

Assessment growth provides some relief for region taxpayers

From page 10.

to be onerous for the York Region taxpayer."

Mitigating these spiraling costs, for this year at least, is a substantial five per cent increase in assessment growth.

That represents some \$20 million in new revenues for the region and helps offset the burden that's passed on to taxpayers.

Cousens recognizes this kind of growth can't be banked on forever. In fact, regional staff predicts a lower rate of growth in York's future assessment base.

That means an austere approach to future budgeting. Preliminary figures call for a 1.8 per cent tax hike in 2003 and a one per cent increase in 2004.

Those targets are attainable if the region follows a business plan it has been working on, Cousens said.

"We have to do everything we can to scale back our expectations and our costs," he said.

D'Aversa argues better planning by the region in the past would have helped avoid a tax increase this year. She advises a prudent approach to avoid painful tax hikes in the future.

"Right now the economy's great. Let's be very conservative," she said.

"Let's spend it on the priorities and forget about the little frills.

"I can just imagine where we're going to be when the economy isn't as strong as it is today," D'Aversa said.

OUR MARINATED FLANK STEAKS

We've been in business for 16 years now, and we've been making these for 15 of those years. They're one of the reasons that our store is a popular spot to buy meat. Not only do we sell an interesting variety of meat in its original form, we sell it seasoned and ready to cook as well. Our Flank Steaks are a prime example. They've been marinated in our homemade "brew" and they're ready to B.B.Q., broil or bake, whichever is easier.

One steak usually serves 3 or 4
Reg. \$7.95 lb. **25% OFF THIS WEEK**

OUR DELI ROAST BEEF

Next to our assortment of hams, this is our best-selling deli meat. The reason is (a) we cook it pink, (b) we use the centre cut of an inside round rump roast and (c) we trim it lean. Although most use it for sandwiches, try it at room temperature with some good olive oil and balsamic vinegar.

Reg. \$2.49 / 100 g **1/3 OFF THIS WEEK**

FARMER'S SAUSAGES

Our Farmer's Sausages are made with a touch of our English seasoning and finished with some of our German Bratwurst spice and you'll call them delicious once you try them!

