

ISSUE IS ON THE REGION'S RADAR, SAYS CHAIR

Continued from page 3

she underwent the surgery in Toronto, which is more easily accessible by transit than the Oakville hospital.

"I had a doctor that wanted me to go to Oakville hospital, but I had no way to get there," she said. "You can take Activan only so far but then what do you do after you go that far?"

"It's easy to get back and forth from Acton," said MacLean, "But if you want to go to Milton, or go farther afield to Oakville, ...you have a really hard time."

MacLean isn't alone in her concerns.

It's not just convenience, a lot of times it's necessity. They've got to increase the infrastructure.

-Judy MacLean

Stephen Kagansky-Young and his wife use paratransit services, as his wife has lifelong mobility issues and uses crutches.

He says that if his wife is

using the service to travel outside Burlington, where they live, a trip can take all day.

"The rides are already a lot longer than a usual bus trip," he said, explaining that the services do not cross borders and it's up to the rider to liaison two separate rides. "For an able-bodied person, that's a nuisance. When you get to paratransit, that's way trickier."

He says that other regions like York and Peel have amalgamated Regional services that broaden the footprint that the service covers.

"There's lots of options," he said. "It's not that difficult a thing to do."

Kagansky-Young has sent letters to every political candidate running for a seat in the municipalities within Halton Region, asking for input and support for his proposal.

"I feel like there is some momentum," he said. "It's

hard to know where it's going to go."

Gary Carr, chair of Halton Region said this issue is on their radar.

The Ontario government has recently announced that they are looking at taking over the TTC and with that, will be looking into regional transit systems in the province.

"We want to make sure that we provide the best service we can," said Carr, noting that with the Province taking over the TTC and looking into regional transit services, there will be an opportunity to bring the topic of paratransit to the table.

He says that as the Region develops their next strategic plan, there will be public consultations about transit and ultimately paratransit servicing in the Region.

Carr says regardless of an amalgamation, there is nothing stopping municipi-

pal paratransit services from coordinating with one another more effectively for riders.

"Nothing stops them from doing that now," he said.

The chair says that the Region will wait until the municipal election is over to speak with newly elected officials about their feelings towards transit structure in the region and anticipate more clarity from the province.

As Maclean waits at the Go bus stop in Acton, she notes how easy it is to travel along the line from Guelph to Georgetown, with stops made each hour

through the week.

She says it's easy to travel east and west by transit in the area, but there's a lack of connectivity north and south.

"There is absolutely nothing to go north and south," she said.

"It's not just convenience, a lot of times it's necessity," she said, noting that a lot of people need these services for trips to medical appointments. "They've got to increase the infrastructure."

**THE ISSUE:
REGIONAL PARATRANSIT LOCAL IMPACT:
AMALGAMATED TRANSIT STRUCTURE WOULD MAKE TRAVEL FROM ONE COMMUNITY TO ANOTHER MORE CONVENIENT**

STORY BEHIND THE STORY

Halton families are calling on the region to implement an amalgamated paratransit service to better serve customers.



Please keep our community clean!

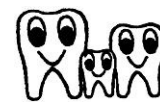


Ask the
Professionals

Find local professionals here every Thursday!
For advertising information please call 905-234-1018 or email kkosonic@theifp.ca

DR. ANOOP SAYAL

Family and Cosmetic Dentistry



located in
Georgetown
Marketplace Mall



DR. ANOOP SAYAL

905-877-CARE (2273)

Q : Do you have any tips on how to tame my dental anxiety?

A : It's a well-known fact in this country that large numbers of people are afraid of going to their dentists. Some people are so afraid that they neglect even the routine examinations and professional cleanings.

It doesn't have to be that way. Here are some tips to help reduce your anxiety. First, see your dentist before treatment is needed. Get to know your dentist and get comfortable discussing your concerns with the dentist and staff. Set your appointments for a stress-free time of day, not on your lunch hour or immediately after work. Second, have the dentist explain the dental treatment to you. Knowledge of the procedure should let you be more relaxed. Third, let your dentist and hygienist know that you're scared. It's nothing to be ashamed of and you're most certainly not their first patient to feel that way. Fourth, understand that times have changed. There are new methods of controlling and eliminating discomfort that weren't available until recently. Don't let dental fears keep you from having a healthy mouth and teeth.