

Budget boost allows for 30 new cops

BY JEFF MITCHELL
Staff Writer

Stepped-up efforts to combat organized crime, terrorism and hate crimes contributed to a budget increase of almost \$10 million for York Regional Police this year.

Chief Robert Middaugh's budget of \$103 million includes 30 new officers to combat biker gangs, carjackers and marijuana growers.

The force needs the new officers, 24 of whom will be front-line cops, and 28 civilians this year to meet demands imposed by growth and special initiatives, the chief told York Region's finance and administration committee.

The police budget is up 10.4 per cent over last year's total of \$93.6 million and represents the largest departmental increase in a regional budget that will top \$1.2 billion this year.

The overall budget increase for regional taxpayers is 2.3 per cent, or about \$32 on the average tax bill.

The increase will likely be accepted by taxpayers, who rate policing as a priority service, said Sue Walmer of the Ratepayers of Aurora Yonge Street South.

"The police budget tends to respond to the community's needs," Ms Walmer said.

"If it provides us with security and protection, I don't think there would be huge dissatisfaction from ratepayers."

Aurorans are facing a tax increase of more than 8 per cent from their local municipality; regional increases will be added to that bill.

But residents recognize the need for more officers as the population grows and the complexity of law enforcement increases, Ms Walmer said.

Recent acts of terrorism "made us realize we're not as safe as we thought were", she said.

Among the hirings will be officers to work in conjunction with other Ontario forces to address the threat of

terrorism, a new line item on police budgets since Sept. 11.

A heavy emphasis will be placed on intelligence gathering as the force battles terrorism threats and hate crimes, Chief Middaugh said.

There will also be an emergency response component to York's terrorism effort.

"If we do anything, we must be able to read the warning signs we missed before (Sept. 11)," Chief Middaugh said.

And organized crime, including operations by biker gangs such as the Hells Angels, along with the proliferation of sophisticated marijuana-growing operations, have been identified as high priorities by the community, the chief said.

In all, 16 new officers and two civilians will be hired as part of the so-called specialized investigative initiatives, at a cost of more than \$1.5 million.

Meanwhile, growth in the region necessitates the hiring of 14 new officers and 26 civilian employees, at a cost

of more than \$2.6 million.

Despite the increase, Chief Middaugh said the York force continues to meet its responsibilities in a cost-effective manner.

He said York Region has one police officer for every 850 residents, while the recommended resident-to-officer

ratio is 750 to one.

"We are still the highest police-to-population ratio (in comparison to Durham, Peel, Halton and Hamilton regions) and we are the most cost-efficient organization of those five," Chief

See YORK, page 7

www.hartgem.com
905-513-7655

UP TO 50% SAVING
Bring this ad for an extra 10% Saving
Wholesale Diamonds & Gold, Shop and Compare
REPAIRS • APPRAISALS
REMOUNTING • WATCH REPAIR
INSURANCE WORK
FREE JEWELLERY CLEANING
825 DENISON STREET, MARKHAM.

ASTHMA?
We can help.
Call
The Lung
Association

THE LUNG ASSOCIATION

This message brought to you as a community service of The Economist & Sun/Tribune

Summer
Company

Want to start your own business this summer?

Be your own boss?

Then Summer Company is for you!

If you've got a winning idea for starting a new business and are a full-time student who is not afraid of hard work, then you should consider applying to our 'Summer Company' program.

If your application is accepted, you will be eligible to receive an award of up to \$3,000 - up to \$1,500 up front to help underwrite start-up costs and up to \$1,500 upon successful completion of the program.

Summer Company is a great opportunity for enterprising young people who want to start and run their own summer businesses. The program provides hands-on business coaching and mentoring from local community business leaders who will work with you to make your Summer Company a reality.

For guidelines & application, please contact

Markham Business Self-Help Office

Tel: 905-475-4890

or email: sandratam@city.markham.on.ca

OR CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT www.ontario-canada.com

MARKHAM
THE MARK OF EXCELLENCE

Ontario

MS lives here.

