

Seniors' strategy in works for region

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region has been tracking and preparing for, she said.

A seniors strategy, though a work in progress, is in place as a proactive augment to the region's existing and ranging services for the aged.

Planning includes enhanced partnerships with senior-centric agencies, including Community & Home Assistance to Seniors, the Central Local Health Integration Network and Community Care Access Centre.

The plan helps define the region's role in supporting our elderly, she said.

"It shapes what's appropriate, our relationships with non-profit agencies and hospitals and identifies any gaps," she said. "It will let us know where to direct or redirect funds so we clearly know where we need to be going and what's right for us."

"It's important because not all seniors are the same. They have different needs and challenges."

Existing programs, such as senior housing, in-home care and adult day care, will need to be ramped up to accommodate the influx of older residents, she said.

York Region Emergency Medical Services will also be impacted by an aging population, Ms Urbanski said, particularly by the needs of people well beyond

retirement.

Citing emergency transport records from 2009 to 2011, EMS annually transports 5 per cent of the region's population.

Each year, 27 per cent of residents aged 75 and older were transported by EMS, while 10 per cent of those aged 65 to 74 were transported by EMS.

The census detailed the citizenry in York's nine municipalities.

Markham has the largest population, with 301,709 people, 12.3 per cent of whom are seniors 65 and older.

King, York's least populated area, with just less than 20,000 residents, has the region's highest 65-plus cohort at 14.5 per cent.

Whitchurch-Stouffville had the largest population surge since 2006.

The municipality's 37,628 citizens, 14.1 per cent of whom are seniors, represents a 54.3-per-cent hike in five years.

Aurora, with an 11.7-per-cent population jump to 53,203 since 2006, has the lowest number of seniors, with one in 10 residents being 65 or older.

The new figures offer a snapshot of who we are, Statistics Canada Demography Division analyst Jonathan Chagnon said.

Expected trends were melded with interesting findings.

The proportion of seniors in Canada was among the lowest of the G8 countries, just slightly ahead of the United

States and Russia, he said.

There were 5,825 people 100 and older in Canada, up 25.7 per cent since 2006.

The gender of our nation is roughly split between men at 49 per cent and women at 51 per cent.

Canadian's median age is 40.6 years.

Ontario's population is 13.9 per cent seniors, while Nova Scotia has the highest proportion at 16 per cent.

The fewest seniors live in Nunavut, where three in 100 people are 65 or older.

It's projected one in four Canadians will be 65 or older by 2061.

While the ranks of Canadians aged 65 and older increased by 609,810 between 2006 and 2011, the number of children aged 14 and under grew by just 27,505, a rise of 0.5 per cent.

The numbers reveal where Canadians are working and retiring.

Parksville, on Vancouver Island, and Elliott Lake, had the highest proportion of seniors at 35 per cent, double the national average.

Climate plays a role, with seven of the 10 municipalities with the highest proportion of seniors being in British Columbia.

The statistics show retirement communities taking root in Ontario, with Cobourg, Tillsonburg and Collingwood all boasting high percentages of seniors.

- with files from Sandra Bolan

BY THE NUMBERS

2011 census in York Region:

