Region to hunt for savings

From page A1.

taxes. "The total impact of all this on an average household in the region is somewhere in the vicinity of $67 to $80," said regional CAO Michael Garrett.

The hike could bring the regional portion of the tax bill on a home with an average assessment of $255,000, to as much as $1,500 a year.

The figures presented last week represent a hike between 5 and 6 per cent over 2002's budget of $1.2 billion, but they are far from fcomplete.

Beginning in January, regional politicians will examine individual departmental budgets, looking for savings.

Mr. Jones is hopeful several percentage points can be shaved off the tax bill.

"I'm hoping we're somewhere between 2 and 3 per cent," he said.

Last year's tax hike was slightly more than 2 per cent.

Higher utility and insurance costs will add $700,000 to the region's costs, Mr. Garrett said.

Offsetting increased costs is an extra $17 million worth of assessment this year.

In-house savings will also help mitigate the tax crunch, Mr. Garrett noted.

'We're providing for the needs of our people. I really think Toronto needs to manage its money better and provide for the needs of its residents.'

He said all departments have, over the past several months, been searching for ways to save money, despite the pressures of rising costs and increased demand from a growing populace.

"The sum of these cost efficiencies has been $7.1 million," Mr. Garrett said.

An ongoing irritant is cost-sharing for social services and assisted housing in Toronto, commonly referred to as GTA pooling.

Although the amount demanded from the province is less than last year, it is still forecast to be $78.8 million.

Pooling is the second largest item in the regional budget and actually exceeds the funds spent on social services and housing within York Region, said Vaughan Councillor Joyce Frustaglio.

"I really resent having to consider lowering costs for these programs ... because we have to send money to Toronto," Ms Frustaglio said.

"We're providing for the needs of our people.

"I really think Toronto needs to manage its money better and provide for the needs of its residents."

Later in the meeting, politicians voted in favour of a resolution calling on the province to scrap the pooling plan and assume responsibility for funding welfare and housing, programs downloaded to municipalities.

The final budget is to be approved by regional council in late February.

mazda

GOOD THINGS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES. BETTER THINGS CAN'T BE WRAPPED AT ALL.

$0 FINANCE* OR LEASE* PAYMENTS FOR 90 DAYS

NO SECURITY DEPOSIT ON LEASES** AND WE PICK UP A LEASE PAYMENT!

The Mazda Protegé was rated #1 over Honda Civic, Toyota Corolla, Nissan Sentra and others in the November Car and Driver head-to-head comparison test.***

#1 IN A 10 CAR COMPARISON TEST - CAR AND DRIVER***

2003 MAZDA PROTEGÉ SE — lease from 1.9% purchase financing for 36 months* or $179** per month / 48 months — cash purchase from $16,295*
INCLUDES AIR CONDITIONING
• Class-leading interior room • AM/FM/CD 4 speaker stereo system • Side door impact beams • 60/40 split rear seats • $2,995 down or trade equivalent on lease. Lease payment includes freight and P.D.E.

2003 MAZDA PROTEGÉ LX — lease from 1.9% purchase financing for 36 months* or $197** per month / 48 months — cash purchase from $17,245*
ALL OF THE FEATURES OF AN SE PLUS:
• 2.0L 130-hp engine • Keyless entry • Power locks • 15" wheels • And much more! • $2,995 down or trade equivalent on lease. Lease payment includes freight and P.D.E.

2003 MAZDA PROTEGÉ LX GT — lease from 1.9% purchase financing for 36 months* or $225** per month / 48 months — cash purchase from $19,495*
ALL OF THE FEATURES OF AN LX PLUS:
• Power windows and mirrors • 15" alloy wheels • Power moonroof • Rear spoiler • Fog lights • Cruise control • And much more! • $2,995 down or trade equivalent on lease. Lease payment includes freight and P.D.E.

2003 MAZDA PROTEGÉ5 — lease from 1.9% purchase financing for 36 months* or $229** per month / 48 months — cash purchase from $20,185*

A 2003 Carguide Best Buy
• 2.0L DOHC 16-valve 130-hp engine • 16" alloy wheels • 4-wheel disc brakes with ABS • AM/FM/CD 4 speaker stereo • Cruise control • 60/40 split rear seats • Fog lights • Remote keyless entry • Power locks, windows & mirrors • Leather-wrapped steering wheel and shift knob • $3,195 down or trade equivalent on lease. Lease payment includes freight and P.D.E.

2003 MAZDA MPV DX WITH CONVENIENCE PACKAGE — lease from 1.9% purchase financing for 36 months* or $279** per month / 48 months — cash purchase from $26,695*

★★★★★ HIGHEST IMPACT PROTECTION RATING POSSIBLE*
• 3.0L 200-hp V6 engine • 5-speed automatic transmission • Air conditioning • AM/FM/CD/cassette 4 speaker stereo • Steering wheel audio controls • 2nd row Side-by-Slide™ seats and 3rd row Tumble-Under™ seats • Dual sliding doors with power down windows • Power windows, locks and door mirrors (heated) • Cruise control • $4,995 down or trade equivalent on lease. Lease payment includes freight and P.D.E.