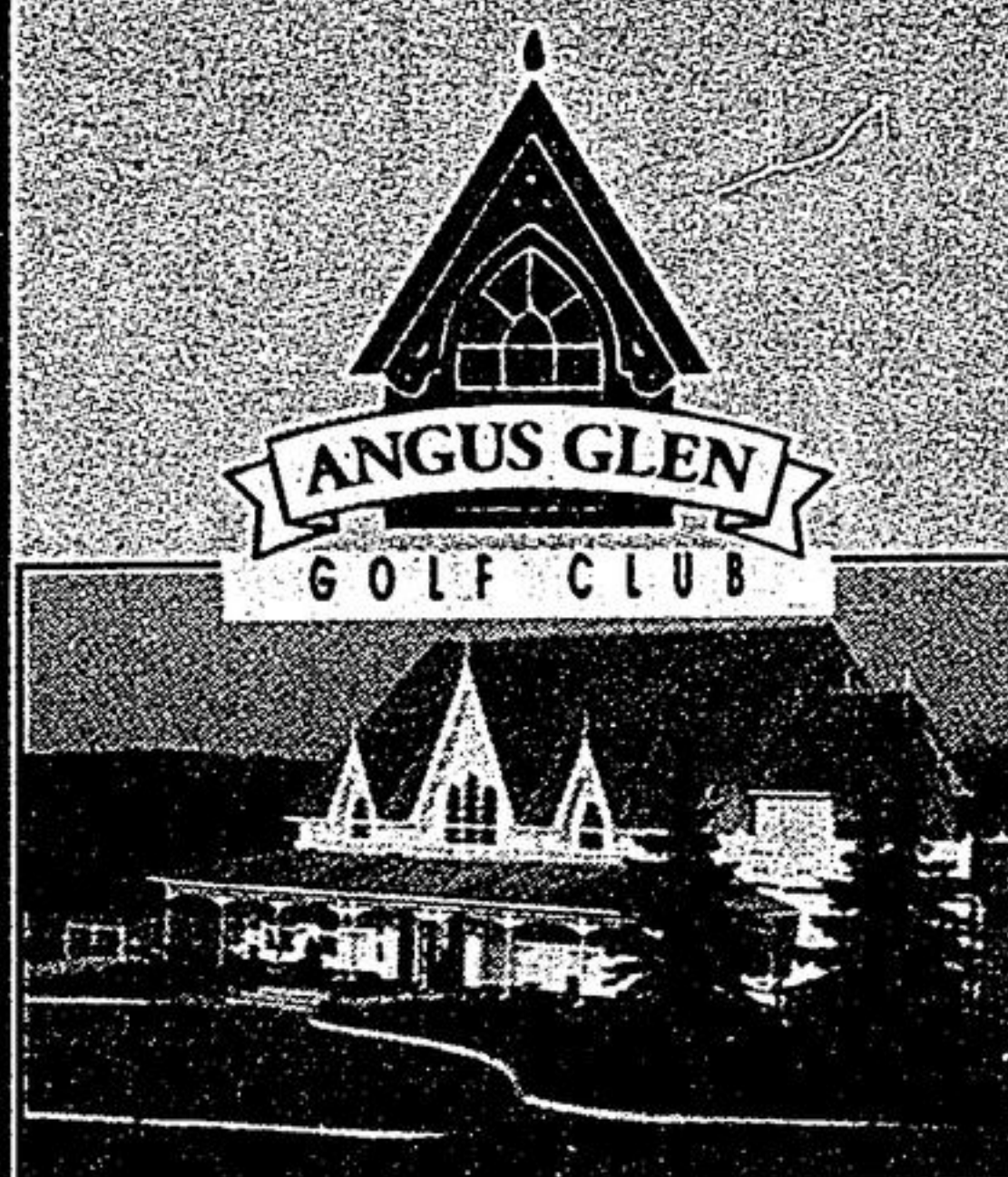
Twice as many women as men develop multiple sclerosis.

MS Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada

1-800-268-7582
www.mssociety.ca

This message brought to you as a community service of The Economist/Tribune

What's On At



SUNDAY BRUNCH AT
ANGUS GLEN

Angus Glen Welcomes you and your family for Sunday Buffet Brunch in our charming Victoria Room.

Our courteous, award winning staff and savory dishes will delight you!

\$20.00 per person inclusive of taxes and gratuity.

Angus Glen & Labatts
Super Bowl Party

February 3rd

Prizes! Food! Games!
Entertainment!

