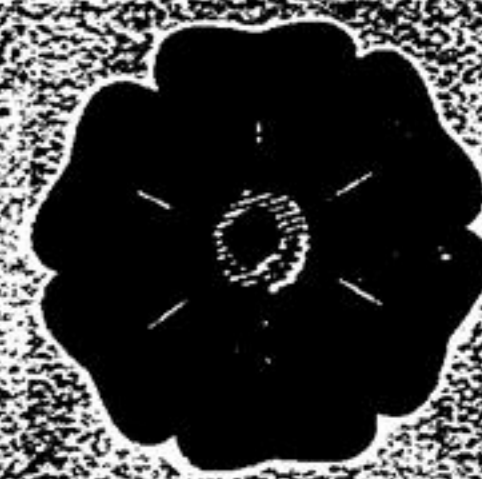




Lest we forget...



On this day, remember those who died for us

The Tribune *Stouffville*

Vol. 4 No. 46

A Metroland Community Newspaper

Wednesday, November 11, 1992

20 Pages

50 cents

Homeowners can expect regional tax hike

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

York Region homeowners can expect a tax hike next year - it would be "unrealistic" to think otherwise, chairman Eldred King told reporters Thursday.

York has many projects that are unfolding in 1993 - projects that have already been held off for several years due to incompleteness or budget restraints.

Senior staff say they will need 70 new employees next

year to keep their departments running smoothly, and to meet the demands of York's fast-growing population.

But King said it's highly unlikely that council would approve 70 new positions unless department heads consider "trade-offs." In other words, senior staff would be expected to slash programs or trim unnecessary fat from their departments to offset the number of new positions they want, King said.

It would be absolutely unrealistic to think there would be no increase over 1992

- Eldred King

But it's not additional staff positions that are the problem, King added.

York's more than 700 employees will be moving to its new \$65-million headquarters - a transition period that won't be

without clinches and costs. Not to mention last minute tie-ups with its new architect and builders. The region's 911 emergency system is expected to be on-line next year, and that means a new region-wide computer system, the hiring of 11 operators and a whole lot of organization.

King said York has 16,000 new residents this year - a sign of the times and the beginning of thousands more to come during the next 20 years. And

while many of these residents are contributing ratepayers, they all expect top-notch, well-run services, passable, safe roads and adequate police and fire protection, he said.

York also has to think of its future long-term waste affordability and demands - not to mention its on-going fight with the Interim Waste Authority (IWA) to keep Metro-Toronto's trash out of the region.

There's the growing social assistance costs which are plaguing the region York will dish out more than \$7 million in welfare costs this year to residents who cannot find work.

"It would be absolutely unrealistic to think there would be no increase over 1992," King said. He defended the nearly-finished administrative building costs, saying that "efficiency cannot possibly be measured."

King said once York's staff and police are under one roof, taxpayers will own a more efficient, smoother-run and fine-tuned operation. He chastised reporters for balking at York's need for new senior staff positions in times when other corporations are paring off unnecessary white-collar jobs.

"York Region is a service industry and it's not the same as a manufacturing industry. It takes people to manage people and that's very different from a private sector business making a product," King said.

And finally King defended a probable tax hike stating that York has often "been too frugal and light" when it comes to spending money.

"But we always try to operate efficiently," he concluded.



One person daily signs on for welfare

Nearly 8,500 York Region residents received welfare cheques during the month of September - a 50 per cent jump from the same period last year.

Although the numbers are slowing down substantially from last year's surging month-by-month figures, a steady rise continues this year.

For instance, 8,454 people collected welfare in September - a hike from 8,427 in August. That 27-case increase works out to about one resident each day applying for social assistance. Latest records show regional taxpayers coughed up \$7 million this year to aid

their jobless neighbors - up from \$5.4 million in 1991. Figures show three per cent of York's 504,000 residents cashed welfare cheques in September to feed their families and pay their rent. Here are the top five reasons given (from 8,454 cases) as to why welfare assistance was needed during the month September:

- > can't find a job 3,936
- > single parent 1,398
- > temporary illness 762
- > UIC exhausted 560
- > UIC benefits pending 480

Here are the top five reasons (of 945 cases)

why the region terminated benefits during the month of September:

- > not pursuing eligibility 561
- > not resident in municipality 215
- > eligible to receive family benefit assistance 97
- > voluntary withdrawal 67
- > income higher than eligibility 56

During a council meeting last week, community services commissioner Peter Creighton told council he projects a 17 per cent social assistance increase for 1993 - a "downward" projection from his original forecast of more than double that.

How about that..

If parents want their children to be successful in one of "Canada's emerging industries," they should be encouraged to select one of the following fields, according to Dr. Sherry Cooper, one of the country's top economists.

- CANADA'S EMERGING INDUSTRIES**
- funeral services
 - health services
 - business machines
 - telecommunications
 - gold mines
 - pipelines
 - financial/insurance services
 - computer services
 - entertainment