

## Rebates could cost more than \$3 million

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for any tax increase over 50 per cent, to a maximum of \$25,000.

The rebates could cost the region between \$622,000 and \$3.87 million. Municipalities could be hit for between \$342,000 and \$2.1 million.

But councillors point out that 69 per cent of retailers' property taxes go to the province for education. Refunding that money would cost the province between \$2.1 million to \$13.3 million.

Ministry of Finance staff has told the region the province has no intention of returning the money, even though the government has helped soften the impact of tax increases in other regions, including Toronto.

Regional chairperson Bill Fisch said York hopes Treasurer Ernie Eves will override that decision, adding he hasn't heard when Eves can meet with councillors.

While Newmarket Mayor Tom Taylor supports the region's short-term "shock absorbers" to mitigate onerous tax increases, he complained the measures don't solve the long-term effects of Ontario's new property tax system.

He claims an American industry that has been considering moving to Newmarket is now rethinking the plan because of high property taxes.

Richmond Hill Mayor Bill Bell agreed the region's plans won't save property owners from tax increases for more than a year.

## Frustration growing for students

FROM PAGE 1

So Stubborn" and demanded the government and union work out some agreement to get the kids back in class.

"I don't appreciate being a pawn in some government scheme to get votes in the next election, so they can say 'Look, we saved everyone,'" said 17-year-old Eliza Gallaford, a Grade 12 student.

"Well I guess I'm in Grade 12, that is if I ever get there," she added.

"We go to Catholic school and we are taught never to be selfish - well this is about the most selfish thing I've ever seen," added Janine Fuglerud, 15.

Two parents wandered over to give the protesters their support as they picked up books for their children at Brother Andre.

"I'm going to teach her myself. She can't afford to miss any more," said Ellen Hardy, whose daughter Claire is in Grade 9.

"It's really frustrating for parents," said Mary Catherine Ramsden, who has a son in Grade 9 as well as two younger children in the elementary system.

"This is the second year in a row - if I had the money I'd put them all in private school right

now.

She added the time lost could be made up by students at the top of their classes perhaps, but for those in the middle or bottom end, the struggle is much tougher.

"Those kids could lose their year," she said. Meanwhile, parent councils at St. Monica, St. Justin, St. Matthew and John XXIII have banded together. The group will urge parents across the region to increase pressure on Education Minister Dave Johnson and Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association president Marshall Jarvis to get the kids back in class.

They will be running an ad Tuesday demanding more aggressive action be taken, that they get a written guarantee York Region students won't be prejudiced by two shortened school years in a row, and that negotiations and teaching take place simultaneously.

"This has gone on long enough - our children need to be back in school," said parent Josie Parlagreco.

The hope is once they see the ad, parents will be inspired to write, call and fax the government and the union demanding the strike be settled soon.

"Don't be silent" it reads.

## TO THE STUDENTS & PARENTS OF THE BR. ANDRÉ COMMUNITY

The York Catholic District School Board's

### CONTRACT PROPOSALS

### ARE AT THE HEART OF THIS DISPUTE

With the Elementary & Secondary Teachers

- Proposals which began with the "offer" to DELETE almost all previously negotiated working and staffing conditions, medical benefits & salary

### ADD IN THE IMPLEMENTATION of BILL 160

The York Catholic District School Board Contract Proposals Will Mean That in Order to Implement Bill 160 at Brother Andre C.H.S.

- Our students will actually be in class 80 minutes less per week.
- Our students may be in classes with as many as 28 students.
- Our Students will have a 72 minute lunch (teachers will be supervisors).
- Our students may lose the educational and life benefits of clubs, teams, sports, student government experiences, music concerts, mentoring, trips, drama productions, social justice work, yearbook and field trip as their teachers will now need more time outside class hours to prepare their classes.

## STUDENTS ARE OUR #1 PRIORITY

A Successful Education

Depends on

Students Who Want to Learn

and

Teachers Who Are Dedicated and Committed

**B.A. is a great school because of its students & teachers**

This message is from the teaching staff of Br. André Catholic High School

(please come and ask us for information & clarification)

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