

SCHOOL BUS DELAYS INTO OCTOBER FOR SOME HALTON COMMUNITIES

HOW WILL NEW COVID-19 RULES IMPACT BUSING?

KATHY YANCHUS
kyanchus@metroland.com

The school year will begin with a school bus driver shortage in some Halton communities resulting in delays. However, the outlook for the upcoming school year is positive, according to the general manager of Halton Student Transportation Services (HSTS).

"The bus companies have done a lot of recruiting; they never stop recruiting," David Colley said. "The bus companies are in better shape than they were last year at this time — much better."

Colley said that things would improve as families,

schools, and drivers adjust to the new bus schedules and increased road congestion that comes shortly after the beginning of the school year. Still, areas such as Milton and Halton Hills could remain affected long after September due to bus driver shortages.

"Most bus companies are reporting they have sufficient drivers in place to cover every route, with some exceptions in Milton and Halton Hills. We are aware of the impact this driver shortage may have on some families, and we appreciate their patience and understanding during this time," he said.

The number of permanent drivers is up and there are currently drivers in training, so, "the forecast is by Thanksgiving, in October, if all goes well, we'll have pretty close to a full amount of drivers."



Metroland file photo

A total of 31,000 students of the HDSB and the HCDSB will be riding school buses this year on almost 480 routes.

"I don't expect the delays to be too bad because bus companies do have supply drivers."

Supply drivers will assist in covering routes, and permanent drivers will work extra time to ensure the safe transportation of students

to and from school, he said.

Secondly, HSTS is working with bus companies to minimize the impact of the delays.

Also, a factor in recruiting additional drivers is the province's lifting of the five-day isolation requirement

for those testing positive for COVID-19. Polley said more people might be available to work if a driver has no symptoms.

"That could change our delays."

HSTS currently oversees close to 480 routes with ap-

proximately 460 permanent drivers and more expected over the next month, serving 31,000 students from the Halton District School Board and the Halton Catholic District School Board.

"Overall, it's going to be positive."

To sign up for delays and cancellation notifications, go to the HSTS website: haltonbus.ca

Interested school bus driver applicants can contact the following bus companies:

Attridge Transportation — 905-333-4047

Elliott Coach Lines — 1-877-237-8287

First Student Canada Burlington and Oakville — 905-335-7010

First Student Georgetown — 905-877-2251

Switzer-Carty Transportation — 905-849-2080

Voyago Transportation — 519-787-2200

ARE YOUR HEARING AIDS BEING CHECKED REGULARLY?

If your hearing aids haven't been checked in the last six months, they could be underperforming. At Halton Audiometric Centre, we believe every hearing aid deserves award-winning service. Bring your current devices to our clinic for a complimentary cleaning and checkup. Our professional care and verification ensures your hearing aids are in top condition.



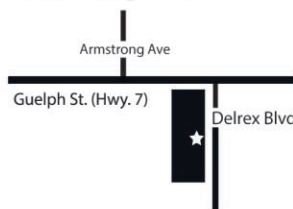
HALTON AUDIOMETRIC CENTRE

HEARING AIDS & AUDIOMETRY

Georgetown's trusted choice for hearing care

905.877.8828

360 Guelph St., Unit 44
Georgetown
(In the Knolcrest Centre)
haltonaudiometric.ca



Culligan Water HIGH EFFICIENCY GREEN HOME INSTANT REBATE

SAVE UP TO **\$500**



* HE Softener when configured with proportional up flow brining with Aqua-Sensor®



* Efficiency is based on 3rd party testing to NSF standards.



5 Mountainview Rd N, Georgetown (905) 877-6242

www.culligan.com info@culliganwater.ca

Schedule your Free Water Test

*Some restrictions apply. Please ask your Culligan Representative for details. Limited time offer, dealer participation varies.