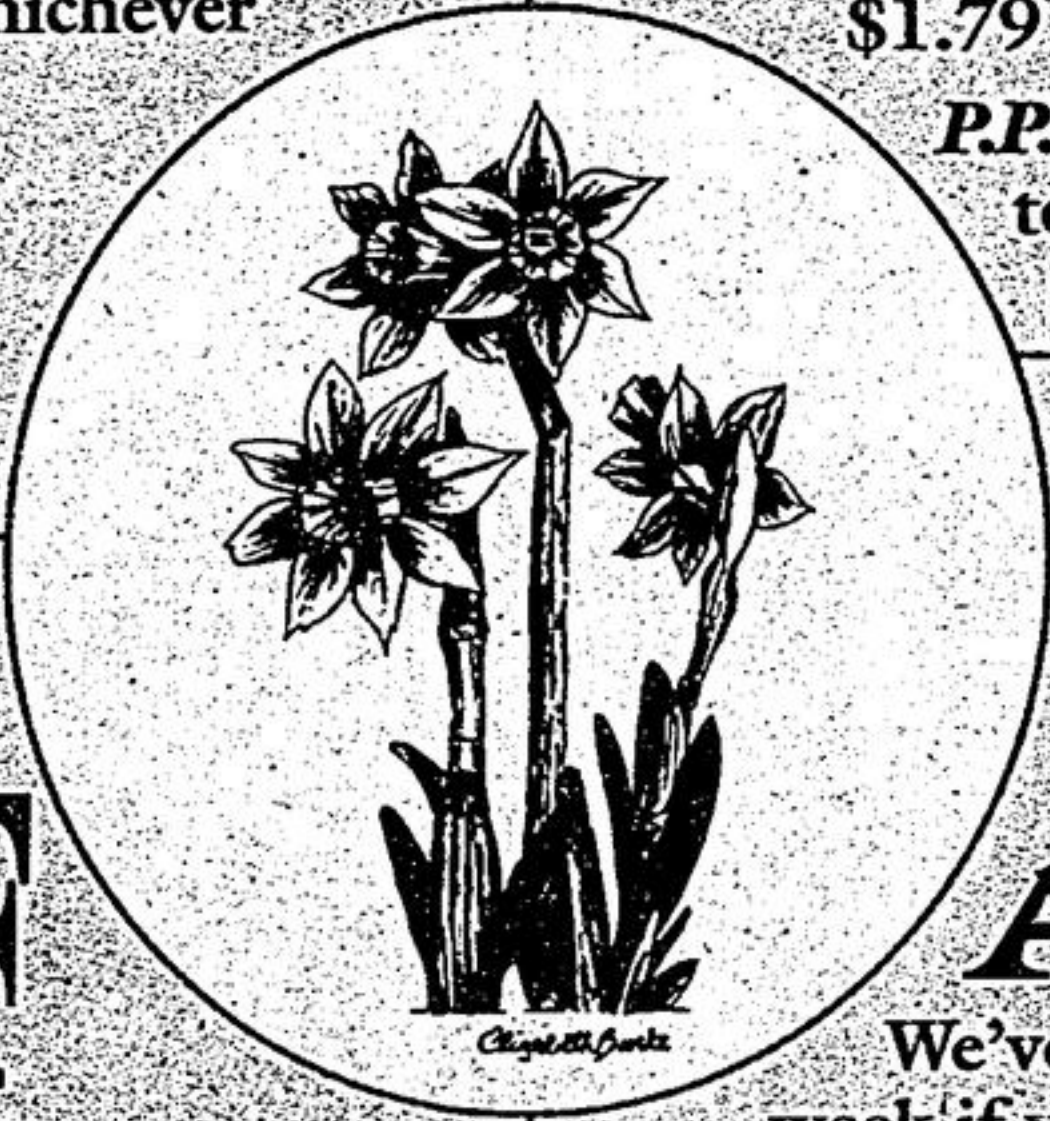
Reg. \$3.99 lb. **25% OFF THIS WEEK**

FLORIDA GRAPEFRUITS

We've got a good supply of these great grapefruits — they're size 32 so they are quite large — and full of juice. Great Price. **2/99¢**

P.S. I did a competitive survey earlier in the week and noticed these anywhere from 99¢ lb. (which is about 99¢ ea.) to, are you ready for this — \$1.79 each!

P.P.S. I also noticed that our pork is too cheap — better buy some now before I smarten up!



SMOKED DUCKS ANYONE?

We've made some smoked ducks this week if you feel adventuresome. They're trimmed, cured and then slow-smoked over oak. **12.95 ea.** - Limited Supply -

CALIFORNIA STRAWBERRIES

California Strawberries are once again available. During the off-season we get berries from New Zealand and Florida, but the best (apart from our own) come from California and we're always happy when they come back in season. **3.99 ea.** Heaping Pints!

A KNIFE NOTE

4 O'CLOCK SPECIALS!

One thing that we've learned from our new big competitor is that people are pretty hungry on their way home — and you better have something for them.

Any of you will know that space won't allow a full assortment of hot items available every day, but we're going to make a concerted effort to be sure that you'll get a couple choices for a homemade meal on your way home — and unlike the big guys, ours isn't made somewhere else and thawed for you. It's made from scratch — fresh every day!

We weren't kidding when we told you our knives have a lifetime sharpening service. If you bought one from us, just bring it in and we'll sharpen it **FREE!**

TULIPS! STARTING THIS WEEK.

SOMETHING NEW

Watch for a new Ham that we've been working on. It's cured with apple-cider and glazed with a brown sugar and allspice seasoning.

WHAT'S HAPPENIN' IN THE BAKERY?

Our main bakery Diva is on a well-deserved holiday in Finland. While the big cat has been away, the mice have created a couple of new squares for your eating pleasure, and they are ...

* PINEAPPLE-COCONUT with a touch of lime & ginger (I loved them).

and

* APPLE-RASPBERRY with almonds.

Both with an oatmeal crust. I didn't get a chance to taste these because Cathy ate the whole (large) slab.

— Both are really good and both are on at an intro price of

1/3 OFF OUR USUAL SQUARE PRICE OF \$1.99 EACH

P.S. — You'll need more than 1.

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