Big, Big T.V. Screens!
\$25.00 per person

Valentine's Dinner & Dance

February 9th

Mardi Gras Festival

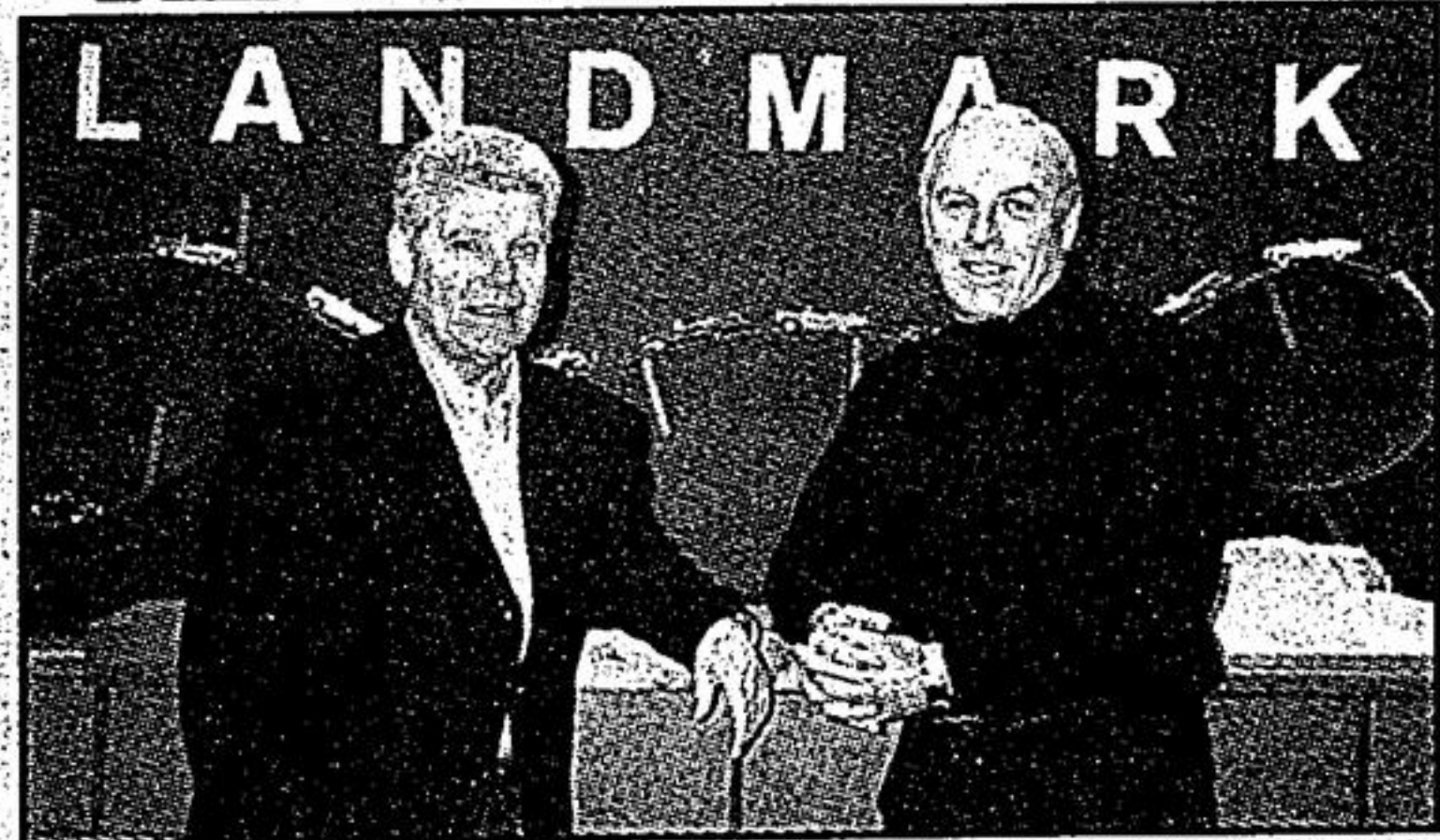
February 12th

Please call Kate Chevalier to make your reservations
905-887-0090 ext 227

Inquire about Social Memberships at Angus Glen!

www.angusglen.com

LANDMARK
VEHICLE LEASING
APPOINTMENT



Mark Emin (left), President of Landmark Vehicle Leasing, is pleased to welcome Barry Cox (right) as an associate broker to the Landmark sales team. Barry brings 38 years of automotive fleet, leasing and marketing experience with General Motors to Landmark along with a vast network of friends and business associates. Barry has lived in the Markham area for the past 25 years with his wife Donna and their three daughters. He is an avid golfer out of Spring Lakes Golf Club and former captain and executive member of the Markham Men's Recreational Hockey League.

Landmark Vehicle Leasing is a well-established and fast growing leasing company with over 3,000 vehicles in their lease fleet. They specialize in new and used vehicle leasing of all import and domestic car and truck models.

Landmark's head office is located at 8920 Woodbine Ave., Suite 104, Markham, ON, three traffic lights north of Hwy. #7 at Hopper St.

You can contact Barry for a lease quote or for information on leasing by phone at 905-477-3477 or by e-mail at bcox@landmark-leasing.com.



HIKERS HAVEN
Est. 1976

"Where Outdoor Adventure is a Way of Life"

GOING OUT OF
BUSINESS SALE
EVERYTHING IN STORE

UP TO
50%
OFF

Markville Mall

905-470-4148