

**MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS**

# No tax hike for local ratepayers: treasurer

BY JOAN RANSBERRY  
STAFF WRITER

Taxpayers in Whitchurch-Stouffville will not face a tax hike, a town official has told *The Tribune*.



**NICK KRISTOFFY**  
Treasurer giving no details on local budget figures

Even though treasurer Nick Kristoffy is mum about the details of the proposed municipal budget, he's assuring local taxpayers that the 1999 financial document does not reflect a tax increase.

The treasurer has been coaxing department heads to be frugal when it comes to the public purse.

"We leaned on them (department heads) a little bit to get them to pare it down," Kristoffy said.

The municipal budget will be dealt with on April 12 and if need be, April 13, beginning at 9 a.m.

**'We can do it. I am very, very confident'**

Mayor Wayne Emmerson has long suggested taxpayers will not be hit with an extra tax burden this year, despite the town's plan to build a \$5-million pool/library complex near Memorial Park this fall.

"We're still aiming towards zero," Emmerson said. "We can do it. I am very, very confident."

The first round of 1999 municipal budget talks got under way Tuesday at

the municipal office on Sandford Drive.

There, officials from groups such as the Ballantrae Community Centre, Latham Gallery and the Economic Development office outlined their needs for the upcoming year.

Money recommended for the various groups includes \$410,000 for the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library, \$122,000 for the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum, \$25,700 for the Whitchurch-Stouffville Mobility Transit, and \$17,200 for the Lemonville Community Centre.

Last year, Whitchurch-Stouffville struck a \$13.8-million budget. The average homeowner in the municipality paid about \$525 for the municipal portion of the three-way tax bill, which is shared with the school boards and the region.

**BUSINESS WANTS HOT TUB RULES CHANGED**

Permission to allow outdoor hot tubs, not enclosed by a legal fence required for pools, is being requested of Whitchurch-Stouffville council tonight.

Betz Pools, a local swimming pool company, is asking for an exemption to a bylaw which covers fence requirements and water depth exceeding 24 inches.

"We've had inquiries about installing spas, hot tubs or whirlpools in the rear yard of residential properties in municipalities without having a pool legal fence also installed," Howard Christie of Betz Pools said.

Newmarket is the only municipality across York Region which requires a permit for an enclosure around a hot tub.

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