

# Room for improvement in health of York residents: Report

The York Region Health Status Report 1991-1996 was released this week following a presentation made by Dr. Helena Jaczek, commissioner of health services and Medical Officer of Health, to the Health and Social Services Committee.

The report shows that the overall health status of York Region residents is good, but certain indicators suggest

that there is considerable room for improvement.

Guests invited for the report's release comprised major stakeholders concerned with the health status of York Region residents and included political representatives, staff from area municipalities, service delivery organizations as well as citizen advisory groups.

The Health Services department recognizes that health has many dimensions and has measured a wide spectrum of indicators to reflect the physical, social and mental health of the population of York Region. These indicators are defined and discussed in the Health Status Report 1991-1996. Information is provided on demographics, social determinants of health, physical environment and lifestyle, in addition to traditional disease and burden of illness data.

York Region is a demographically young and thriving community. The population increased by an estimated

154,000 between 1986 and 1991. Migration into York Region accounted for 82 per cent of this increase. This trend continued from 1991-1996, with another significant increase in the population of approximately 100,000. This large influx has resulted in a very dynamic and multicultural community.

"Rapid population growth through migration creates challenges in addressing public

health needs, including increases in incidence of certain diseases, such as tuberculosis and hepatitis C." In response, the Region's Health Services Department will "maintain its health and disease surveillance," stated Jaczek.

The Health Status Report also investigated causes of death and disease and shows that from 1986-1992, injuries were the leading cause of death for individuals from the ages of 1 through 44. Motor vehicle accidents are one of the leading

■ Please see page 17 ■

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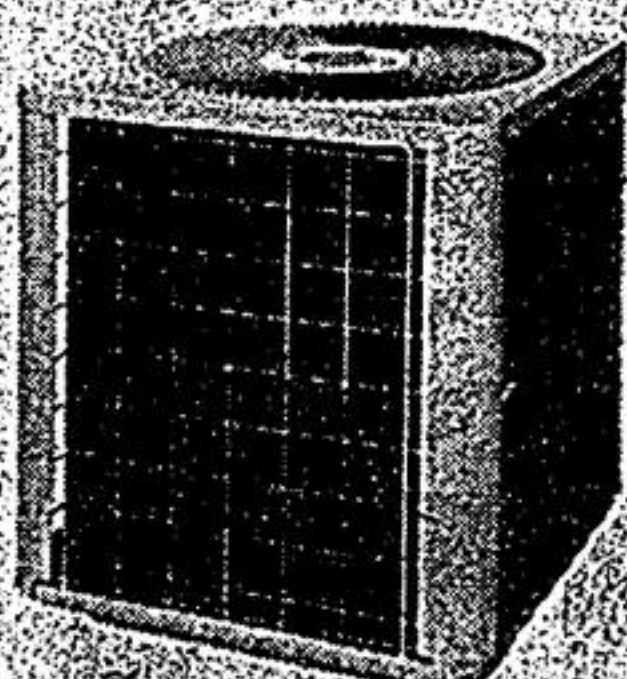
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