

vivataalk

york region's rapid transit update

unveiling the unbus

"it's just a bus." sure, like a ferrari is just a car.

The very first Viva RTVs [rapid transit vehicles], a streamlined, 60-foot, articulated vehicle, and its 40-foot sibling, will be touring the Region over the summer, giving residents a chance to get acquainted with York Region's rapid transit future.

Viva RTVs come fully equipped with a sophisticated array of technology designed to keep them on time and on the move. At the same time, these vehicles are extremely

inviting to riders. They represent the very latest advances in rider comfort - everything from plush upholstery to innovative, open concept layouts.

With the launch of Viva's RTV, car-addicted York residents have an affordable, attractive, civic-minded solution to gridlock.

This update introduces readers to the RTV and shows how it can be used to get around comfortably and in style.

the rtv: a user's manual

how to get on, get comfortable and get around



Getting on [and off]

1. The low floor and wide double doors let riders on and off quickly.
2. Got a stroller? In a wheelchair? Use the electric ramp to roll on or off.
3. The entire RTV actually "kneels" for you to make boarding even easier.

Getting comfortable

4. Hear that? That's you, breathing. A quiet ride, flush-fitted doors and minimal engine noise let you have a conversation or work in peace.
5. Seats at different levels contribute to the spaciousness of the open-concept interior.
6. The seats: high-backed, contoured, comfortable - worth getting out of your car for.
7. Extra-large windows light the spacious interior.
8. Wheelchair and scooter stations

with anchoring devices accommodate passengers with special needs.

9. Two tables at the rear allow riders to catch up on work enroute. Coming soon: wi-fi.

Getting around

10. Bright, readable vivasmart displays provide you with real-time updates on your expected time of arrival at the next station.
11. Blue buttons conveniently placed at varying heights throughout the RTV allow you to easily request a stop.
12. Grips and grab poles keep standing passengers comfortable and safe.
13. Every RTV is equipped with GPS technology and an emitter that requests traffic signal priority if it's running behind schedule.
14. Coming soon: on-board video with live news, weather and sports updates.



VIVA™

in our next update: viva tickets > where you get them, where they'll get you

Murder rate above Toronto?

BY MARTIN DERBYSHIRE
Staff Writer

You're more likely to be murdered in Vaughan than neighbouring Toronto, according to murder rate statistics for the first six months of 2005.

But police don't put much stock in such figures.

"Are you more likely to get murdered in the City of Vaughan versus Toronto? I would think not," said York Regional Police homicide Det. Bill Sadler. "The truth is, for law abiding citizens in both cities, the likelihood you're going to be the victim of a homicide is quite slim."

There have been three murders in York Region this year and all have been in Vaughan.

Carlo DiMatteo was shot inside his Cipriano Court home June 24, Vincenzo Raco of Brampton was gunned down outside a Woodbridge medical centre in February and 74-year-old amputee Steve Tsakmakian was found murdered inside his modest home in April.

Based on population statistics from the 2001 census, Vaughan's murder rate for the first six months of 2005 is 3.32.

Toronto recorded 30 homicides from Jan. 1 to June 30, 2004, but because of its much larger population, its rate is 2.44.

But the risk of being murdered has more to do with lifestyle than crime statistics, Det. Sadler said.

"In most of the cases we are investigating, not all, but most, there was some other kind of criminal activity involved," he said. "Criminality lends itself to a lifestyle of risk."

There were a record number of homicides in York Region last year, but the total of 15 paled in comparison to Toronto's 64 murders and the homicide rate of 2.05 fell below Toronto's 2.57.

The three murders in Vaughan this year certainly don't indicate any crime problem in the city, Det. Sadler said. "There really isn't a trend here," he said.

Police are still investigating all three murders and have made no arrests.



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