



YOUR PROPERTY TAX DOLLARS GO TO:

Based on 2006 Residential Property Tax Dollars

Installment 1	City Of Vaughan	\$1,006.46	25%	City Services
Installment 2	Region Of York	\$1,678.14	41%	Regional Services
Installment 3	School Boards	\$1,087.68	27%	Province - Education
		\$3,772.28		
Installment 4	GTA Pooling	\$272.00	7%	For The City Of Toronto
Installment 5	Property Taxes Paid	\$4,044.28	100%	
Installment 6				

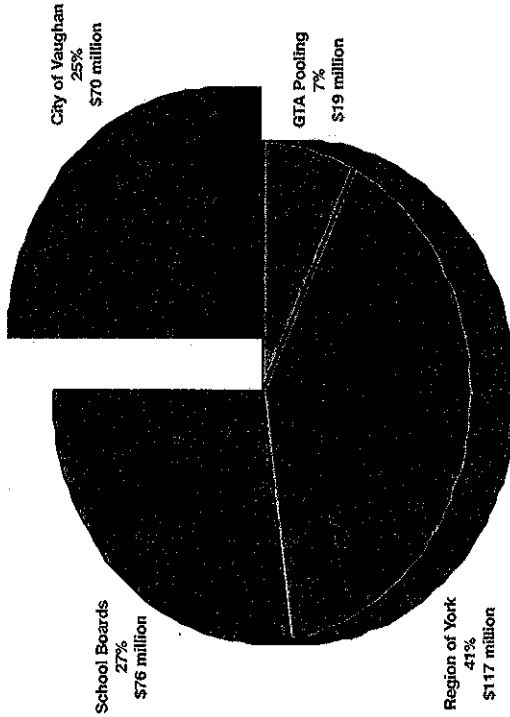
This information is included to assist in understanding where your property taxes are sent and services provided by the City.

*based on house valued at \$412,000

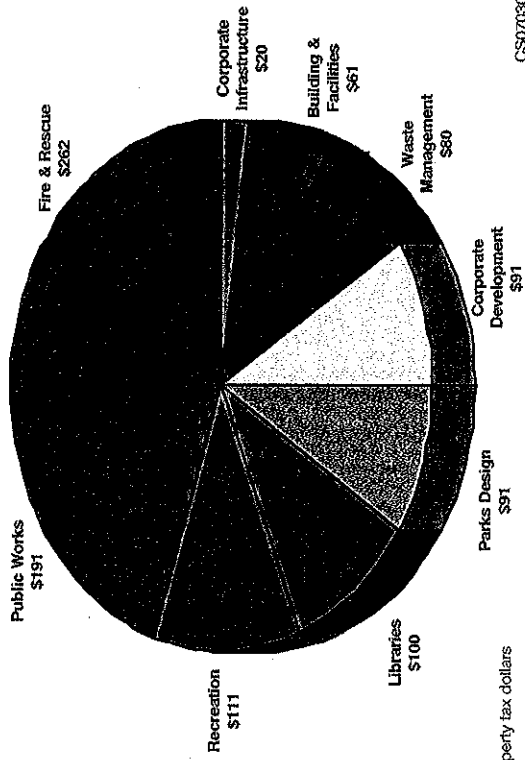
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FINAL

Where Your Tax Dollar Goes



City Expenditure by Service



*based on 2006 residential property tax dollars

Thursday, January 25, 2007

For Immediate Release

The Regional Municipality of York tables 2007 Business Plan and Budget at York Regional Council

Draft budget features service expansion and enhancements

NEWMARKET – The Regional Municipality of York today tabled its draft *2007 Business Plan and Budget* for York Regional Council. The document proposes numerous service expansions and enhancements for roads, transit and police services to help keep pace with York Region's growing population and our residents' demand for value-added services.

"York Region is rapidly approaching the 1 million population mark and Regional staff has worked hard over the past several months to ensure that this draft budget addresses our growth-related pressures and challenges," said York Regional Chair and CEO Bill Fisch. "The tabling of the draft budget will start the deliberations process which will ensure York Region residents and businesses continue receiving the best services possible for their tax dollars."

The \$1.8 billion draft *2007 Business Plan and Budget* includes a proposed 5.3-per cent tax levy. The resulting impact for the average York Region home with an assessment value of \$372,000 would be approximately \$91 for the year or 25 cents a day.

