

Separate board to bolster budget with reserve funds

BY PATRICK CASEY
Staff Writer

York Region's Catholic school board will bolster its operating budget by \$1.75 million by using reserve funds to support new student and staff programs.

Despite a proposed \$266 million budget that includes more than 80 per cent, or \$209 million, directed toward employee salaries and wages, only \$2.8 million is available for new programs ranging from the board's computer foundation project, additional staffing for English as a second language and an automated library system.

However, board treasurer John Sabo told trustees about \$1.75 million in reserve funds has been accumulated since 1997 following the implementation of the Ministry of Education's new funding formula. That money can be used to enhance curriculum initiatives, such as the new science and technology program, with the balance earmarked for staff development.

However, board officials have identified a \$5-million wish list where services could be enhanced for the 1999-2000 school year.

"In a world where we have all the funding we need, this would be what we would like, but all of these initiatives are constrained by our current funding," Sabo said. "It's a separate part of the budget, but we can utilize the reserves. It's the only logical step we can follow."

"We are always disappointed with the level of funding and we can only do what we can afford," he said. "We have to look to the future."

The separate board's revenue has

increased by about 0.68 per cent or \$1.8 million from last year, while enrollment is expected to rise by 1.1 per cent with 44,487 elementary and secondary students in the schools come September.

"If we did not have reserves, we would be looking at cutting programs," added board chairperson Elizabeth Crowe.

"This is still not really good news because the reserves are not large."

The final budget draft will be presented to trustees June 22.



PLEASE RECYCLE

Economist & Sun

Stouffville Tribune

SEVERANCE PACKAGE WORKSHOP

Whether you've recently received a severance package or expect to receive one, consider discussing your options with a qualified investment professional.

This workshop will give you insight into:

- Understanding Your Severance & Pension Options
- Minimizing Tax
- Maximizing the Benefit Your Package Brings
- Financial Planning Solutions

Tuesday June 22nd, 7:00-8:00 pm
ScotiaMcLeod Markham Office

Reservations Required: (905) 947-0933
Christina Caney, Investment Executive



Building Relationships for Life

MEMBER CIPF

VACATION AT HOME ALL YEAR LONG!

BUY A NEW BEACHCOMBER HOT TUB

AND YOU CAN PURCHASE THIS PATIO FURNITURE SET FOR ONLY



LIMITED QUANTITIES



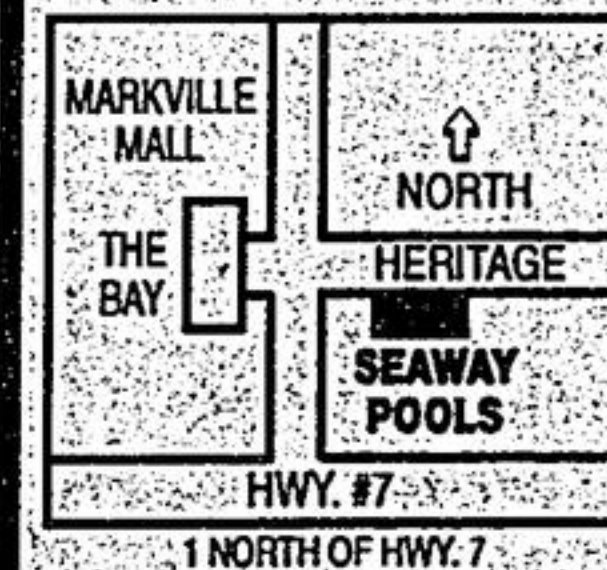
THIS SET HAS A RETAIL VALUE OF OVER \$1000!

Enjoy the benefits of soaking in hot water all year long, in your own backyard! Beachcomber gives you a way to bring relief to your busy life with an outdoor hot tub! Now, with this special offer, you can make your own entertainment centre outside!



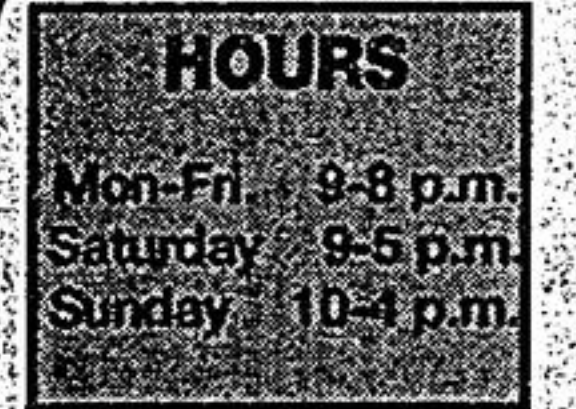
DON'T PAY TILL FALL!

For a limited time, as a Preferred Client, Don't Pay Till Fall, o.a.c.! It's easy to qualify! Come in and visit us for complete details!



POOLS • BILLIARDS • HOT TUBS

25 HERITAGE RD., MARKHAM



294-8030

*On selected models - Expires June 30/99

PlantSMART

Guarantee

Trust Wal-Mart for all your planting needs. We guarantee every plant that we sell.

Local Dept. Manager
Lisa

WAL-MART Garden Centre

GARDEN CENTRE HOURS

Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. Sat. 8 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sun 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sheep & Cow Manure

1.27
15 kg

Plantsmart Rakes

3.97
Each

Assorted Clay Pots

1.98 To 19.97
Each

Bedding Plant

.47
Each

Sunshine Growing Mix

4.00
44 L

Plantsmart Weed & Feed 25-2-14

9.66
8 kg

Sunshine Peat Moss 3.8 cu/ft.

3.97
Each

PlantSMART

Gardening Tip

Planting of Rose Bushes

1. Prune off any broken or bruised roots and branches and soak the roots in water anywhere from an hour to 24 hours before planting.
2. Dig a hole at least twice as wide and deep as the extended root system to allow room for future growth and adequate drainage.
3. Prepare a soil mixture of 2 parts loose top soil to 1 part moss. Place 6" of this mixture in the bottom of the hole and build a cone-shaped mound in the hole.
4. Place the plant in the hole, spreading the root system over the cone-shaped mound of soil. The graft or bud union (this is the spot, generally a couple of inches above the roots, from which the branches start to grow out of the trunk or stem of the root system) should be about 1" below ground level. Fill the hole 1/2 full of loose soil mixture and tramp the soil with your foot to eliminate air pockets.
5. Soak thoroughly with water and allow time for the water to soak in, then fill the hole to ground level with loose soil mixture again. Firm the soil mixture with your foot. Create a saucer of the soil around the plant to hold water and maintain this saucer for at least 2 months until the plant is established.
6. Trim back all roses to 4" above the ground level, water thoroughly at least once a week depending on soil and weather conditions and fertilize periodically in accordance with the instructions provided by the fertilizer supplier.

Markville Shopping Centre, 5000 Hwy. #7, Markham