

York's median age 39.3

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is really how families can be characterized today," she said. "We still have married couples dominant, but it is decreasing in share."

Within the marital status category, just less than three-fifths of York adults are married, compared to 50 per cent provincially. Within our nine municipalities, 3.8 per cent live common-law, half of the Ontario total.

Nationally, among the census families, common-law couples grew rapidly, up 13.9 per cent since 2006, compared to a 3.1 per cent increase for married couples and 8 per cent for single-parent families. For the first time, common-law couples surpassed the number of single-parent families. Common-law couples are most prevalent in the territories and in Quebec, where they represent one in three of all families.

The percentage of single, never legally married York Region adults stands on par with Ontario at 27 per cent.

Canadawide, 13 per cent of people 15 and older live alone. Provincially, one in 10 within this cohort lives solo, while York's stat in the category is 4.1 per cent.

Multiple-family households are prevalent in Brampton (11 per cent), Markham (8.1 per cent), Richmond Hill (5.4 per cent) and Mississauga (5 per cent). This could be the result of a higher proportion of immigrants in the communities, Statistics Canada says.

In York Region's census of 294,000 private households, 35 per cent are occupied by two persons and more than 10 per cent are home to five or more persons. More than 5 per cent of York's households are defined as two or more family households. In York, the average number of persons per private household is 3.2. Provincially, it's 2.6.

The region's population is 51 per cent female and 49 per cent male. The median age of York's citizenry is 39.3 years — a year younger than the Ontario median — with our males at 38.3 years and females almost two years older.

STOUFFVILLE FAMILIES MIRROR PROVINCE

The family structure in Whitchurch-Stouffville, be it married or common-law, very much mirrors the provincial norms.

That includes the fact there are more children aged 25 and older (1,385) living at home locally than those aged 15 to 17 (1,365).

Of the 9,065 married couples in town, about 59 per cent of them have children at home. Provincially it's 58 per cent.

When it comes to common-law living, Whitchurch-Stouffville is below the provincial average of 13 per cent with about 10 per cent. Of those local couples, 36 per cent have children. Provincially that number is at 40 per cent.

Women remain the predominant leader of single-parent homes locally (78 per cent) and throughout Ontario (80 per cent).

The bulk of children living at home locally are between six and 14 years old (4,110).

— Sandra Bolan

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