

Public trustees aiming to hold the line on budget

By MIKE ADLER
Staff Reporter

Trustees balked at the budget table last week and directed the public school board staff to cut \$520,000 — lowering its annual tax hike to exactly what it was last year.

Led by Aurora trustee and former budget chief John West, they voted 8-4 last week to cut the increase from 1.95 per cent — \$38 for the average York Region household — to 1.84 per cent.

The second number has practically become a religious commitment for the trustees, who have already passed two budgets at 1.84 despite a combination of high growth and cuts in provincial grants that continues to strain board finances.

Zero budgets are difficult to set at a growing board, but if trustees keep increases to 1.84 or less, "at least people won't think the board

Board to allow company logos on school paper

Corporate logos will start appearing this fall on paper Catholic school students use in class or bring home to parents, thanks to a sponsorship deal at the separate school board.

The deal covers all photocopy paper used by students and staff and paper on which school newsletters are written, but not exam foolscap or "sensitive documents."

The board said the advertising, through a company called Educorp Dynamics, will provide up to \$260,000 a year to spread between participating schools. In a board survey completed this month, 34 school councils supported the idea, 23 opposed it and nine could not decide.

No logos will be used which children "can identify with anything they would particularly want," the company has promised. "This advertising is targeting parents and school board staff, not children," one partner told a board official in a letter.

Schools can enter or leave the program at any time, trustees heard last week. The board is also allowing corporate logos on school notebooks this fall, through a separate deal with another company.

does not have control over their spending," said chair Bill Crothers.

The Markham trustee said he voted against the direction to staff because he felt 1.95 per cent seemed reasonable. "Budgeting is not an exact science," he added.

But West said trustees had made a promise and he could see painless ways

to cut \$500,000.

"Even if it's only a \$2 reduction, don't you think people should have the right to this reduction?" he asked last week.

He pointed out such increases are a lot higher for residents in some municipalities, like his Aurora constituents, than it is for others in the region.

The board, probably the largest busi-

ness operation in the area, is expected to pass its 1997 budget tonight.

It doesn't seem logical for trustees to budget this way, argued Lynn Johnston, a union president who represents the board's high school teachers. "You'd think there'd be a rational procedure, rather than just pick(ing) a number out of a hat," he added.

PERFORMANCE DEALERS

YOUR PONTIAC

Two things our competitors don't want you to see.

Our Features.

'97
Sunfire
Sedan



- 4-speed automatic transmission
- with Enhanced Traction System
- 2.2 litre engine
- dual air bags
- 4-wheel ABS
- PASSLock® theft deterrent system
- air conditioning
- AM/FM stereo
- cassette
- folding rear seat
- reclining front bucket seats
- rear seat heat ducts

Our Price.

SMARTLEASE \$239* per month / 36 months

Purchase \$17,359†
(excludes freight \$620)

Now only \$1000 down

Get what you want from your

Pontiac Performance Team



3.9%** VALUE FINANCING on selected vehicles

Don't forget to use your GM Card Earnings toward The Total Purchase Price or lease down payment of your next new GM vehicle.

What's your card done for YOU lately?

You should know this: *Based on a 36 month lease for 1997 Sunfire Sedan LSA equipped as described. A minimum down payment of \$1,000 and \$300 security deposit are required. Annual kilometre limit: 20,000 km. \$0.08 per excess kilometre. OAC. Other lease options available. †Freight \$620. Licence, insurance and taxes are not included. Dealer trade may be necessary. Dealer may sell/lease for less. See Dealer for details. **Financing on approved GMAC credit only. Example: \$10,000 at 3.9% APR, the monthly payment is \$225.33 for 36 months. Cost of borrowing is \$815.84. Total obligation is \$10,815.84. Down payment may be required. ***Offers apply to 1997 new or demonstrator models only and applies to qualified retail customers only. Limited time offers which may not be combined with other offers. See Dealer for details.



6242 MAIN ST. STOUFFVILLE

OPENING SOON 642-9511 SERVING BREAKFAST ANYTIME

MONTHLY SPECIALS

- 2 eggs
- 2 pancakes
- 2 links of sausage
- 2 strips of bacon
- 1 pc. Virginia Ham

\$2.79 + applicable taxes

Expires May 31, 1997