

# Tell MPP town needs money, Emmerson says

From page 1.

the five-year capital forecast. That number is down from the 7.9 per cent increase projected in last November's draft budget and also down from the 6.7 per cent increase the budget started with at the beginning of Tuesday's talks. The latter figure was arrived at after the town updated its 2005 fiscal impact study. More savings, to pare the figure down even more, were realized by cost-cutting measures in several town departments.

Mayor Wayne Emmerson noted York Region is sending \$70 million to Toronto this

year. If this money stayed in the municipalities, "We would be quite financially sound," he said.

He urged residents to raise the issue with Oak Ridges-Markham MPP Helena Jaczek, saying "We could be doing more with this money."

Andrew Grunda, a partner with Watson and Associates, said compared to other municipalities at this stage of growth, "this municipality is in a good position because you have no current debt. You have some financial flexibility."

When it comes to town projects, one of the first things residents will notice as

spring nears is the ongoing work to widen and improve Main Street.

Residents can also look forward to the new fire hall in a more central location for better fire protection ready in early 2009, a new and improved Memorial Park with construction to start next year instead of 2008 to save money, the new arena, which is funded by development charges, should be ready by the fall of 2009 and

19 on the Park, expected to open in the spring of 2009, and various smaller parkettes around town.

The Latham Gallery will again receive \$50,000 from the town, as it did last year.

The new visitor centre and improved Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum, where construction is anticipated to start later in 2009, will be funded largely by park trust funds and funds from develop-

"There will be no tax burden to taxpayers for (the museum)," Marc J. Pourvahidi, the town's treasurer and director of finance, said.

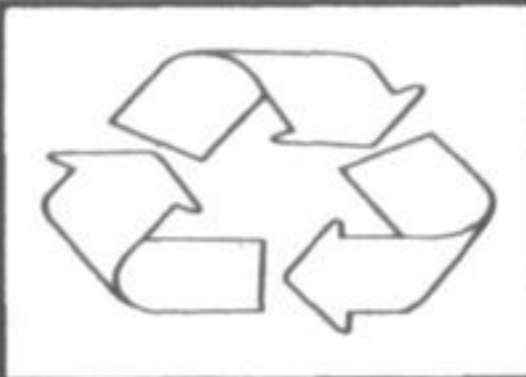
The town will look at the properties it owns and consider selling what it doesn't need.

"We want to make sure we keep what we really need," Mr. Cash said. "We will be using as many new ways of financing our projects as possible."

## WHERE YOUR TAX DOLLARS GO

What is your tax increase?

The 5.9 per cent increase means the average homeowner, with a house assessed at \$330,000, will pay \$56 more than last year. Total property taxes for an average house in 2007 included \$895 going to the town, \$1,636 to the region and \$872 for education, totalling \$3,403.



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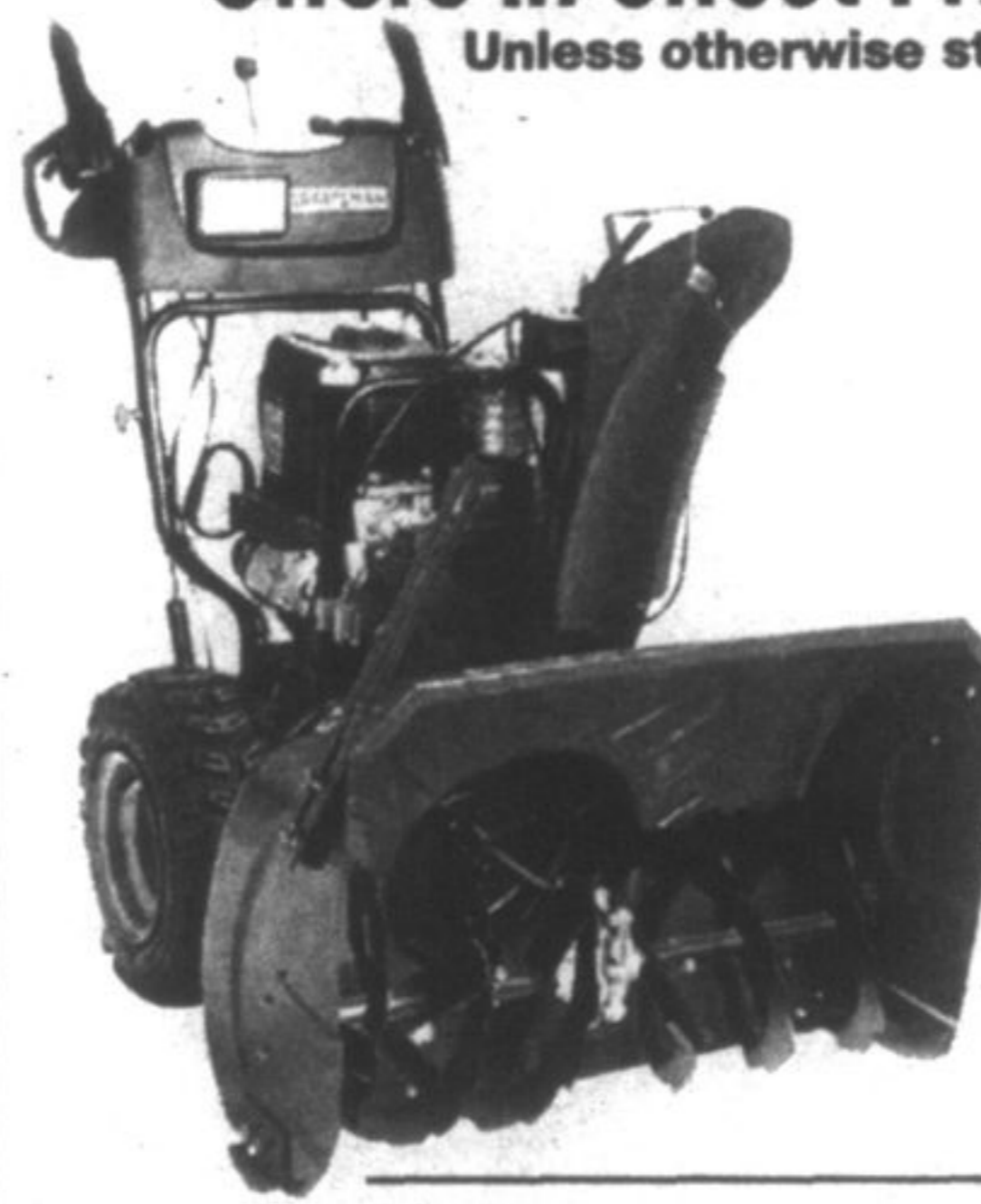
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