



Built for speed

Cynthia Davis, a Grade 8 student at Georgetown's Silver Creek Public School, guides her team's cart down the course during the Distance Cart Challenge at the 20th annual Halton District School Board's Technical Skills Competition. The event, held at EC Drury in Milton last week, attracted approximately 900 elementary and high school students from across the region.

Photo by Graham Paine

Parents urged to fight for busing

LISA TALLYN
Staff Writer

A Georgetown woman is urging the parents of Christ the King students in jeopardy of losing their bus service to attend the Halton Catholic District School Board meeting May 1 to let trustees know how they feel.

Nicole Kase asks parents of current and future CTK students who live in Stewart's Mill, Arbor Glen and the affected Moore Park area to contact her at 905-873-7003. If 30 or more people intend to go to the board meeting she plans to arrange a bus to take them to the board office in Burlington, she said.

The board is considering making changes to its transportation policy to eliminate busing for the 34 students who live in Trafalgar Country/Moore Park (Georgetown West) area and the 65 students who live in the Arbor Glen and Stewart's Mill developments.

In both instances the students have been bused to and from school as exceptions to the Board's policy as they all live within the board's designated walking area—a 3.2 km radius—according to a board staff report.

Kase said her daughter, currently in Grade 10 at CtK, would have to walk 3.9 km to the school and when they walked the route—15 Sideroad, Eighth Line, Maple Ave. and Hwy. 7—recently during good weather, it took 62 minutes.

She and other parents in that area are most concerned about the safety of their children having to make that daily two-way trek largely

through an undeveloped ravine area where she said they would be a long way from any homes.

"If any emergency should happen these kids (could be) in grave danger," said Kase.

She is also worried about speeders on Eighth Line.

A petition signed by 256 people opposed to eliminating the busing was recently presented to trustees.

Halton Hills HCDSB Trustee Rosanna Palmieri said a vote was taken on the busing issue at the last board meeting and the outcome was 6-3 in favour of keeping the bus service, however, board chair Al Bailey ruled a 75 per cent majority was required.

Palmieri said she understood a simple majority was required and in the end the issue was tabled until the next meeting on May 1 at the board office, 802 Drury Lane (at Fairview St.) in Burlington, at 8 p.m.

Palmieri said she agrees with the parents that busing should not be cancelled in West Georgetown or Arbor Glen and Stewart's Mill areas and will be presenting a motion to that effect.

"Some of these distances are quite long and especially in the bad weather there's difficulty walking there," said Palmieri.

She admits it will be difficult to get all the trustees on side, as the outcome has to be fair to all other areas in the region as well.

She believes the board should undertake a review of its transportation policy and include some flexibility for rural areas where there is no public transit.



ROSANNA PALMIERI

Temperature 'excruciating' inside vehicle, officer testifies

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leaned over in court and said something to her daughter Kimberly. Bonnie repeated that behaviour a number of times throughout the day.

Black said Arnott told them she needed to go to the bathroom.

"She obviously seemed upset and very weak," said Black. She said Arnott was not capable of getting out of the vehicle on her own, and was "unable to communicate with us."

They wanted to help, but were unsure what to do. She said the SUV's doors were locked and they didn't want to set off the alarm.

They decided to go back to Kelsey's to see if they could find the owner of the SUV, but had no luck. She said her son and daughter-in-law had gone to Wal-Mart to see if the owner was there, and an announcement was made over the public address system.

They returned to the SUV and a Kelsey's employee came out of the restaurant, Black said, and was able to reach in and open the door of the vehicle. He provided Arnott with water.

"She downed the bottle of water immediately," Black said. She believed they had provided her with three bottles. A 911 call was then made.

Black estimated about an hour had

passed since they first saw Arnott to when the Bouclairs returned to the SUV.

Steven Darroch, lawyer for the Bouclairs, asked Black if Arnott had complained to them about the heat.

"She had a very blank look on her face," said Black.

Darroch also asked if they had asked Arnott to open the doors of the SUV.

"It didn't look like she could manage on her own," said Black.

He also stressed that Arnott had never said she wanted to be removed from the vehicle and that they didn't know what her condition was before they first saw her.

"Because she was old and frail you concluded she wasn't able to manage on her own," said Darroch.

Black's son Dan described Arnott as "totally out of it" and "very confused."

He said when they were leaving to go home from the plaza parking lot Bonnie Bouclair confronted them through the window of their car.

"Are you the ones who called (emergency services)? You should mind your own business," Dan stated Bonnie said to them.

He estimated 45 minutes had passed since they noticed Arnott, and when the Bouclairs returned to their SUV. When pressed by Darroch, he said it could have



KIMBERLY BOUCLAIR

been less than 45 minutes, but more than 30.

Paramedics were the first to respond.

EMS officer Dave Parsons said Arnott appeared to be "dehydrated and a little bit confused" when they arrived.

Parsons said Arnott didn't want to go to the hospital but they wanted to take her for her own safety.

Darroch asked if they were cautious when making a decision on whether to take a patient to hospital. Parsons agreed they were more likely to err on the side of caution.

EMS officer Ryan Kenti said there was a "decreased level of response" from Arnott when they asked her more specific questions.

He said she was wearing a fleece tracksuit and long thermal underwear.

Kenti said Arnott's blood pressure was slightly elevated, and respiration rate slightly fast.

Assistant Crown attorney Jim Coppolino asked if Arnott's life was in danger being in the hot vehicle.

"Prolonged heat exposure can jeopardize someone's life," said Kenti. "(In) one hour (you) may start to see changes in her vital signs. The longer you're in the heat the more trouble you're in."

Halton Police Const. Mike Cairns said the "temperature was excruciating" inside the

SUV when he was looking for the ownership.

He said police were there 11 minutes before the Bouclairs returned from Wal-Mart pushing a shopping cart.

He said Bonnie asked what he was doing in their truck and where her mother was.

He said he told her she was being treated for heat exhaustion.

Cairns said Bonnie said, "Oh, she's fine. I left the windows rolled down. You guys are just making a big deal of this."

He said Bonnie told him to get out of the way and let her see her mother and she would get her out of the ambulance.

He said she showed no signs of remorse or regret for her mother being in that situation and she threatened to sue police.

"(She said) we should be doing better things like arresting impaired drivers driving through her neighbourhood," said Cairns.

Darroch said Bonnie had wanted to speak with her mother and make sure she was okay but Cairns told her not to interfere with what the ambulance attendants were doing.

Cairns said he was allowing the paramedics the "professional courtesy" to do their jobs.

Darroch asked him if he had been angry.

"I wouldn't say I was angry, I was trying to explain to them what they had done wrong. Most people wouldn't leave their dogs in that condition," said Cairns.

The trial continues August 10.

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