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Dear Editor,
 We have
 new faith in
 Stouffville...

Dear Editor,
 Thank you Stouffville!
 Once again you have proven the benefits of small-town life. At the beginning of January, we sent a letter to *The Tribune* with an account of the theft of our children's GT snow racers, more to vent our disappointment than any hope of having them returned. We have been overwhelmed with the response, both to our home and through the newspaper office. The GTs were removed from our property, well used (but hopefully enjoyed) for a time and deposited in someone else's property. Gord Sheik, we thank you for your call. You have made two boys very happy. To the family who had found a GT and chose to offer it to Marc and Ben, we thank you also. And to the person who called *The Tribune* offering new GTs, we thank you for your kindness. The people of Stouffville have proven without a doubt that this is a fine town in which to raise a family.
 Bob and Chris Smith



The Smith boys, Marc and Ben, were reunited with their Christmas gifts last week, a pair of GT snow racers.

York plans 7.4% tax hike for '93

TRACY KIBBLE
 Staff Reporter

A buck a day. That's how York Region staff presented a proposed 7.4 per cent residential tax hike for 1993, or an average \$26 a household. In its first draft budget presented to politicians Tuesday, regional chief administrative officer, Bob Forhan proposed a tax hike from \$359.49 in 1992 to \$385.40 this year, or "about \$1 per day." Projected assessment growth this year of 2.9 per cent has kept taxes below the 10 per cent mark. The region's new \$63.5 million headquarters is being blamed for the biggest chunk of the proposed increase, at 4.6 per cent, followed by the police budget (4.1 per cent,) and rising costs of welfare (1.3 per cent.) The proposed 7.4 per cent increase cannot be avoided and is something politicians "have little or no control over," Forhan said. The hike is essential in order to meet service demands throughout York's nine growing area municipalities, he added. Forhan told a budget committee that York is still the most "underspent" region in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA,) while remaining the fastest growing. York expects to spend nearly \$117 million in 1993 to operate its various departments and boards. The biggest chunk - \$59 million, will go to the Police Services Board and authorities, followed by \$17 million for social services and \$15 million for transportation, the draft budget revealed. Based on a 1992 average tax levy, homeowners dished out an average of \$3,100, which is divided up between three areas: education (\$2,043); municipal (\$742) and regional (\$359) levies. The region's share of every tax dollar is 11 cents - the area municipalities take 24 cents, while 65 cents goes to education, York's finance department says. Forhan also said York's nearly 1,160 employees are still paid
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People

CLIFF AIKEN: A veteran volunteer

BRUCE STAPLEY
 Correspondent

At the age of 75, Cliff Aiken enjoys combining a well-deserved retirement with his penchant for community involvement. Aiken sold the Main St. drug store, which still bears his name, back in 1985 after operating the business for 25 years. Since then, he has mastered the art of relaxation. "I would work 12 hours a day, six days a week, and we were open every second Sunday, Aiken told *The Tribune* in a recent interview. "But these days, I try to avoid work as much as possible. You might say I've perfected it." While the veteran Stouffvillite is no longer engaged in gainful pursuits, he can still be found helping out at local

charity event. He has been a member of the Stouffville Lions Club for 32 years, and is a director of the club's Camp Kirk Foundation, which operated a summer camp for children with learning disabilities. Aiken has also been involved with the Stouffville Legion since 1962, and is past chairman of the York Region Division Board of the CNIB. Aiken was born and raised in Toronto's west end. He managed to stave off the effects of the depression by working in gold, copper and zinc mines in Northern Ontario and Manitoba while in his late teens and early 20s. He joined the navy in 1941, serving as a sick berth attendant on a Canadian Corvette named the Sackville until the end of World War I. The last ship of its type still in existence, the Sackville, has been recently restored and is now in the

Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. Aiken still maintains contact with the captain, who is 90 years of age. Aiken used his war service gratuity to finish his pharmacy degree at the University of Toronto, then spent 10 years promoting the products of the ER Squibb pharmaceutical manufacturing company. But when multiple sclerosis cost him the full use of his leg in the late 50s, Aiken decided to buy a drug store. With his wife Evelyn, he combed Southern Ontario for the right location, and eventually settled in Stouffville. Within three weeks, the Aikens had bought the business, sold the Willowdale home and purchased a house in Stouffville. They have never regretted their hastiness. "We loved the store, everything was all on one floor so I could get around," he
 (Please See Page 3)



CLIFF AIKEN

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<p>BRAND NEW 1992 ESCORT 5 DOOR LX</p>  <p>INCLUDES: Auto, a/c, stereo, p/s, p/b & more. Stk. #463C</p> <p>BEST PRICE \$11,783⁰⁰⁰</p> <p>OR LEASE FOR \$259/mo.</p> <p>NO MONEY DOWN</p>	<p>BRAND NEW 1993 ESCORT 4 DOOR LX</p>  <p>INCLUDES: Auto, a/c, stereo, cass. p/s, p/b & more. Stk. #463C</p> <p>BEST PRICE \$11,783⁰⁰⁰</p> <p>OR LEASE FOR \$259/mo.</p> <p>NO MONEY DOWN</p>	<p>BRAND NEW 1992 TRACER LTS</p>  <p>INCLUDES: Auto, a/c, loaded, 4 wheel disc, 1.8 L, DOHC engine & more. Stk. #89C</p> <p>BEST PRICE \$12,999⁰⁰⁰</p> <p>OR LEASE FOR \$479/mo.</p> <p>NO MONEY DOWN</p>	<p>BRAND NEW 1992 EXPLORER 4 DR., 4X4 E BAUER</p>  <p>INCLUDES: Auto, a/c, loaded, limited slip axle, trailer tow pkg. & more. Stk. #230T</p> <p>BEST PRICE \$25,999⁰⁰⁰</p> <p>OR LEASE FOR \$479/mo.</p> <p>NO MONEY DOWN</p>	<p>BRAND NEW 1993 AEROSTAR XL</p>  <p>INCLUDES: V6, auto, a/c, luggage rack, AM/FM stereo & more. Stk. #496T</p> <p>BEST PRICE \$14,999⁰⁰⁰</p> <p>OR LEASE FOR \$279/mo.</p> <p>NO MONEY DOWN</p>
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