▼ From front

Appeal should be done immediately

The city bases its taxes per thousand dollars of assessed value of the properties. Commercial and industrial properties make up a mere 27 per cent of the city's tax base, while residential properties account for just over 72 per cent.

"The current residential overall tax rate is \$14 per thousand dollars of assessed value on a property. That includes the school tax rate. The city's portion is \$7.59 per thousand dollars," says city finance director Bill Kennedy

If a property owner feels the assessment is incorrect, the assessment can be appealed. The deadline for written appeals to the B.C. Assessment Authority's Court of Revision is January 31. That written appeal must include the homeowner's assessment Roll Number, the reason for appealing, and a property description such as address and legal description.

"If someone is going to appeal his assessment now is the time to do, not April when the city has already set the new tax rates," says Mr. Kennedy. "We calculate our tax rates on the official assessments and by tax time in June, there's

Suspensions increase, while numbers drop

Prince George RCMP have released the Christmas Counterattack figures, gathered between December 8 and January 3.

Police report that a total of 1,200 vehicles were stopped over that 27-day period. That's down considerably from the same time period last year, when over twice that number of cars -2,

"We were short two people in the traffic department and a lot of the officers chose to take their holidays at that time. That cut down the overall number of hours dedicated to road checks," says Constable Gord Molendyk.

In fact, the number of hours dedicated to the Counterattack program has dropped from 67 hours to 29 hours.

Despite the fact that less than half of the vehicles were checked in 1995/1996, the number of 24-hour suspensions has increased by five (there were 55 suspensions in 1994\1995 and 60 suspensions in 1995\1996).

Other than that, there was a total of 233 collisions, seven alcohol-related collisions. Fortunately, none of those seven collisions cost any lives, but two resulted in injury. A total of 19 charges of driving while under the influence were laid.

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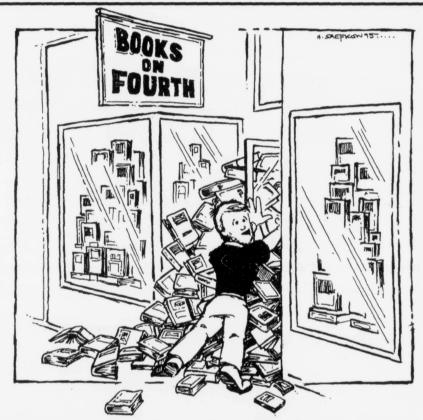
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Ph. 564-5833 Fax 564-5835 absolutely nothing that can be done about it. It's very important that if, for example, a homeowner's assessment values his house at \$150,000 while the homeowner feels it's worth \$120,000, it's wise to get an appeal. No one wants an additional \$30,000 tallied into their taxes."

He can't predict whether or not that tax rate will change in the upcoming year.

"In past years, the market has steadily risen, so the city's dropped its tax rate in order to even out the taxes paid by the homeowner. But the market hasn't fluctuated as much this year so this may be the first year the city's will have to raise its rate. All the same though, I wouldn't want to hazard a guess. It's still too early in the process."





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