

Go Train riders stranded at the station

By BRIAN MacLEOD
Herald Staff

Halton Hills residents seem to be coping well with the railway strike which has cut off direct routes to downtown Toronto.

An average of 786 people a day leave Georgetown on the GO train, said GO Transit spokesman Lily Ing.

Acton and Georgetown travelers must now either take their chances on the highways by car, or take the bus to Yorkdale or York Mills subway station and head into Toronto via the TTC.

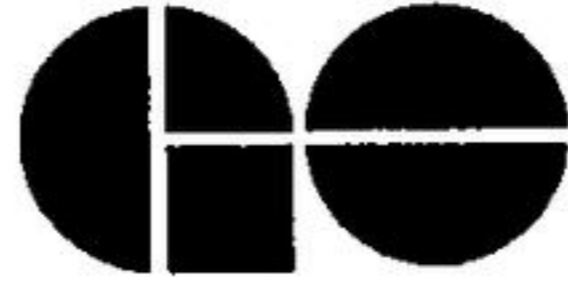
Ms. Ing said there are extra buses and drivers in the system to cope

with the expected increase in passengers but "we don't know where they are."

A phone call to the GO station in Georgetown Monday got a recorded message which said the trains are not running but GO buses are running on their schedule routes at the regular times.

Mrs. Ing said GO transit chairman Lou Parsans has sent a letter to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney asking him "to whatever is possible" to stop the strike.

The letter was sent before the workers walked out, she said. Despite the strike, buses leaving



Georgetown and Acton have not been loaded down. The two outlets which sell GO bus tickets in Halton Hills, have not seen an increase in passengers since the strike started. "We've been going crazy with calls," said Main Mart owner Kiah Kim.

Just over 25 passengers a day leave Georgetown from the Mini Mart store on Main Street.

Acton Jug City manager Brenda Hillier said bus passenger traffic has not increased since the strike began.

"But we've had a lot more people come in for coffee in the morning. Their taking their cars," she said.

Drivers new to rush hour traffic need not fear the unknown roads. Milton OPP say Highway 401 was heavier than usual Monday morning. Port Credit OPP, which looks after Highway 401 between Winston

Churchill Boulevard and Renforth Drive, say the highway was only slightly heavier than usual Monday morning with two minor accidents reported.

Night time rush hour traffic saw no accidents with traffic seemingly no more packed than it always is, Port Credit OPP said.

Nearly 50,000 railways workers walked off the job early Monday morning after negotiations between the Associated Railway Unions and Canadian National Railways and CP Rail broke down.

The workers are seeking job

security in the wake of cutbacks of train routes in recent years.

But management officials say guarantees against layoffs would be "economic suicide."

The strike has also shut down Via Rail passenger service and brought to a halt the trains which carry nearly a third of the nation's freight.

Transport Minister John Crosbie is considering intervening in the strike. Currently the two sides are not even sitting at the negotiating table and no one will say how long it is expected to last.

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Victims of credit card tourist scam

By BRIAN MacLEOD
Herald Special

Halton residents should keep their credit cards tucked away in their wallets if they are approached by companies offering cheap vacations in the United States.

At least two companies are offering bargain vacations across the border but, after a closer look, there appears to be only hidden charges - and no bargain.

Halton Regional Police are warning residents about at least two types of offers which have surfaced in Halton recently.

Two reports from Burlington and one from Milton indicate that citizens are being offered cheap trips to Florida, providing they give their Visa or Mastercard number over the phone for security. One cardholder had over \$1000 charged to his VISA account, police said. The calls seem to be originating in the United States, police said.

In another scam, at least one Georgetown resident had \$129.50 withdrawn from her VISA account when she responded to a post card from the Contest Division of World Travel, Inc. in Fort Myers Florida.

"You have been chosen by the CONTEST DIVISION, Vacation Award Centre Inc. to receive a fabulous Florida vacation...you must call immediately to claim your vacation," the post card says.

Nowhere on the card does it say the recipient has "won" the vacation.

When the 39-year-old woman phoned about the vacation she was offered discounts on accommodation, flights and meals but no free vacation.

"I figured it was a promotion to get people to Florida. I was down here last summer so I wasn't suspicious," she said.

The company asked for her VISA number and promised a package of information in the mail.

"I got the package in the mail and a bill for \$129.50 American," she said.

No money or surcharge was mentioned in the phone conversation, she said.

The woman asked how the company got her name and address and they replied "your husband must have entered a sweepstakes," she said.

Sgt. Joe Barker of the Burlington Investigations Division said three of the post cards with the same contact person - Diane Shipe - have been turned over to him in the past week.

The card looks legitimate enough - right down to the stamp which says "First Class U.S. Postage Paid, Vacation Travel, Inc."

However, Sgt. Barker said, none of the stamps have been cancelled. That means it never went through the U.S. mail system, he said.

Better Business Bureau President Paul Tuz estimated "tens and tens of thousands" of Canadians have fallen into the trap.

He said several companies with similar names offering cheap rates are operating out of the U.S.

"If the post card is extremely carefully worded. Nowhere will it say that you have won something," he said.

"They leave you to mislead yourself," he said.

"There ain't no bargain. I don't know why people, and sophisticated people, think there's a free lunch in this world because there isn't."

Mr. Tuz said he's seen the identical post card, sometimes even with the same contact person, from different states.

"Whenever the Attorney General makes some harsh inquiries they move," he said.

"A bulk of their profit comes from people who realize they've been had and just don't go," he said.

In any deal made over the telephone, the buyer has three days to cancel the deal, according to U.S. law Mr. Tuz said.

"Good luck. They'll give you the run around."

