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THURSDAY, FEB. 28, 2013 ■ SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE ■ 28 PAGES/\$1 INCLUDING HST



MARLENE ANTONIK PHOTO

HORSING AROUND

Horses play in the snow on a Ninth Line farm in northern Whitchurch-Stouffville Sunday.

Town wrestles with property tax increase

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Residential taxes in Whitchurch-Stouffville could increase this year by about \$96 on a home assessed at \$575,000.

"It's a draft. Capital D-R-A-F-T," said Mayor Wayne Emmerson during Tuesday afternoon's council meeting.

The town's portion of the proposed hike is \$60 while the regional portion

accounts for \$36.

Since the last MPAC assessment in 2008, Whitchurch-Stouffville's property values have increased by about 17 per cent, according to the Feb. 26 council report.

The 2013 draft operating budget currently sits at \$54.5 million, which includes six new hires — a senior accountant, along with a booking clerk for leisure services and IT help desk assistant. The

conversion from contract to full-time of the museum and town events program co-ordinator and the downtown co-ordinator is also proposed. A new hire for the library is also being requested.

This year's draft capital budget is \$16.2 million with a \$3.9-million debenture.

Last year's expenditures were \$14.5 million.

This year's capital budget includes \$8.3 million in pre-approved spending

for projects that include the re-alignment of Ninth Line; the Beltline storm water management pond and renovations to the town hall associated with the move by York Regional Police into the building.

The Frank-Connell Track and tennis courts will also be resurfaced. Half of that project's costs, or \$371,250, will come from the Community Infrastructure

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