

Halton makes push for all-day GO service to Georgetown/Milton

MELANIE HENNESSEY
Special to The IFP

The Region is pushing for several improvements to GO transportation in Halton, including an all-day train service into Georgetown.

Halton staff made a presentation that took effect Friday to the Greater Toronto Transportation Authority (GTTA), which will ultimately decide how almost \$12 billion in provincial 'MoveOntario 2020' funds designated for public transit will be spent.

Regional Chair Gary Carr, who also sits on the GTTA board of directors, said that Halton indicated it would like to see an all-day train service in Georgetown and Milton and a third track added to the Burlington/Oakville line.

"Amongst the concerns of people in Halton, transportation is one of the big issues," said Carr.

In addition, he said Halton asked for a bus rapid transit service on Hwy. 407.

No decisions were made at the GTTA meeting on the projects. The

authority is expected to finalize its plans and report back to the Province early next year on its long-term strategy for transportation in the GTA, including MoveOntario projects.

The GTTA's mandate is to ensure all levels of government work together to develop a long-range transportation plan in consultation with a broad range of stakeholders.

The agency is responsible for regional transit and transportation planning, purchasing transit vehicles on behalf of municipalities, the future management of GO Transit and ultimately the operation of the GTA fare card system for Greater Toronto and Hamilton.

The MoveOntario 2020 initiative aims to improve transit service in the GTA. It includes 52 projects and calls for 66 per cent of them to be completed by 2015 and 95 per cent of them by 2020.

It's expected that the improvements will result in 800 million new transit trips per year and reduce the number of car trips in the GTA by 300 million.



Canadian Tire aids hospital

Georgetown Canadian Tire store manager Tracey Craig (right) presents a cheque for \$50,000 to Georgetown Hospital Foundation board members on Friday that is earmarked to fund equipment needed for newborn and family care. The local hospital does not receive funding from the Ministry of Health to update medical equipment and relies heavily on community support to maintain a high standard of patient care. The \$50,000 pledge is the largest gift ever received by the foundation and the locally owned and operated Canadian Tire has been generous in past years, contributing over \$20,000 in cash and donating many items that were used as prizes or auction items at hospital fund-raising events. The funds will be used to purchase a baby warmer and resuscitation platform, phototherapy light, transcutaneous monitor and nasal continuous positive air pressure device. Two new obstetricians are expected to begin work at the hospital this year. Also in the photo (from left) are hospital foundation board members Herma Buchanan, Shelley Phipps, John McNally, Cindy McDonnell, Ann Lawlor and Paul Armstrong.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

Police blotter

Man alleges assault at bar

Halton Police are investigating an alleged assault that occurred at West Seven in Norval early Sunday.

Police report at about 12:30 a.m. a 21-year-old Brampton man was escorted out of the bar by a bar employee due to a disagreement over payment of a bill.

He told police he was assaulted and suffered scrapes to his chin, knee, hip and cheek.

•••

Police are looking for two women in connection with a theft of clothing from Winners in Georgetown Sunday afternoon.

At about 4:45 p.m. a store employee saw two women huddled over a shopping cart. She thought they were attempting to remove tags from items.

When she confronted them the women were hostile. She went to get assistance from other employees and saw the women leave the store with a shopping bag full of merchandise.

They got into a four-door beige Honda and drove off.

Both suspects are described as

black, in their mid to late 30s.

One woman was 5'9" with a large build and dark hair with lighter spots on the roots. She was wearing blue jeans, a red top and red bandana on her forehead.

The other woman was 5'4" with a petite build and dark hair. She was wearing a blue top and was driving the vehicle.

Anyone with information is asked to call Const. Geoff Clarke at 905-878- 5511 ext. 2405.

Holding provision removed from project

Halton Hills council recently removed the "H" (holding provision) on the Bennett Health Care Centre's proposed retirement residential life lease apartment building— The Gallery at Bennett Village— on Princess Anne Dr.

This allows the organization to move ahead with construction of the building— the first in this multi-phase project.

Acton student earns Excellence award

An Acton student is among the winners of a 2007 Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation Excellence Local Award.

The award recognizes university and college-bound students for their achievements in leadership, innovation, academic performance, and community service. Joseph Querques of Christ the King School was recognized for his good citizenship, fresh ideas and academic excellence and will receive a one-time \$4,000 award.

Querques developed a strong sense of community at a young age when he realized that all of his soccer coaches were volunteers. Wanting to give back to the community and help others in the same way that he was helped, he volunteered as a camp counselor at "Creative Encounters with Science," a summer youth camp held at the University of Guelph.

Querques has a love and talent for science, winning more 35 awards for his science projects at regional and national levels, and he can often be found sharing that talent by tutoring other students after school or at lunch hour. Constantly looking for a challenge, he developed a computer inventory application system

to manage the inventory in food banks, thus facilitating the effectiveness of their canvassing efforts. In 2005 Querques received the Microsoft "You Can Make a Difference" award. With excellent grades, above average leadership qualities and a desire to help others, Querques hopes to develop more efficient materials for society by focusing on environmental issues surrounding the petroleum and fossil fuel industries.

"An investment in the education of these outstanding citizens is an investment in the future of our society," said Norman Riddell, executive director and CEO of the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation. "These young, and sometimes not so young, individuals have already demonstrated their ability to change the world around them— they know how to make a difference. The Foundation is pleased to recognize their past successes, but above all is proud to help them reach their future goals."

The Foundation received some 9,600 applications from students across the country. They awarded 1052 scholarships: 100 national, 241 provincial, and 711 local.



JOSEPH QUERQUES

what's missing in your backyard?



Backyard Touch
318 Guelph Street
Georgetown
905.873.8835

HOURS: Mon. - Fri. 10 am - 6 pm; Sat. 10 am - 5 pm, Sun. 11 am - 3 pm (FORMERLY BEACHCOMBER)