HOLIDAY EVENT ENDS TUESDAY DECEMBER 31. OFFERS AVAILABLE ON ALL 2002 AND 2003 MODELS.*/**/†

READY TO ROLL: OUR PRE-DELIVERY COMMITMENT MEANS EVERY NEW MAZDA IS CHECKED OUT, GASSED UP, AND FITTED WITH FLOOR MATS.
ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM Ask about the Mazda peace of mind promise standard on every new Mazda.
MAZDA LEADERSHIP WARRANTY Ask about our outstanding comprehensive and powertrain warranty coverage.

ZOOM-ZOOM
www.mazda.ca

Markham
Markham Mazda
5396 Hwy. # 7
(905) 294-1210

ASK YOUR DEALER ABOUT MAZDA'S GRADUATE PROGRAM.

*1.9% Purchase Financing/36 months available on the 2003 Mazda Protegé, Protegé5 and MPV. Finance examples: for $18,000 at 1.9% Purchase Financing the monthly payment is $285.99 for 36 months, C.O.B. is $295.64 for a total of $18,295.64. **No payments for 90 days applies to all purchase finance offers on 2002 and 2003 Mazda vehicles. No interest charges will apply during the first 60 days after purchaser takes delivery of a participating vehicle. After the first 60 days interest starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay principal and interest monthly over the term of the contract. The lease payments are required for the first 90 days on all 2002 and 2003 Mazda vehicles. Your dealer will make your first month's payment. On the 91st day following delivery of a participating vehicle, lessee will start making 47 monthly lease payments. Contact your dealer for specific lease terms. **/†/††Offers available on some cash purchases of 2003 Mazda Protegé SE, Protegé LX, Protegé LX GT, Protegé5, MPV DX and retail leases only. Purchase price and offers exclude freight and P.D.E. of $725 for cars and $1,125 for trucks. Other lease terms available. Total lease obligation for the 2003 Mazda Protegé SE (D42033AC00), Protegé LX (D42033ACHG/Protegé LX GT (D42033ACGD/Protegé5 (D55533AM00/MPV DX (D4D273CM00) is $11,486/$12,254/$13,578/$13,958/$18,158 including down payment of $2,995/$2,995/$2,995/$3,195/$4,995. 20,000 km per year mileage allowance applies; if exceeded, additional 8¢ per km applies. License, insurance, registration, taxes and other dealer charges extra. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order may be necessary. Offers available from December 13, 2002 for a limited time only. Lease and Finance O.A.C. for qualified customers only. See your dealer for details. †Tests conducted on 2002 Mazda MPV. Highest rating possible for front driver, passenger, side and rear impact protection by the U.S. NHTSA. ††† Mazda Protegé LX - Car and Driver Dec. 2001

Open Boxing Day 8am to 8pm!

HOME SHOW Boxing Day Manufacturers' Clearout!

End of the line! End of the year! Incredible Selection! Bigger Values!

Buy Direct from Home Show Canada's 57 Manufacturers' Showrooms

Boxing Day Only! FREE TV! Get this 13" TV with any purchase of $99 or more! Hurry! 300 Only.

ALWAYS OPEN 1 ALL SATURDAYS 9AM 'TIL MIDNIGHT

Look for our full colour flyer in today's paper!

(Only in selected areas)

137 Christlea Road
Just off Highway 7 at the 400

Sunday 11am to 6pm
Monday to Friday 9am to 10pm
Always Open Saturdays 9am 'til Midnight

Phone: 905 850 5300
Toll Free: 1 866 850 5300

Visit us on-line at www.homeshowcanada.com

*Buy directly from Home Show Canada which features more than 55 participating manufacturer showrooms and kiosks under one roof. See in store for details.

For that Special Occasion...

Hilton Suites Toronto/Markham Conference Centre & Spa

Celebrate in style! . Express your love for that special someone, with a customized gift certificate of relaxation from Holtz the Spa at Hilton Suites.

After the pampering in our world-class spa, continue the experience in luxury with a weekend stay at Hilton Suites.

For reservations or further information visit www.toronto.com/hiltonsuites, call your professional travel agent, 1-800-Hiltons or the Hilton Suites Toronto/Markham Conference Centre & Spa at 905-470-8500.

Introducing... The Hair Studio

We take great pride in providing unparalleled facilities and we are pleased to announce the opening of The Hair Studio, an integral part of Holtz the Spa.

©2002 Hilton Hospitality, Inc. It Happens at the Hilton.®

Fox and Fiddle
MERCHANTS OF FINE PUB FARE

CELEBRATE NEW YEAR'S at the FOX

Champagne
Party Favors
Live Entertainment

Join Us for
Dinner or
Dinner & Dancing

Call Today To Reserve!
144 Main St. N Markham
905-294-4600

MARKHAM MITSUBISHI

0 PAYMENTS FOR 90 DAYS ON ALL MODELS**

2003 MONTERO SPORT
2003 OUTLANDER
2003 MONTERO
2003 ECLIPSE SPYDER
2003 GALANT
2003 LANCER

0%* FINANCING AS LOW AS

SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS. O.A.C. UP TO 0% FINANCING ON GALANT & MONTERO SPORT ONLY

VISIT OUR TEMPORARY LOCATION
4072 HWY# 7 EAST
MARKHAM (Beside White Rose)
905-415-0080

Please recycle this newspaper