

STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Nazia Chaudhry is a family/senior settlement counsellor with Centre for Information and Community Services at the York Region Immigrant Service Centre on Kennedy Road at Denison Street.

## Milliken diversity-rich community

BY JOE FANTAUZZI
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tanding on her front lawn on a warm summer morning, Rone McGregor looks out into her neighbourhood.

In front of her, a row of two-storey red brick walk-ups line the south side of Sunrise Drive near Faithful Way.

As Sunrise meets Old Kennedy Road, which then plunges toward Steeles Avenue, empty units stand silent at ground level to the right, many with real estate signs in front, a hopeful harbinger of commerce to come.

"It's an up-and-coming community," Ms McGregor says.

A Jamaican-Canadian who first settled in Toronto, Ms McGregor moved with her husband to Milliken about two years ago.

The Sunrise subdivision is new. It is peaceful. It is quiet during the day.

"It's a big difference. It's like going to a new world," she says. "You have to take a while to

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build up a community relationship because everyone is new."

Arguably and most extensively, one might define Milliken's borders as Steeles to the south, Brimley Road to the east, just a touch east of Birchmount Road and just south of 14th Avenue.

Those who know the community say the first recent immigration wave was led by southern Europeans. In the late 1980s and early '90s, Chinese immigrants began to move into the neighbourhood when Market Village was established.

More recently, increasing numbers of South Asians and Caribbean-Canadians have made Milliken home.

Milliken may be a new world to some residents, but is also a neighbourhood with deep roots.

Records about the community's origins show it was a quaint settlement in its early days; its centre being what was then Steeles, now referred to as Old Kennedy.

Today on Old Kennedy, vehicles zip up and down the four-lane road between Steeles and Denison. On the east side of Old Kennedy, homes peek over a long wooden fence. An auto body shop with cars and dump trucks gleaming in the sunshine on its lot are

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