

# GO Transit expands train service

**Karen Robbins**  
SPECIAL TO THE BEAVER

At 3:25 p.m. Monday, Halton Region Chair Joyce Savoline, Burlington Mayor Rob MacIsaac and GO Transit Chairman Eldred King hopped aboard a GO Train at the Bronte station and rode it to the Burlington station.

A week earlier, they would have had to take the bus.

The trio's short ride marked the official launch of the extended all-day weekday GO train service for the Bronte and Burlington stations.

The extended Bronte and Burlington service was part of a \$1.5-million GO Transit improvement that saw all-day service added to the Lakeshore Line from Burlington to Oshawa during weekdays, as well as adding new trains to Mississauga, Markham and Richmond Hill and adding more rush hour trains.

Weekend trains will continue to run between Oakville and Pickering only.

With a pricetag of \$1.5 million, GO transit was able to extend the all-day Lakeshore line to Burlington as well as adding new trains to Mississauga, Markham and Richmond Hill and adding more rush hour trains.

"This is a day that Burlington has waited for, for a very long time," Savoline said.

All-day service was extended to the Burlington station in 1992, but because of budget constraints the service was cut-back in 1993 to six trains daily during morning and evening rush hours only.

King is confident the service will not be cancelled again. "In the last seven years the number of people traveling on our Lakeshore corridor, from Burlington all the way to Oshawa, has increased by 31%, which means we are getting 20,000 more riders a day than in 1993."

King went on to say, "The key to this new service is flexibility. Not everyone



Photo by Ron Kuzyk

Halton Region Chair Joyce Savoline, the Go Bear, Chairman Eldred King, Chairman of Go Transit, and Burlington Mayor Rob MacIsaac, cut the cake to launch the new all day weekday service.

works nine to five hours these days."

The extended service is to try to alleviate congestion at the Oakville station, where both Burlington and Oakville residents have to go to get all-day trains.

Savoline said that the 10,000 Oakville and Burlington residents who ride the GO train every morning will now have more options. "Sometimes they like to come back in the middle of the day and in order to do that they always had to transfer to a bus. And now they will be able to stay on the train and come all the way back to Burlington."

Burlington residents John and Diny Martens said the new service will be very convenient for them. However, they pointed out that the parking in Burlington will pose a problem.

"You have to come very early in the morning to get a parking spot," John said.

Savoline agreed that the service will not be a complete success without resolving some issues such as the availability of land to build more parking and community stations.

However, she pointed out that the Bronte station has plenty of parking and available land for expansion.

MacIsaac said the extended service will be good for Burlington and for the environment. "The extent that we can get people off the roads will certainly help in many respects in terms of quality of life, traffic congestion and air quality," he said.

"We hope to see service all the way to Aldershot soon," MacIsaac added.

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\*Wednesday May 2nd to Monday May 8th

### Watch for frogs on Saturday

The Mountsberg Conservation Area is holding its annual Frogwatcher's Hike on Sat. May 6th, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The songs or mating calls are so distinctive from species to species that frogs can be identified by their voices alone.

The Spring Peeper, the frog harbinger of spring, has a distinctive peep that signals the return of the new season. This tiny, one-inch long frog and its high pitched peep is usually one of the first species heard and the sound of several hundred frogs calling for mates together can be deafening.

During the Frogwatcher's Hike, participants will learn about the difference between frogs and toads. Most of all, you will listen to the romantic serenade of frogs as sunset approaches. Admission for the Frogwatcher's Hike is by advance registration only and space is limited. Please call 905-854-2276 to register. Adults \$10; Children \$7.

Mountsberg Wildlife Centre is located on Millborough Line, 5 km. west of Campbellville, between Hwy. 6 and Guelph Line.

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