

# York Region leads GTA in population growth

BY LISA QUEEN  
Staff Writer

York Region led the Greater Toronto Area in population growth last year, according to the region's annual report.

York's population jumped 4 per cent, meaning more than 26,000 residents moved to or were born in the region. Almost 691,000 people now call the region home.

In comparison, Peel Region had the second fastest growth rate at 2.4 per cent.

Durham Region, with a growth rate of 1.9 per cent, edged at Halton at 1.8 per cent.

York's growth rate was almost seven times that of Toronto's 0.6 per cent. The region's new residents moved into more than 9,000 homes built last year.

Meanwhile, \$610 million worth of commercial and industrial construction was completed.

Regional chairperson Bill Fisch said York's growth numbers reflects the region's success.

"How do I know we were successful? We continued to attract thousands of new residents and millions of new investment dollars," he said. "An in-depth industry survey of the region's 21,000 businesses confirmed increased employment opportunities as reflected by an unemployment rate of 5.3 per cent, as compared to 6.3 per cent for the GTA."

Despite the successes, Fisch said the region had its share of challenges last year. He pointed to the \$93.6 million regional taxpayers were forced to contribute towards Toronto's social services. "I am dedicated to eliminating this unfair transfer of property tax dollars out of our communities and I will continue to advocate to the province that these funds be spent on services and programs in York Region."

Auto parts giant Magna International continues to be York's largest private sector employer with 9,350 workers. IBM Canada is second with 5,000, followed by Paramount Canada's Wonderland with 3,850, Amex Canada with 3,000, Royal Group Technologies and Miller Paving with 1,900.

Other highlights include:

- The region took over the maintenance of a number of provincial roads last year including Hwys. 7, 47, 50, 27 and parts of 48 and 11.

- The region also took over several local roads, including Teston Road, Gamble Road, 14th Avenue and Bathurst Street.

- The region launched a \$10-million water efficiency program called Water for Tomorrow, focusing on leakage control, water use reduction and public education.

- The province downloaded many public health and social services, including operation of the work-for-welfare program.

## TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

VIVIAN ROAD (Y.R. 74)

TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

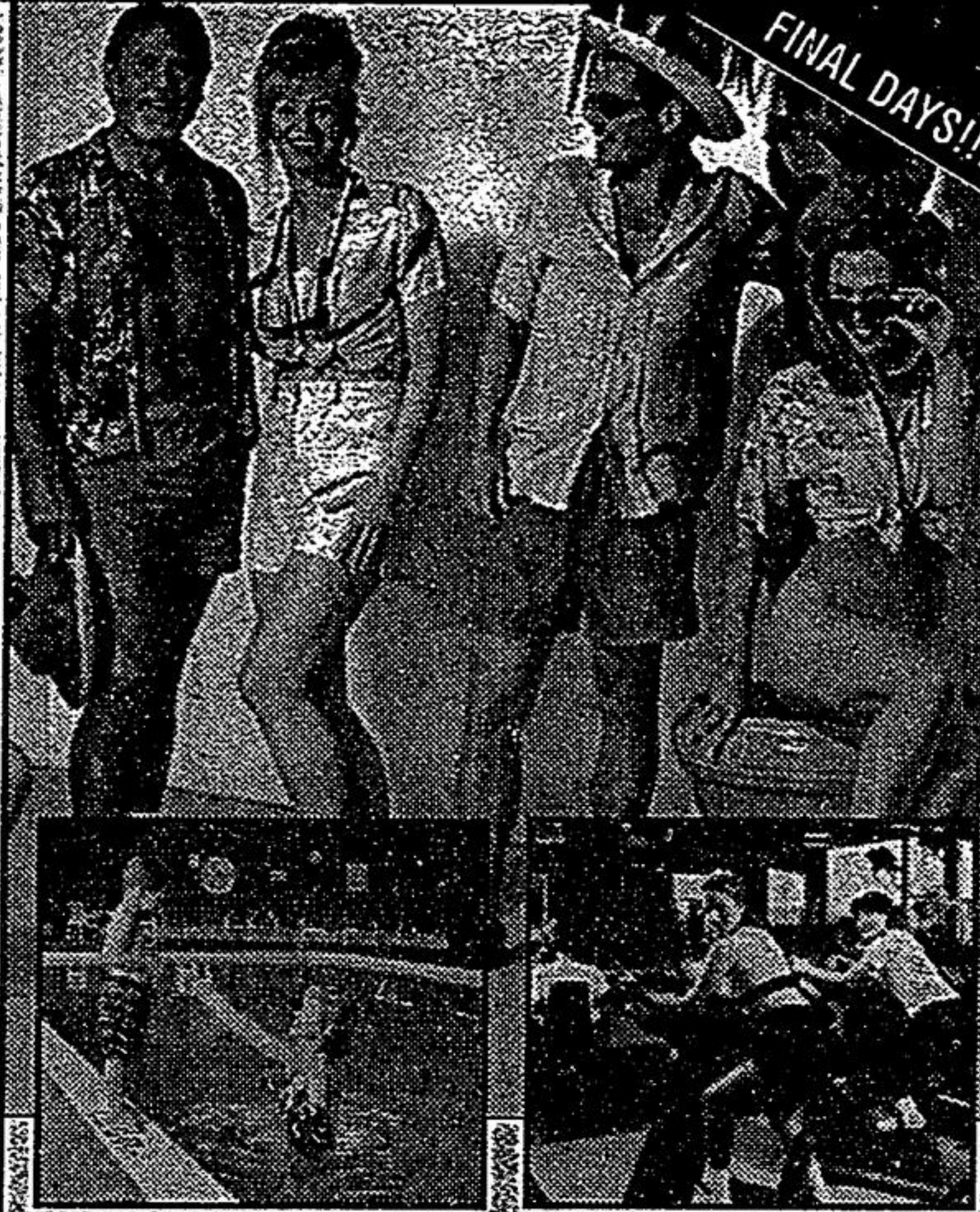
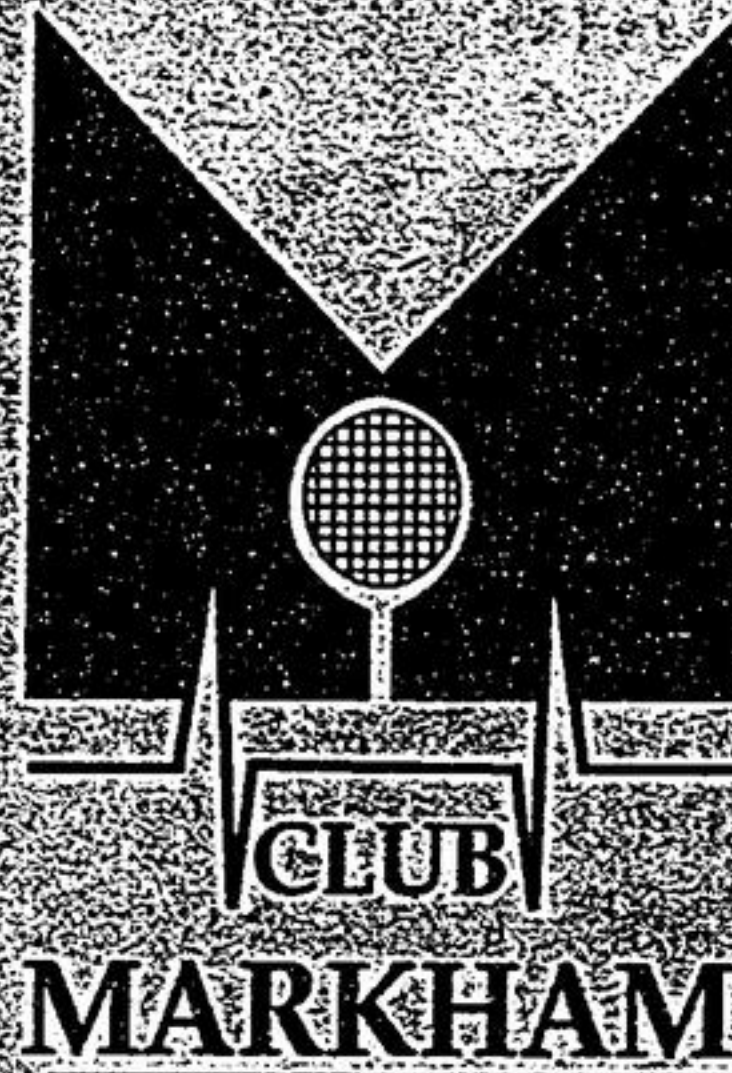
Vivian Rd. (Y.R. 74) immediately west of Kennedy Rd. (Y.R. 3) will be closed to through traffic from July 12, 1999 to August 13, 1999 for the purpose of culvert replacement.

By-Law No. R-1178-1999-036

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