"Once you give your're VISA number it's automatically confirmed," he said.

"I will not go so far as to say it's a rip-off because they are just within the law," he said.



TAKIN' THEIR LICKS

It was practically all-out war Friday at Cedarvale Park as Day Camp ended with a special event, suitably called "Wild and Wonderful." The water balloon toss (left) soon deteriorated into a full-scale battle, as eight-year-old Jason Waterworth found out. The body painting (above) was a little less threatening as most took a more artistic approach. Carl Critchell (right) and Eve MacArthur, both eight, were obviously into creativity. But everyone involved had fun, and the event was an enjoyable way to round out the summer's Day Camp activities. (Herald photos by Mike Turner.)

Run for Terry's Marathon of Hope

Halton Hills residents will be able to travel long and far Sept. 13 as two Terry Fox runs are slated this year.

In Georgetown the Georgetown Track Club will put the new track at the high school to good use and in Acton organizers are trying to top last year's figures of over \$13,000 raised for cancer research.

The Terry Fox run in Georgetown has an opportunity for team challenges, says organizer Bob Parker.

"Team challenges are being encouraged in both the corporate sector and in the schools," Mr. Parker said.

Teams can consist of up to five people and each runner will run two

kilometres or five laps around the track.

Participants can run, walk or wheelchair around the track itself. A separate course has been set aside for people who want to bicycle or skateboard around the 10 kilometre course, Mr. Parker said.

First, second and third place ribbons will be awarded for children under 12 years old, aged 12 to 19, a corporate open category and an open general category.

Each category will award prizes for male, female and mixed divisions.

In 1986 the Georgetown run raised \$1,800 while their counterparts in Acton raised more than seven times that, Mr. Parker noted.

"This year we challenge Georgetown to equal Acton's great past achievement," he said.

The event starts at 8:30 a.m. and finishes shortly after noon.

The relay event begins at 9 a.m. and registration starts at 8:15 a.m.

Pledge sheets for the Georgetown event can be picked up at many commercial outlets throughout Halton Hills.

For further information on the Georgetown event contact Bob Parker at 853-0361.

Acton Terry Fox run organizers are simply looking to up their total from last year.

Paul Murr said last year's run drew 125 participants.

"Our aim this year is just to better

last year," he said.

The Acton run goes from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Acton High School.

A food booth and picnic tables will be supplied at the run "so it could be a family outing," Mr. Murr said.

Two draws will be held at the run from the participants' list. One winner will receive a free flight in the Old Hide House balloon and the other will dine for free with a friend at the Old Hide House, Mr. Murr said.

Participants can find imaginative ways to travel the ten kilometre course or you can just run or walk.

Pledge sheets for the Acton run can be obtained at local variety stores, The Old Hide House, Country Feed and Hardware and the Post Office.



Guitar man

St. Xavier played their brand of rock 'n roll to about 200 people at the Open Door drop in Centre's Summerfest at Cedarvale Park Aug. 23. Open Door organizers hoped to raise

about \$600 from the event. Two other bands, Dwyer and Revelations also played at Summerfest. (Herald photo)

Ballinafad teacher dies in car crash

By DAVE ROWNEY
Herald Staff

A Ballinafad resident, recently graduated from teachers' college, was killed in a car crash Monday just south of North Bay.

Hellen Schwarz 25, was travelling alone in her car on Highway 11 when her car was involved in a head-on collision with another vehicle.

She is survived by parents Paul and Helga and brothers Rene and Glenn. A memorial service will be held Sunday at the Ballinafad United Church.

The young adult was a graduate of Guelph University and had just completed a year of teachers' college at the University of Western Ontario this spring.

During the summer she was teaching drama classes in Dorset. Hellen was returning from visiting a friend's cottage up north when the accident occurred.

"Friends and family members will remember the lively and vivacious student for her energy and enthusiasm.

"She always gave of herself without any trouble. She really



Hellen Schwarz

cared about people," said neighbor Marthe Lewis.

"She touched a lot of people because she was involved in a lot of groups."

Ms. Schwarz had been a Guide leader, a 4-H leader and was active in Sunday School and the choir at Ballinafad United Church. She was also on the church session (board) which makes decisions about the type of service each Sunday.

A talented leader and teacher, she was a counsellor at the United

Church Camp near Orillia called Sparrow Lake for about seven years.

"All the children loved her because she had time for them, cared for them and made them laugh," said her neighbor.

Hellen was born in Montreal and lived in Brampton before moving to Ballinafad with her family. She was a graduate of the Georgetown District High School and specialized in German and English drama while at Western.

With a terrific sense of humor, the young adult was loved by those of all ages, said Ms. Lewis. Having taught some supply teaching, Ms. Schwarz was confident about obtaining a teaching job in the fall.

Everyone loved her and knew her in the community because she was active in the church and to a large extent the church is the centre of the community, said Ms. Lewis.

Close to her family, she had a strong faith in God. A positive person, whatever she did, she did well, her neighbor said.

Just last year Ms. Schwarz had attended a summer international Guide leaders conference in

Scotland and made a number of close friends there. She also trained leaders at the Sparrow Lake summer camp.

A natural teacher, children adored her and "she was a bugger," her friend said.

She had a lovely and childish way about her that kids enjoyed. Even when parents came home after babysitting she wouldn't stop playing with the children, she said.

Woman drowns

A Glen Williams resident drowned Wednesday at a friend's home in Norval.

Kirsten Heaton, 51 was swimming in a private pool. Members of the household where Mrs. Heaton was swimming found her in the pool at 2:45 p.m. Georgetown coroner Dr. Alistair MacKintosh conducted an autopsy and reported Mrs. Heaton died by drowning.