



GO Transit

Commuters want more trains

Halton Hills commuters appear to support the province's plan to introduce a Georgetown all-day, two-way GO train rail service within the next 10 years.

"It's a good idea, we need it," said retired Halton Hills resident Arthur Buresh late Monday afternoon after arriving at the Georgetown station from Toronto.

"I like to go to Toronto but don't always want to stay there all day," said Mr. Buresh. "I'd use it a lot more if the train ran all day."

Currently the GO train only leaves Georgetown for Toronto four times during the morning with the first train leaving at 6:35 a.m. and the last leaving at 7:50 a.m. And the train only leaves Toronto's Union Station during the late afternoon. The four trains leave between 4:32 p.m. and 5:45 p.m.

But the province recently announced it is allotting \$400 million for the expansion of the GO rail service. The money will be used to expand not only the Georgetown service to an all-day, two-way service but also to introduce similar services for Milton, Richmond Hill and Stouffville.

Debbie Ross of Georgetown said Monday afternoon at the Georgetown GO train station that the current service is "too limiting."

"It makes it difficult for someone to work late or go-out with friends after work," she said.

Ms. Ross works in Toronto and said she has used the service for

several years.

And Ms. Ross is only one of many people who are using the service.

According to GO transit senior information officer Edmund Shea, from March 1989 to February 1990 ridership on the Georgetown line increased by 11.2 per cent compared to the preceding 12-month period.

The increased ridership can be attributed to growth in population in Halton, the lack of affordable housing in the Toronto area and increased traffic congestion on the major highways running in and out of the greater Toronto area.

Increased awareness about the environment is another reason for greater ridership, said Mr. Shea. People are becoming more aware of the pollution caused by cars, he said.

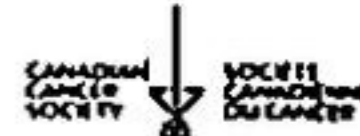
Mr. Shea calculated that a full Georgetown train carries the same amount of people as 997 cars. This calculation is based on the statistic that the average number of people per car on the road is 1.3.

Mr. Shea was unable to say exactly when Georgetown would get the all-day, two-way service except that it would happen within the next 10 years.

But Halton Regional Chairman Pete Pomeroy said recently it probably won't happen in the near future. The Georgetown line is a low priority, said the chairman. Much-needed track reconstruction is one problem discouraging the province from acting soon, said Chairman Pomeroy.

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Old age sure creeps up on people. Shawn Barnes poses for this shot while the rest of the Centennial Public School's cast start preparing for their musical called "Wheels". The play is a humorous look at the development of the wheel from caveman days to the present. For ticket information phone Centennial Public School at 877-6976. The musical will be presented at 7:30 p.m. on May 8, May 9 and May 10. (Herald photo)

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