

**TAXES: Confusion continues over industrial tax rates**

# Winners became losers under cap

BY LISA QUEEN  
STAFF WRITER

In one of the most bizarre twists of the property tax controversy, York Region industries that were to enjoy a break could actually end up paying higher taxes.

That's because York doesn't have enough industries to fund the province's new tax cap legislation.

"Now we're turning winners into losers," said Ed Hankins, the region's director of financial planning.

The Tories brought in the caps after small businesses across the province complained Ontario's new property tax system could bankrupt them.

In response to the outcry, Queen's Park announced a maximum 10-per-cent tax hike this year and a five-per-cent ceiling in each of the following two years.

To fund the cap, other non-residential property owners who were supposed to get tax cuts will have their reductions clawed back. Under the Tories' plan, the cap can only be fund-

ed within each property class. For example, municipalities can't use residential taxes to keep a lid on commercial taxes.

But York doesn't have enough industries slated for a tax cut to fund the cap on other industrial properties faced with an increase of 10 per cent or more.

That means they will have 114.46 per cent of their tax cut clawed back.

So, if an industry's taxes were supposed to decrease by \$100,000, the company will now have to pay \$14,000.

To complicate matters further, \$4,000 of that increase would amount to a tax hike of more than 10 per cent — and regional officials are questioning whether that company is entitled to the cap.

"It's absolutely asinine," Newmarket Mayor Tom Taylor told Scarborough MPP Steve Gilchrist, parliamentary assistant to Municipal Affairs Minister Al Leach, at the monthly meeting of Greater Toronto mayors in Oakville Friday.

But Gilchrist infuriated mayors when he suggested municipalities that

didn't use provincial tools to soften the impact of tax hikes "dropped the ball." "You dropped the ball," several mayors shouted back.

They claimed they had resolved tax problems in their regions before the province came in with its tax caps and, as Halton Region chairperson Joyce Savoline put it, "turned our world upside down."

Gilchrist then angered mayors when he suggested the province may exempt them from the tax cap legislation if they can prove their solution is better.

Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion said the regions have already presented their cases to the Ministry of Finance numerous times with no result.

"You sit here and tell me if we send this stuff to you, there's going to be action. I don't believe it, so don't give me that crap. You people from the province just talk in circles," she said.

"You sit here and tell me you're going to wander back as the miracle boy. After spending 30 years in municipal politics, I tell you it's sad to hear that crap."

# Police officer found guilty of insubordination

BY RICK VANDERLINDE  
STAFF WRITER

A York Region police officer has been found guilty of insubordination for failing to co-operate with the re-investigation of an unusual baby death he originally probed last year.

Const. Neil Orr was sentenced to loss of three days pay by hearing officer Supt. Lowell McClenny. Orr's lawyer, Leo Kinahan, said the decision is being appealed to the Ontario Civilian Commission on Police Services.

McClenny ruled Orr had a duty to co-operate with Peel Region police officers who were re-investigating the April, 1997 death of seven-month-old Zachary Morrison Rogers.

During the discipline hearing, Kinahan argued Orr couldn't co-operate with Peel Regional Police because any information he gave them may have been used against him in a criminal investigation. Kinahan said, on his advice, Orr had invoked his right to remain silent, a Charter right available to all Canadians. McClenny did not deal directly with the Charter issue in his decision.

**OROMART**

**70% off**

**Grand Opening Self-cebration!**

**Now in Cambridge!**



Cambridge Southworks Outlet Mall  
64 Grand Ave. S. at Concession St.  
**519 624-8540**



We're happy to announce the Grand Opening of our Southworks Factory Outlet location in Cambridge! Come help us celebrate with 70% off the MSRP on just about everything at all 3 locations! It's a dazzling collection of gold and jewellery and we'll even pay the PST and GST! So hurry in and save at Cookstown, St. Jacob's and the brand new Cambridge Oromart!

**Sell-cebration Savings at all 3 locations!**

**OROMART**

**The Jewellery Outlet Store**



St. Jacob's Factory Outlet Mall  
Weber & King Sts. off highway 86  
**519 885-1458**



Cookstown Outlet Mall  
at highway 400 & highway 89  
**705 458-0640**

Sale ends November 29, 1998

## **Why are York Region Public Elementary School Teachers on a Rotating Strike?**

**Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario**

### THE YORK REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

- prefers locking the schools to negotiating with the teachers;
- wants to cut money from the teachers' benefit package;
- refuses to recognize that the cost of living has risen 8.8% in the last seven years; and
- refuses to give teachers the preparation time they need to do their jobs well, even though the money is available

### YORK REGION ELEMENTARY TEACHERS PLEDGE

- to continue to give at least 18 hours notice of schools that will be closed due to the rotating strikes; and
- to close only 20% of York Region's 108 schools on any one day.

This is a difficult time for teachers, students and parents. Please be assured we are doing everything in our power to get back to the bargaining table and to reach a negotiated settlement with the Board.

Call your local school trustees at the York Region District School Board - (905) 884-4477  
Ask them to return to the bargaining table immediately.

**A MESSAGE FROM YORK REGION'S 3,200 PUBLIC  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS.**