

Newmarket-Aurora Action on Poverty Profile

Provincial
Riding
Profiles



Story Behind the Stats

The Newmarket-Aurora riding is bordered by Bloomington Road, Bathurst Street, Wainscot Avenue/Haines Road, and Highway 404. It consists of the Towns of Newmarket and Aurora.

These towns consist of vastly different communities. The poverty rate for the riding does not accurately reflect either town. Aurora is a relatively affluent area while Newmarket is home to a mix of income groups, with many residents living at or below the poverty line. There is also a growing number of individuals who are working low-wage jobs and/or accessing social assistance. Food insecurity - and its related health consequences - is also ever-present in the area and there are a multitude of free emergency food and meal programs.

121,925 people live in Newmarket-Aurora

10,932 live in poverty – 9.1%*

“If I had some more financial resources I could live and eat healthier, especially because of my diabetes. If my cheque per month was increased even moderately I could buy the proper food that is conducive to my medical condition and I would feel better.”

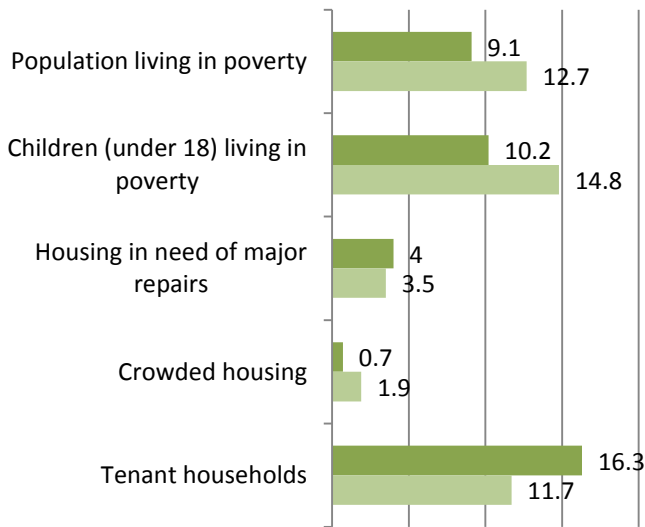
**Male, 65 with Diabetes Type 2
Social Audit Participant in Newmarket in 2010**

“Food and housing are not perks - they should not be something some people can afford and others can only hope for. Increasingly we are seeing more seniors, people with university degrees, those who have experienced family breakdown, and of course individuals who are unemployed or under employed relying on the food banks and emergency meal programs. We have to be able to do better than this.”

**Joan Stonehocker
Executive Director
York Region Food Network**

Key Figures

%



Newmarket-Aurora



York Region



The Action on Poverty profile series for the ridings in York Region were created with information from Social Planning Toronto, the Social Planning Council of York Region, the York Region Do the Math Working Group and the York Region ISARC Social Audit, 2010. Statistics were drawn from 2006 Census Data.

*For details on calculations and definitions, go to www.spcno.ca



Taking Action in Newmarket-Aurora

York Region Food Network (YRFN) was located in Newmarket for 12 years and relocated to Aurora in 2012. YRFN takes a variety of approaches to combatting food insecurity created out of poverty in the region. From first response initiatives to prevention, education and advocacy, the Network has set out to address food insecurity in a number of ways.

First Response or Emergency Food provision:

YRFN works with the food banks and meal programs in the region to support them in the work of meeting the emergency needs of people. It also manages the Food Reclamation Program, where food with broken packaging is made available by stores in the area to shelters, food banks and individuals who need it most.

Prevention, Programming, Education:

The Network creates and maintains community gardens in both Newmarket and Aurora that give priority to those who do not have their own yards or access to land on which to garden. It also offers a Community Kitchen program and the Good Food Box Program and is in the process of establishing a Food Charter for York Region.

Policy and Advocacy:

Through the Do the Math Working Group, YRFN has worked alongside other anti-poverty activists such as the Poverty Action for Change Coalition (local), and the Put Food in the Budget Coalition (provincial), to educate politicians and the public about the need to increase social assistance levels by \$100 a month as a place to start in addressing abject poverty.

<http://yrfn.ca/>

Social Planning Council of York Region

SPCYR is an independent, non-profit, community-based organization. We are committed to advancing social and economic justice and resident engagement in all aspects of community life in York Region. We do this through community-based research, social planning and community action, with particular emphasis on the conditions facing those from marginalized or equity-seeking communities.

Want to get involved?
Contact us at info@spcyr.com
www.spcyr.com

How to Connect with your Elected Representatives on these Issues

Mayor: *Tony Van Bynen*, 905-953-5300, mayor@newmarket.ca (Newmarket); *Geoffrey Dawe*, 905-727-3123 ext 4746, mayor@aurora.ca (Aurora)

Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP): *Frank Klees*, 905-750-0019, frank.kleesco@pc.ola.org

Member of Parliament (MP): *Lois Brown*, 905-953-7515, lois.brown@parl.gc.ca

For a complete listing of all elected representatives, including public & Catholic school boards, a map of the riding & its boundaries, see the York Region overview sheets