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In Halton

Most people work outside of region

By Rod Lamb
Sixty per cent of the people who live in Halton work outside of it.

A survey conducted by the Halton Transportation Department found the 60 per cent figure 20 per cent higher than the 40 recorded in 1971.

Most of the people who commute, travel to work in Toronto. The survey found most of these people had high incomes or were recent residents to the region.

The survey is based on the replies of approximately 2,500 households

which received the questionnaire.

Ho Wong, chief transportation planner for the region, said the survey is the first one the region has ever carried out. It is the first one to deal specifically with travel patterns and social backgrounds.

For instance, the survey indicated the average medium family income in Halton to be \$24,000 a year. This is twice the 1971 income of \$12,000.

However, as was recorded in the survey,

"Discounting inflation, this represented about \$5,000 in 1977 dollars of real gain in family income over the six-year period."

"Families in single detached houses earned on the average \$25,000, about \$6,500 more than those living in apartments, \$18,500."

The survey noted, "It was also found that the newer residents who moved to this region within the last five years, earned as much as those who have been living here for more than five years."

Forty per cent of the 2,500 who replied to the survey were employed full time. Of these, 27 per cent were females.

One family in three has more than one breadwinner.

The survey recorded, "On the average, residents of the region spent about 28 minutes in travelling to work; 85 per cent of them using their cars, nine per cent (mostly from Oakville) taking the GO train, three per cent using GO or local buses and the remaining three per cent walking or bicycling."

"It was also found that transit usage for work purposes increased with family income, mainly because of the GO train

users. On the other hand, transit usage for non-work purposes, around eight per cent as reported in the survey, was higher among low-income households."

The cost of gas was observed.

The majority of people said in the survey they would switch to a smaller car or cut back on driving if the price of gasoline continues to rise.

"Some also said they would use public transit more often but very few would consider moving closer to work or switching to a job nearer home."

The survey reported higher income families were less concerned about the cost of gas.

Most of the people in the survey said lack of convenience on the part of local transit prevented them from using it.

The inconvenience, long travelling times and indifference to public transit was noted more often by high income respondents.

Compared to 1971, the survey found the number of people per household had declined to 3.4 from 3.7.

"Families today were generally smaller with fewer children," the survey showed.

(Continued on Page RE4)

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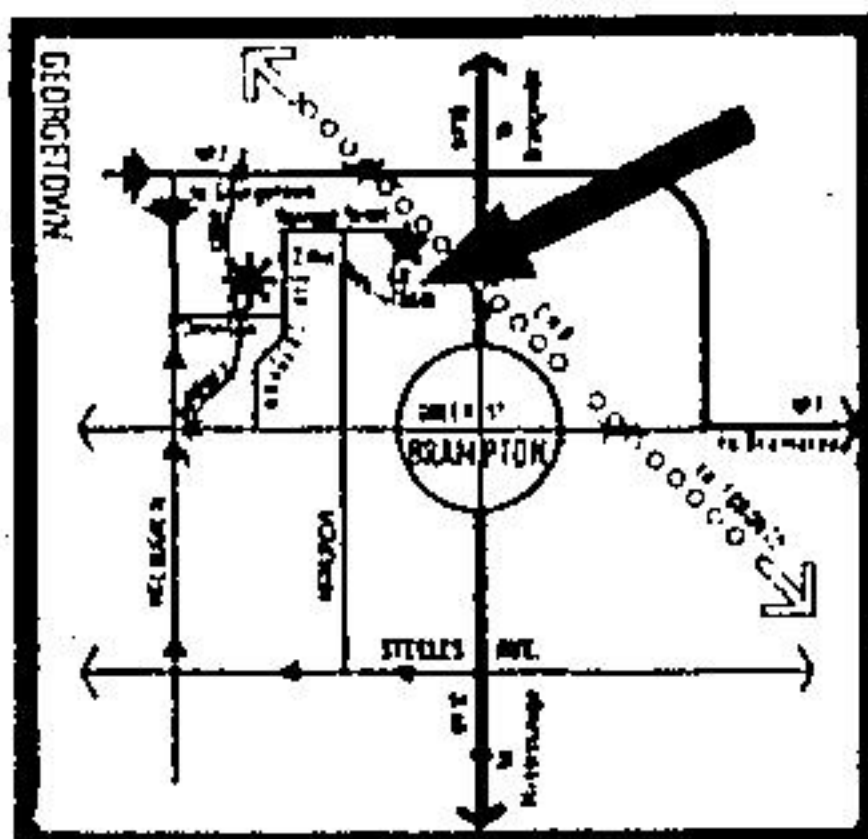
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