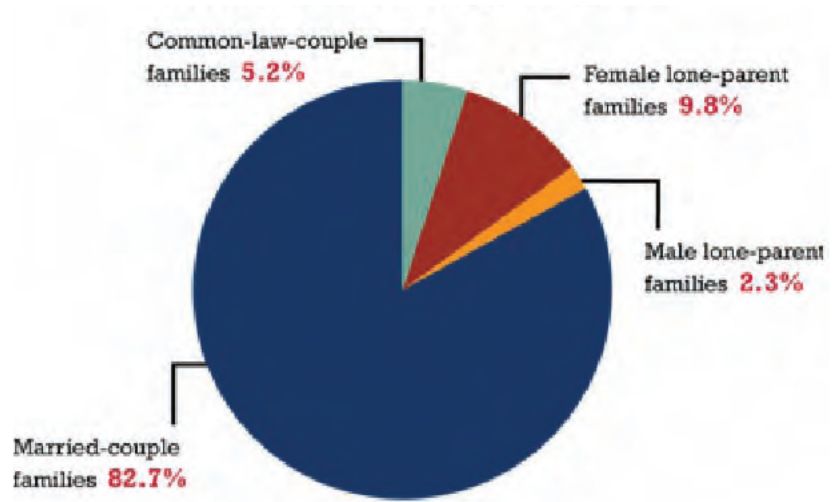
2006 York Region Immigrant Population by Census Tract



Families

- Number of families increased by 23% and the number of lone parent families grew by 37%.
- 12% of children live in lone parent families-majority led by women.
- 83% of families are married couples and majority have children-highest proportion in Canada. In comparison, 46% of Canadian couples are married with children.
- Vaughan, Markham and Richmond Hill rank 2nd, 3rd and 4th in Canada for the highest proportion of married couples with children.

Types of Census Families Living in York Region, 2006

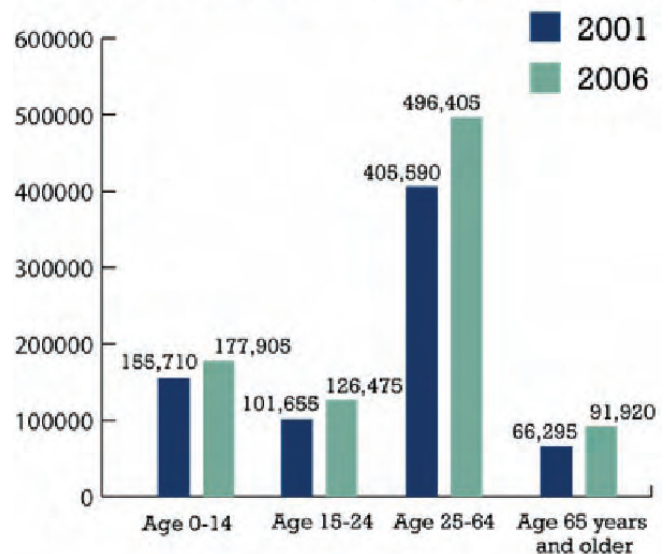


Sources: Statistics Canada, Census 2001 and 2006, Region of York

Age Groups

- Median age of York Region residents is 37.5
- Number of children between 0-14 years increased by 14% and youth 15-24 years increased by 24%.
- One in ten residents in York Region are seniors, compared to one in seven Canadians in this age group.

Change in York Region's Population Between 2001 and 2006 by Age Group



Sources: Statistics Canada, Census 2001 and 2006, Region of York

York Region
Face of growth

Metro's Suburbs in Transition, 1979

“ There never were, nor are there now, provincial or federal government programs to help finance the operational needs of needed community services to accompany the large scale settlement of new populations into rapid growth urban areas. ”

The 905 Ailment

Toronto Star, September 18, 2007, Tanya Talaga

“Social services in the 905 are eroding because funding hasn’t kept pace with a booming population.”

