

# Wide area for budget

York Regional Board of Education hopes to hand its budget down on March 16, but in the meantime, there are a few facts it would like its taxpayers to know when it comes to fixing that same budget.

That was the gist of a presentation by Jack Webber, superintendent of business, to a press conference, Monday night at the board offices in Aurora.

With the focus on "total dollar increase," there was a limited understanding of the principles behind the grant structure for educational financing, he said.

What determined the level of service to students and the mill rate for taxpayers, "is the per pupil expenditure ceiling on which the Ministry of Education is prepared to pay grants and the fixed mill rate ... which a board is required to spend at that level," Webber said.

Maximum grants were based on "ordinary expenditures" - daily operating costs; and "extraordinary expenditures" - bus-

ing, new construction, etc.

In the first category, the Ministry set a figure on a per-pupil basis, on which it is prepared to share the cost. If the board spent at the same level, the mill rate would be the same as that set out in the grant regulation: Recognized Ordinary Expenditure (ROE) (per pupil) by the NO. of pupils, less (fixed mill rate by assessment).

Said Webber: "You can see from this that having more assessment does not help; having fewer pupils does not help. In either case the fixed mill rate will remain the same."

The figures having the greatest impact on the mill rate, were the per pupil (ROE) and the fixed mill rate, and their relative percentage increases, he said.

Where the board spends over ceiling expenditures, the grant doesn't increase, so that the former are all levied on the local taxpayer.

In the matter of extraordinary expenditures, the main items were,

approved transition costs and approved capital costs of buildings, including debenture payments for expenditures eligible for grants, plus a per pupil figure for capital equipment, Webber said.

Three other factors affecting budgeting and financing, were the school operational year, which did not

coincide with the financial year for grants and taxes; about 40 per cent of the school-board's budget is not directly related to the number of students being served, while the majority of grants are on a per student basis; provincial grants are directly related to assessment and not the number of students.

## Swears off After fine

MARKHAM — A 27-year-old Markham area man has sworn off alcohol following his arrest on charges of impaired driving, refusing to blow and resisting arrest.

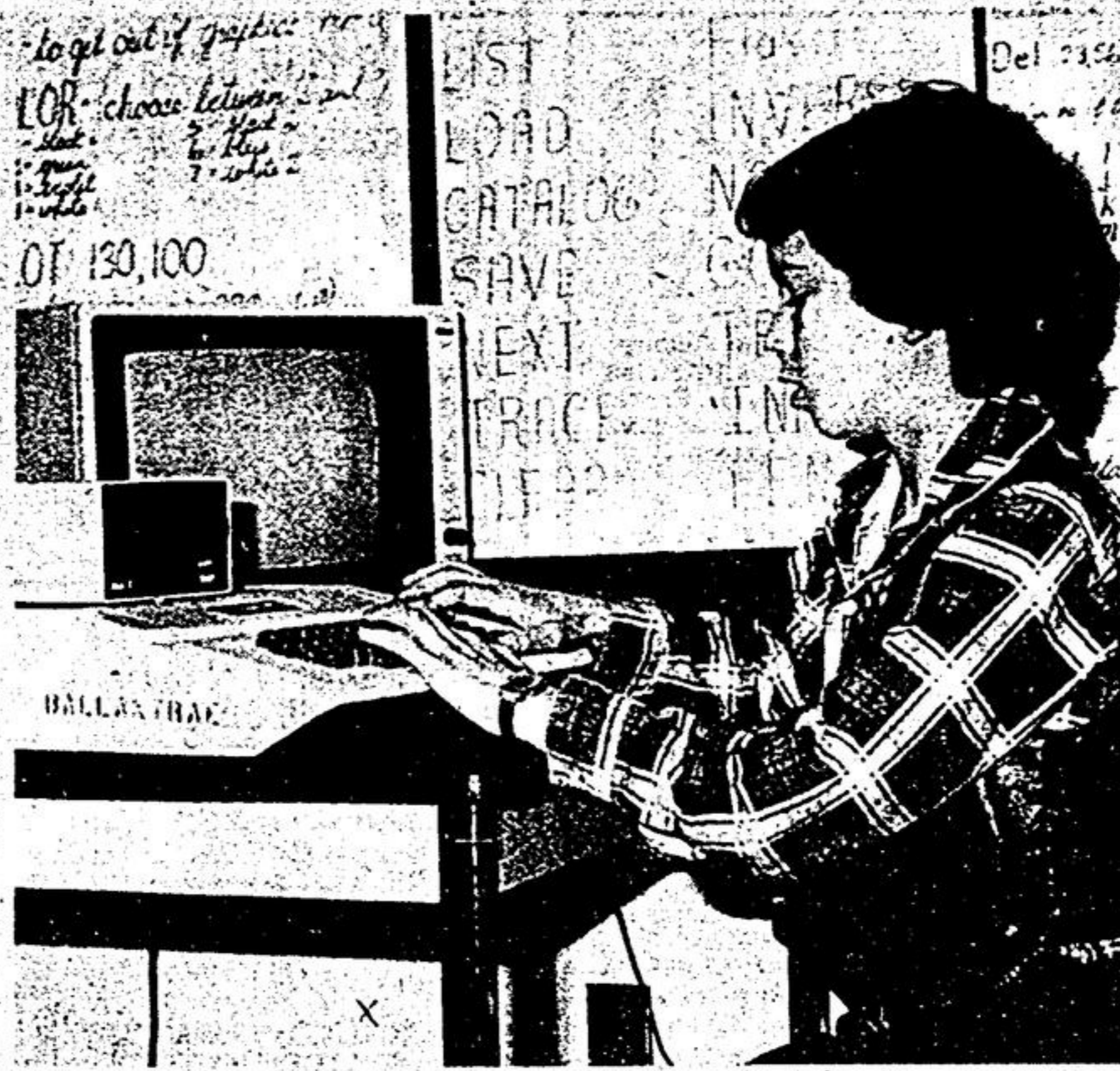
It cost Frederick McKinnon a total of \$350 however. He was convicted on all three counts by Provincial Judge R.G. Pearce in Newmarket Provincial Court.

McKinnon's wife, also pleaded guilty to a charge of impaired driving. She was fined \$200 by the same judge.

The court was told that when McKinnon was stopped by police in Markham, they found him highly intoxicated.

Crown attorney Mary Lou Dickie said that when police attempted to arrest McKinnon, he struck the officer and kicked him several times.

To add insult to injury, according to Crown testimony, McKinnon's wife, became angry with police and jumped into the vehicle, leaving the scene. She was pursued, and, after a struggle, was arrested and charged.



## Computers prove popular

Computers are proving of great interest to the students of Ballantrae public school, particularly the boys. According to principal John Laughlin they have

taken to them like ducks to water. Clint Skidmore, a grade 8 student, is seen here with an Apple computer that is on loan to the school.

## "Take it easy"

Dear Editor:

The majority of Whitechurch-Stouffville residents have had it up to their proverbial eyeballs with reports of polluted water, the landfill site and all things related to them.

This feeling comes through loud and clear from talking to people everywhere I go. As Councillor Tom Wood put it: "It's time we put an end to it!"

I feel that unless the Concerned Citizens'

Committee have something specific to offer, they should downplay their cause. An agreement has been signed by the Town, one that will not be overturned by the Environment Ministry regardless of the plebiscite's result.

This is only my opinion, but I feel I speak for many.

Sincerely,  
Paul Burgess,  
R.R. 2, Stouffville.

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