

# English as second language fact of life in York

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The face of Canada is changing and there are few places that demonstrate that as well as York Region.

Statistics from the 2006 census released yesterday show the southern municipalities of York Region are among the most diverse areas in all of Canada. Both Markham and Richmond Hill have populations

in which the majority of residents were born outside of the country.

There are six cities in Canada with majority populations of immigrants. With 56.5 per cent of its residents born outside the country, Markham has the highest percentage of any municipality in Canada, aside from Richmond, BC.

Mississauga is third, with Richmond Hill coming in fourth (51.5 per cent) and Vaughan (44.9 per cent) eleventh.

The same pattern can be seen in a survey of those who identified their mother tongue as something other than English or French.

In Markham, 146,810 people did so compared to 106,480 who said English was their first language.

Richmond Hill and Vaughan also showed English-speakers are now a minority.

The population increases are also marked with the foreign-grown population of Vaughan jumping

more than 40 per cent in the past five years while Markham's grew 34.1 per cent.

While the northern municipalities showed fewer immigrants, the changes can be seen there as well.

Twenty-four per cent of Aurora residents now have a first language other than English or French and the number rises to 27 per cent in King Township.

The local pattern is an extension of one seen across the country.

## STOUFFVILLE BY CENSUS

Some facts on Whitchurch-Stouffville from 2006 census:

- ▶ Total population was 24,100 and 81 per cent were non-immigrants.
- ▶ English was the mother tongue of 84.8 of residents.
- ▶ Most common other languages were Chinese (290) and Italian (215).

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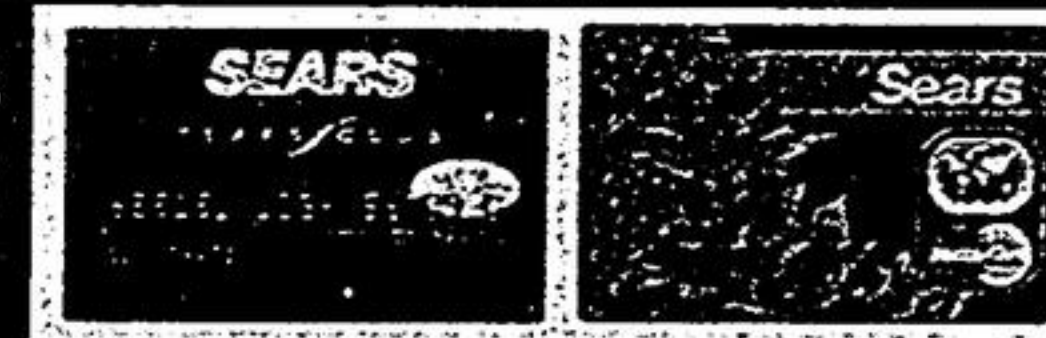
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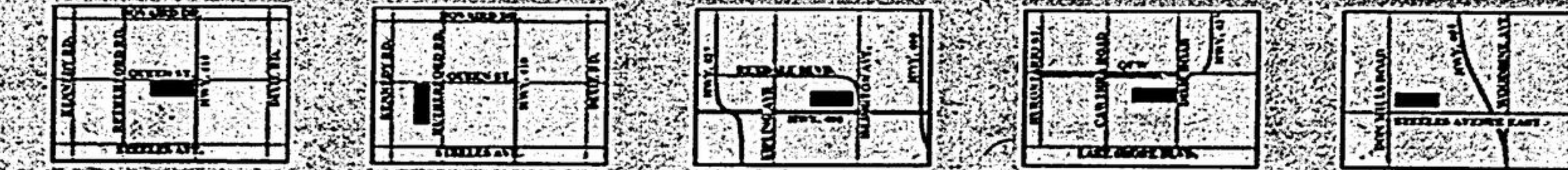
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