

Advisory committee makes recommendations

By MICHELLE ROULLARD
Herald Special

The evaluation report for Pegasus, the inter-municipal transportation for the mobility disabled has been completed by the Mobility Impaired Advisory Committee.

The 15-month trial period, authorized by Halton Region for the implementation of a service for the mobility impaired, was set up to determine if there was a demand.

Rick Bonnette, Regional Councillor for Ward 1, said, "The Committee is planning to have a promotion in mid-May or early June to commemorate Pegasus' first year in service."

A recommendation the advisory committee made was that council implement Pegasus as an ongoing service and approve the expansion of the service over the next five years. The disbanding of the Mobility Impaired Advisory Committee and replacement of it with the "Transit for the Disabled (TD) Advisory Committee" was also recommended.

The advisory committee suggested that council authorize the renewal of the contract with Tyler Transport for an extended 17 months. Also, the committee wants to analyse the scheduling system currently in use to determine if the system requires modification.

Another person is needed to analyse future vehicle options to accommodate changes in the scheduling system, eligibility criteria and growth of the service.

The evaluation shows there are 218 registrants and of that, 30.7 per cent used the service. Eighty per cent of the trips taken were used for medical and treatment programs.

"These statistics prove that there is a need for this service and that ridership will increase as the provincial eligibility standards become broader and will have to be implemented by January, 1991," said Coun. Bonnette.

Pegasus is an inter-municipal service which provides transportation for people who cannot use every day transportation services. A person who would like to go from Georgetown to Norval would not be able to use the service because both towns are a part of Halton Hills. Two of the most active transit corridors are Halton Hills to Milton and Milton to Burlington. Inter-Milton transportation is a service which has been provided up to now, but will be phased out.

Passengers of the Pegasus program must meet certain eligibility guidelines which state that service was for "persons who, regardless of age were unable to board

regular transit facilities." This guideline is in the process of changing to include a broader definition. The new eligibility guideline is expected to increase registrations on the transit system by up to 30 per cent.

The fee for passengers to use this method of transportation has been scheduled to increase every second year. As of now, it costs \$3 per trip and beginning in 1990 the price will increase by 25 cents every two years.

A major concern facing Pegasus in 1989 is whether or not the current vehicle will provide reliable, safe service through the year. The Regional Public Works Department has done an assessment of the vehicle. They estimate that it will cost up to \$10,000 in repairs during this year. Such areas of repair include the large sliding door, replacing the lift, repairing rust, and tires. The public works staff said the vehicle could probably be used for one more year, but it would be costly and there

may be a safety factor. If the Pegasus van does develop problems, another step which could be taken is to lease a back-up

vehicle from the transport operator who is currently operating Pegasus until a van could be purchased or leased.

Woman fished from harbor

Halton Regional Police assisted the Hamilton-Wentworth Police Force in freeing a woman trapped in the "icy waters" of Hamilton Harbor Sunday morning.

Halton police say the woman "hurled herself off the Skyway Bridge" into Hamilton Harbor. A passerby threw the 41-year-old Mississauga woman a rope.

"She stayed afloat until police arrived. Officers from both Regional police forces braved the chilly waters to free the woman who had a punctured lung, cracked ribs and internal injuries.

Two police officers were lowered

by rope over the breakwall down to the injured woman. The officers "grasped the victim and she was pulled to safety," say Halton police.

The woman remains in the Intensive Care Unit of Joseph Brant Hospital in Burlington.

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