**The 905 gets \$346 per capita for child care.
Other areas get \$707 or 104% more.**

**The 905 gets \$13 per capita for adult programs.
Other areas get \$33 or 154% more.**

**The 905 gets \$51 per capita for developmental services.
Other areas get \$101 or 98% more.**

**The 905 gets \$287 per capita for children’s services.
Other areas get \$693 or 141% more.**

Per capita funding source:
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, prepared for Strong Communities Coalition, Assessing the
Gap in Health and Social Service Funding Between the GTA/905 and the
Rest of Ontario, page 4

York Region Population Forecast Model (40% Scenario) Total Population for 2006 and 2031 by Local Municipality					
	Total Population 2006	Total Population 2031	Population Growth 2006-31	2006-31 Share of Growth (%)	2006-31 Avg Annual Increase (%)
Aurora	49,200	70,800	21,600	4%	1.5%
East Gwillimbury	22,500	75,500	53,000	9%	5.0%
Georgina	45,700	68,700	23,000	4%	1.7%
King	20,400	30,100	9,700	2%	1.6%
Markham	273,900	444,100	170,200	30%	2.0%
Newmarket	78,300	96,100	17,800	3%	0.8%
Richmond Hill	174,000	229,900	55,900	10%	1.1%
Vaughan	244,800	433,100	188,300	33%	2.3%
Whitchurch-Stouffville	26,200	56,700	30,500	5%	3.2%
York Region	935,000	1,505,000	570,000	100%	1.9%

Region of York, Planning for Tomorrow, 2008

York Region
Place of growth

Metro's Suburbs in Transition, 1979

“ ...the important job of community building remains to be completed, if essential supports are to be available for the changing needs of people. The development of...a network of voluntary and institutional resources and services capable of responding to varied social needs and patterns of local community life can require years of time and investment, even when there is public commitment to pursue these objectives.

”

“The problems are clearly visible...but services to address them are harder to find.”

-The Pembina Institute et.al., Ontario Community Sustainability Report-2007, page 48

“The concentration of residents and jobs at specific locations is important to provide opportunities to live and work in the same area, efficient and effective transit services, a variety of housing opportunities, specialized human services, and economic vitality.”

-Region of York Official Plan, September 1, 2007, page 49

York Region
Pace, Face and Place of growth

Who Will Support York's Growth?

York Region Media Group, October 3, 2007, David Fleischer

“Growth may be the single, defining characteristic of York Region.
...but what is often lost in the equation is that suburbia is not just endless homes and malls: it is people and families.”

In an increasingly urban region with all its rich diversity, strategic investments in the pace, face and place of growth will improve quality of life for all York Region residents

...if
addressed.

York Region is vibrant, diverse and growing. While there is much to learn from the experience of other suburbs in comparable transitions, there are also immense opportunities to pro-actively and collectively improve our region's envied quality of life.

United Way of York Region is committed to leading a community wide dialogue to address the region's most pressing issue: the intersection of pace of growth, face of growth and place of growth.

Advancing the common good with precise strategic investments in pace, face and place of growth must be the cornerstone in any and all discussions on quality of life in York Region – today and going forward.

United Way of York Region is aligning its planning and work to support these efforts.

Engage the community. Listen to the stories

United Way of York Region is 'listening to the stories' – an ongoing and multi-pronged dialogue in neighbourhoods across York Region on the realities, challenges and aspirations of residents. Stories from individuals, families and neighbourhoods will help engage residents, shape priorities and identify activities that support and enhance vibrant and healthy communities.

Build capacity. Focus on place

United Way of York Region will outline the framework for investing with strategic precision where pace of growth (intensifying communities) and face of growth (demographic priorities) intersect.

Work collectively. Leverage investments

United Way of York Region, in partnership with community, business and labour leaders, will continue to work with municipal, regional, provincial and federal governments to support innovative and appropriate social service infrastructure partnerships and investments in York Region.

Leading a dialogue on the pace, face and place of growth in York Region



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