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## Taxes may rise three per cent

**Budget being cut to bare bones and tax hike unavoidable: Mayor**

**SAL BOMMARITO**  
Staff Reporter

Taxpayers face an unavoidable tax increase of three per cent or less in 1992, Mayor Fran Sainsbury confirmed this week.

Sainsbury said council is using that figure as a "guideline" when preparing this year's budget, "but it could be less depending on the final budget." Council has been looking at budget cuts and staff reorganization as a means of achieving that guideline, said Sainsbury.

"Staff is cutting (budgets) to the bare bones. There may be some staff shuffling and some staff may have to move laterally. We're looking at how to streamline our operations," she said.

Closed-door preliminary budget deliberations began Jan. 28 and 29, with two day-long sessions. Those meetings are ongoing until March 24, when council is expected to release its first draft of the budget.

A second draft should be completed by April 7. Sainsbury said a zero per cent tax increase is "unrealistic" in light of a 12 per cent increase in hydro, and increases in other services. "You don't put the recession on the backs of one municipality," said Sainsbury. For staff salary increases, Sainsbury said it has been council's practice in the past to use the Metro-Toronto-area COLA (Cost of Living Allowance) as a guideline. The COLA has been set at three per cent this year, she said.

Sainsbury said staff salary increases will also depend on union negotiations, something the town hasn't had to deal with in the past. "(The town) have never had a union in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville," she said. Sainsbury denied senior staff will be given increases of between six per cent and nine per cent.

Ed Hakonson, owner of Choko Design, accused the town of considering large salary increases for senior staff, including the chief administration officer Bob Panizza, at last Tuesday night's council in committee meeting.

"I couldn't figure out what (Hakonson) was talking about. Town staff haven't asked for (between six per cent and nine per cent). They've always lived with three per cent," she said.

Sainsbury said because town staff are making "14 per cent less" than employees in other municipalities, Stouffville is being used as a "training ground" by qualified individuals who eventually move on to more lucrative positions with larger municipalities. The town has decided, in some cases, its "just as costly to raise (salary) grids," rather than spend "a lot of money to advertise for qualified individuals," Sainsbury said.

Staff salary increases have decreased from 9.5 per cent in 1985, to 4.9 per cent last year, she said. "Services such as road clearing, fire protection and snowplowing the windrows for seniors (among other services) will have to be provided."

## Music Town signs raise concerns

**SAL BOMMARITO**  
Staff Reporter

The chamber of commerce is surprised by a proposal to have Music Town symbols placed on welcome signs at town entrances, according to one of its directors.

Harold Van Dyke made the comment at Tuesday night's council-in-committee meeting which dealt with a proposal by Jim Thomas, a representative for the Music Town committee.

"I'm a director of the chamber of commerce and I'm surprised to see (the proposal for) the name on the sign. The directors don't know anything about this," Van Dyke told council.

Thomas proposes signs incorporating a symbol designed by John Roberts, an art teacher at Stouffville Secondary School, be installed above the welcome signs. The cost of installing the signs would run between \$125 and \$300. Council passed a motion to refer the proposal to staff for further discussion with Thomas and other groups affected by the move.

Mayor Fran Sainsbury said welcome signs were jointly constructed by the town and the chamber of commerce with the understanding service clubs be allowed to utilize the signs.

Ward 6 councillor Ken Prentice, also a member of the town's economic advisory committee, suggested the item be dealt with in that forum.

"If (the economic advisory committee) is going to promote the town, (the proposal) should be run by them," said Prentice. "(The signs) are going to be at the entrances of town, it is important. We want to get it right," he said.

Ward 2 councillor Steve Bellerby said the issue may be one of ownership. Ward 1 councillor Ivanka Bradley suggested the sign may have to be entirely redone.

Chief administration officer Bob Panizza reminded council of its commitment to promoting the Strawberry Festival on a town sign. "(Council) may have a situation of more than one sign (at the town's entrance-way)," Panizza warned.



Carrie Purcell, here with three llamas at her home at Lionel's Equestrian Centre, was selected as the Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians technician of the year.

## Purcell named vet tech of year

**JOHN ANDREWS**  
Correspondent

A local woman has been recognized by the Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians as veterinary technician of the year.

Carrie Purcell, who lives at Lionel's Equestrian Centre on McCowan Rd., won the award last Friday at the annual general meeting of the OAVT in Hamilton.

"It's a complete surprise," she said. "It's an honor. I'm shocked and I feel great."

She said each veterinary-related facility in the province is given nomination forms so the winner is chosen by their peers. In Purcell's case she was nominated twice, from different departments within Sunnybrook Hospital where she works.

The award consists of a trophy the winner keeps for one year and a certificate. The certificate lists the areas where the winner excels and in Purcell's case it said, "enthusiasm, compassion and dedication."

Purcell grew up on a farm and said, "the inclination was to get involved with animals." She graduated Seneca College's King Campus in 1981 and decided to pursue a career in animal research after working a summer at a veterinary clinic and then doing some work in research. She decided the latter offered more opportunity and more education relating to human medicine.

She now oversees all veterinary bi-medical projects that are ongoing at Sunnybrook Hospital. She "ensures that the programs are here and the animals are taken care of."

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<b>1991 Ford Mustang</b> 3 dr., auto, p/s, p/b, tilt, cruise, & more, only 19,000 kms. \$9,890	<b>1991 Ford Aerostar XL</b> 7 pass., stretch, A/C, auto, tilt, cruise, only 19,000 kms. \$15,990	<b>1991 Lincoln Continental MKVII</b> "Ball Bloss", only 7,000 kms., must be seen. <b>FIRM</b> \$29,990	<b>1990 Dodge Shadow</b> 5 dr., auto, stereo, A/C & more. \$6,490	<b>1990 Ford Tempo</b> 4 dr., auto, A/C & more. \$5,990	<b>1989 Cadillac Fleetwood</b> loaded with leather \$16,990	<b>1989 Mazda 323 WGN</b> 4 dr., auto, cert. \$4,990	<b>1988 Pontiac Grand Prix</b> Buckets, console, loaded \$7,990	<b>1988 F150 PICKUP</b> 4.9 litre engine, auto, p/s, p/b, box liner & more. \$7,990

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