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

2011 population: 37,628

Percentage of people 65 and older: 14.1

Pop. per sq-km 2011 (density): 182

Pop. percentage change 2006-2011: 54.3

2006 population: 24,390

Pop. percentage change 2001-2006: 10.8

2001 population: 22,008

MARKHAM

2011 population: 301,709

Percentage of people 65 and older: 12.3

Pop. per sq-km 2011 (density): 1,419

Pop. percentage change 2006-2011: 15.3

2006 population: 261,573

Pop. percentage change 2001-2006: 25.4

2001 population: 208,615

AURORA

2011 population: 53,203

Percentage of people 65 and older: 10.6

Pop. per sq-km 2011 (density): 1,068

Pop. percentage change 2006-2011: 11.7

2006 population: 47,629

Pop. percentage change 2001-2006: 18.6

2001 population: 40,167

NEWMARKET

2011 population: 79,978

Percentage of people 65 and older: 11.1

Pop. per sq-km 2011 (density): 2,086

Pop. percentage change 2006-2011: 7.6

2006 population: 74,295

Pop. percentage change 2001-2006: 12.9

2001 population: 65,788

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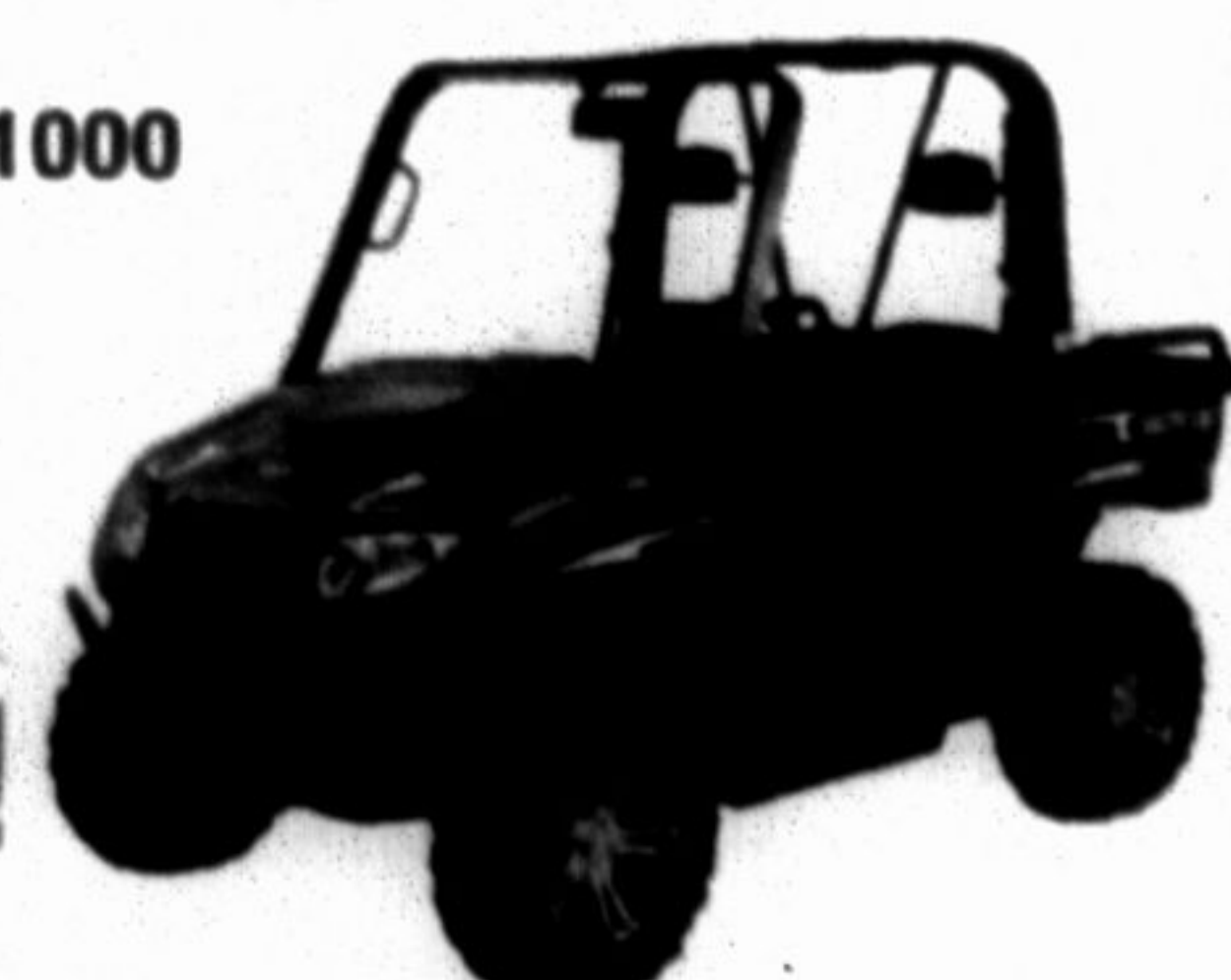
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