Council job full time, Bannon says

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salaries are in line with municipalities of a similar size, taking into consideration some municipalities fully tax salaries.

•In Uxbridge, the mayor's base salary is $35,016 plus a $7,320 travel allowance; for councillors, the salary is $18,676 with $1,980 in travel allowance. The annual salaries are fully taxed. There are 17,000 people in Uxbridge.

•In Georgina, the mayor earns $45,047 and councillors $19,252. One-third of the salaries are tax-free. Council members are reimbursed for mileage for travelling to council meetings. The population is 45,620.

•In King, the mayor receives $31,716, the deputy mayor receives $18,824 and councillors take home $17,641 annually. One-third of the salaries are tax free. Politicians are reimbursed for mileage expenses related to the job and also get a $250 cell phone allowance. There are around 20,000 people in King.

•In East Gwillimbury, salaries for the mayor and councillors are fully taxed. For 2007, the mayor receives $43,110 and members of council receive $26,335. Travel allowances are $7,800 for the mayor and $3,900 for councillors. The population of East Gwillimbury is about 22,000.

In King and Georgina, travel allowances are much lower than in Whitchurch-Stouffville and confined to mileage paid for travel to meetings.

Richard Bartley, the lone rookie councillor in Whitchurch-Stouffville, says council should keep salaries in line with those in similar sized municipalities. He'll be listening to his colleagues Tuesday, since they have a better idea of what a council job entails, he said.

People representing their community should be paid properly, two-term councillor Phil Bannon has been told by local residents. Being a councillor is a full-time job and it's usually only people who are retired who can take on the task, he said.

"We want to encourage people to participate in the process," he said.

He is also awaiting the report on what councillors and mayors in other towns earn.

WHAT MAYOR'S MAKE

▸ Municipal salaries of mayors:

- Whitchurch-Stouffville: $31,278 *
- Georgina: $45,047 *
- King: $31,716 *
- Uxbridge: $35,016 **
- East Gwillimbury $43,110**

* one-third tax-free

** fully taxed

Have your say on salaries

What do you think of salaries paid to Whitchurch-Stouffville politicians to take care of a growing municipality of 24,000 people?

Are salaries too high, too low or just right for the amount of work councillors do?

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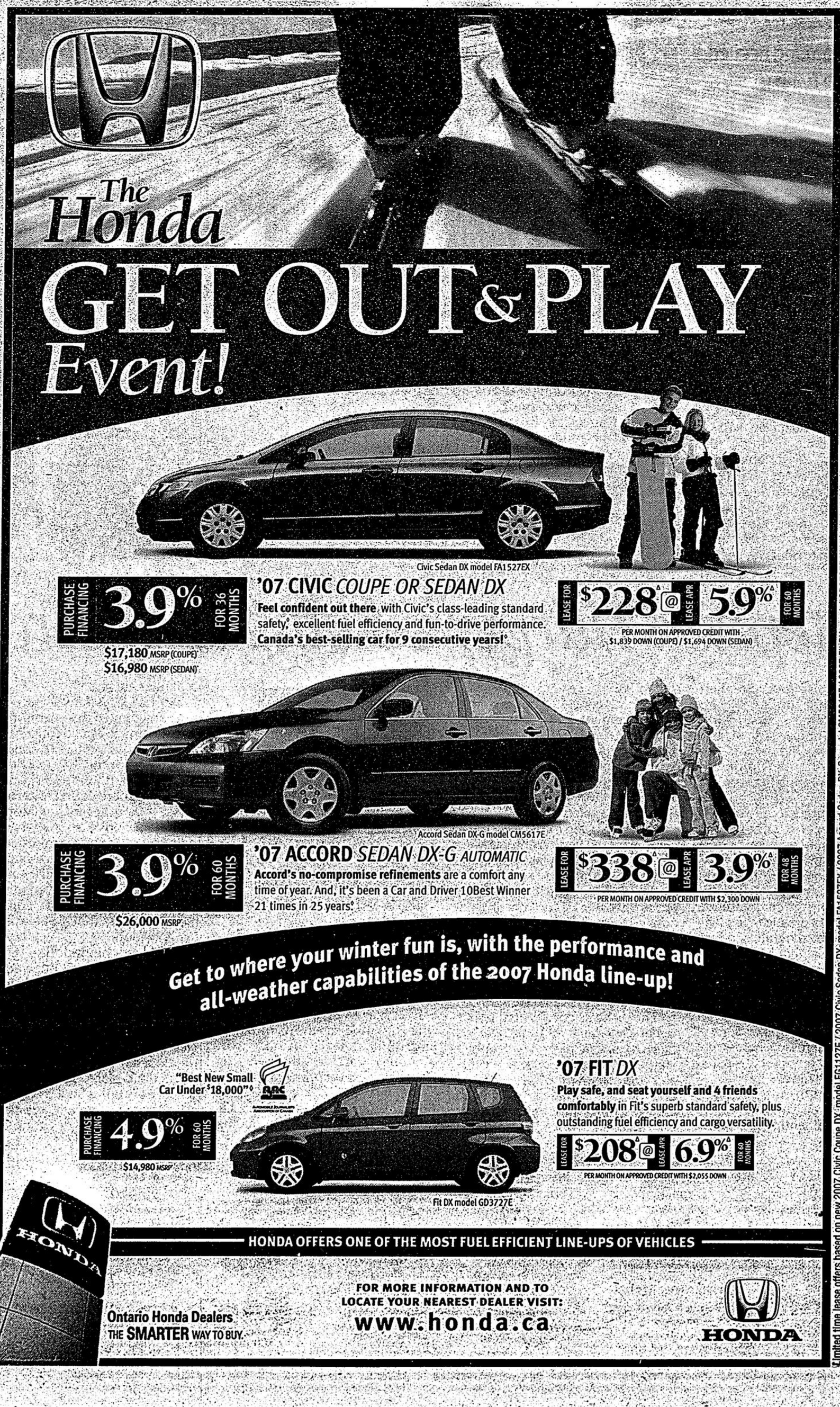
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