"Growing communities require investments in infrastructure, transit, additional policing, public health and social services," added Town of Newmarket Mayor Tony Van Bynen, Chair of the Region's Finance and Administration Committee. "York Region taxpayers can be confident that York Regional staff will carefully scrutinize the draft *2007 Business Plan and Budget* and we have a process now underway that will accomplish that."

The draft budget outlines \$564 million for capital expenditures including costs required for the ongoing maintenance and replacement of existing assets as well as growth and service improvements.

Budget highlights include:

- Major road construction and improvement projects
- Expanded transit routes and new transit vehicles
- Additional police officers and civilian support staff
- Expanded water/wastewater facilities and additional capacity
- Continued implementation of the Source Separated Organics program (Green bins)

The Regional budget also includes approximately \$1.2 billion in operating costs required to maintain existing services. York Region is responsible for the delivery of 13 core services to residents and businesses:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Arterial Roads | • Public Health | • Court Administration |
| • Regional Transit (YRT/Miva) | • Police Services | • Family and Children's Services |
| • Water and Wastewater Treatment | • Long Term Care | |
| • Social Assistance | • Social Housing | |
| • Solid Waste | • Emergency Medical Services | |
| | • Planning and Economic Development | |

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The draft 2007 Business Plan and Budget has now been referred to the following Regional Committees for review:

- Transportation and Works – Wednesday, February 7th
- Planning and Economic Development – Wednesday, February 7th
- Finance and Administration – Thursday, February 8th
- Solid Waste Management – Wednesday, February 14th
- Transit and Rapid Transit – Thursday, February 15th
- Health and Emergency Medical Services – Thursday, March 8th
- Community Services and Housing – Wednesday, March 21st

Following reviews by the committees, the Finance and Administration Committee will review all budget recommendations at its meeting on Thursday, April 5th. Final 2007 Business Plan and Budget recommendations are scheduled to be considered for approval and adoption by York Regional Council on Thursday, April 19th.

York Region follows a number of performance measurement activities for business planning and budgeting. York Region is a member of the Ontario Municipal CAO's Benchmarking Initiative (OMBI), a partnership project with 15 municipalities which share performance statistics and best practices, and the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), which has established standardized reporting for budgets and financial statements.

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For more information on The Regional Municipality of York, please visit www.york.ca

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Funding gap continues to grow

BY DAVID FLEISCHER
Staff Writer

The 905 area is getting the short end of the funding stick, according to a coalition of social service providers.

A report released in the fall showed social services for local residents were severely underfunded but, as more data rolls in, the evidence is all the more striking.

The Strong Communities Coalition — a group that includes local hospitals as well as the United Way — has been arguing local residents are paying more taxes and getting fewer services than those in other parts of the province.

An audit commissioned from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP was released in November, along with the report Growing Pains, showing the problems were even worse than expected.

New numbers from the province show the gap continues to grow.

"Increasing numbers of lives are compromised in the GTA/905 because of the growing inequity in provincial funding for social services," said Barbara Burton, CEO of the United Way

of Oakville.

According to the coalition report, provincial government information indicates the total funding gap reached \$688 million in 2005/06, an increase of 25 per cent from the 2003/04 period.

'Increasing numbers of lives are compromised in the GTA/905 because of the growing inequity in provincial funding for social services.'

This means, on a per capita basis, local residents are receiving \$231 less than the average Ontarian for provincially funded social services.

Rapid growth in the area has exacerbated problems as funding fails to keep pace. The result is that social services, from women's shelters to child welfare services, are unable to meet the needs of their communities.

Last week, York Region council passed its second motion asking upper levels of govern-

ment to bridge the funding gap.

The motion said provincial funding is allocated primarily on the basis of historical patterns, rather than the actual population and demographics. The gap in hospital funding is expected to reach \$2 billion for the 2002-07 period, it said.

When the initial report was released, Finance Minister Greg Sorbara said the data would be taken into consideration when he begins to assemble the spring budget.

Rahul Bhardwaj, former CEO of the United Way of York Region expressed hope the province would provide stop-gap funding in its next budget and then create a funding model and strategy to address long-term problems.

"We're at a tipping point. The gap is growing dramatically," he said.

According to Statistics Canada numbers in the report, the population of Ontario has increased 8.2 per cent since 2001. The GTA/905 region has grown nearly five times faster than the rest of the province, at a rate of 22.3 per cent over the same period.