

Staff recommendation ignored Trustees give approval for busing

The long walk to Christ the King school for some Georgetown West students will soon become a thing of the past—at least for this school year—after the Halton Catholic District Board approved an additional bus stop Tuesday night.

Halton Hills Trustee Irene McCauley put forward the motion that was unanimously supported for the addition of the stop in Georgetown West from the board's existing bus route as a policy exception to be reviewed annually.

McCauley's motion was supported despite a board staff recommendation that the request for busing be denied.

The stop is not to impact on any bus schedules or add any additional transportation costs to the board, and the board's director of education Lou Piovesan said the location of the stop still has to be determined and should be in place in "two weeks or sooner." A stop near Moore Park Plaza was one suggestion made for the location.

McCauley said it wasn't difficult to get support from other trustees on the busing issue and credited the area parents with making such a good presentation.

"I'm elated because they decided based on the needs of the community," said Christina Huras, who was one of the parents who requested

the bus stop. "I feel it's a stay of execution though, because this issue will be brought up year after year."

She said she hopes a petition can be started with Georgetown South parents to be sent to the provincial government calling for more money for the school board for busing. Busing from Georgetown South could be eliminated next September if the board supports a staff recommendation.

"I'm very pleased," said Georgetown West parent Kevin Rankin who currently has one child at Christ the King. "I know it's an uphill battle to go back at it again next year."

Piovesan said Thursday, that the two Christ the King Acton-bound buses cannot be used to pick up the Georgetown West students because

they have to leave the school immediately after they arrive, and an additional stop would impact that schedule.

That leaves a bus from the Wildwood Rd. area which Piovesan said can accommodate 25 students.

While it was the parents of 13 children who asked the board to provide busing for their kids Piovesan said there are actually 56 kids within the Georgetown West area who go to Christ the King.

He said some decision will have to be made to determine who is eligible to take the bus.

McCauley said it's her understanding that the 13 kids whose parents raised the issue at the board are guaranteed a spot on the bus.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer



Warm welcome

Halton Hills Public Library Director of Libraries Jane Diamanti (left) recently presented a Welcome Wagon Read and Relax Basket and library card to Susan Van den Heuvel Penfold, after her name was drawn from ballots new residents receive in their Welcome Wagon gift pack.

Photo by Ted Brown

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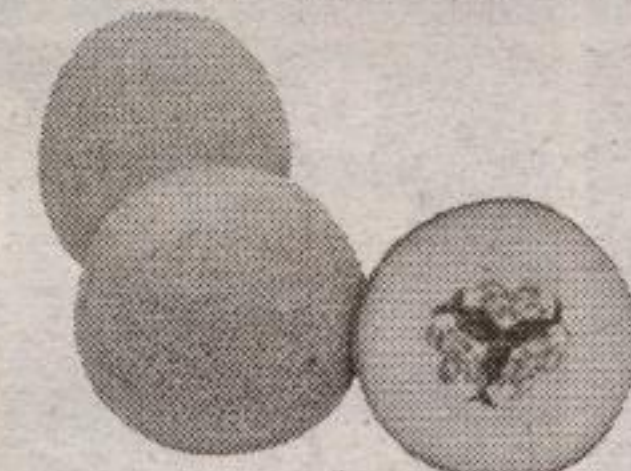
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