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Walking distance criteria reduced  
**Busing policy altered**

**LISA TALLYN**  
Staff Writer

More Halton District School Board students will be bused to school, beginning this September, after a change in the board's transportation policy was approved.

buses reinstated for them, will now be bused.  
Pine Valley Trail resident Lori Carpenter was among those north Georgetown parents who struck out at the board. She's pleased with the change to the policy. Her children have been walking or taking a cab to and from school.

At a recent meeting, the board voted 7-4 in favour of reducing the walking distance criteria for Grades 6, 7 and 8 students from 3.2 km to 1.6 km.  
"I voted in favour of this change because I believe this is the right thing for our community," said board chair and Halton Hills trustee Gillian Tuck Kutarna. "This change means that as of September 2008 the busing eligibility will be the same for JK to Grade 8 students."

"It's welcome news, it's fantastic," said Carpenter. "Too bad it couldn't be now, because we have had a pretty rotten winter."



**GILLIAN TUCK KUTARNA**

The change in walking distance policy will cost the board approximately \$1.2 million a year, and will mean the addition of about 40 buses across Halton.

The board hasn't yet drawn the transportation boundaries for the Georgetown schools and Tuck Kutarna says some students (currently attending Silver Creek), who will be attending the new Danby Rd. school when it opens, will fall short of the 1.6 km limit. But, she added, a motion passed by the board last fall that stipulates all students who live east of Mountainview will be bused, hasn't been repealed, so they should all still be bused. The motion could be subject to change however.

Tuck Kutarna said the change will "alleviate many of the safety concerns expressed by Georgetown parents, particularly regarding busy intersection crossings."

The addition of 40 more buses across the region could prove challenging for the school board in light of the fact it is currently experiencing a "critical shortage" of bus drivers.

She said an additional safety concern in some families was that, under the previous policy, children in the same home going to the same school, but in different grades, were leaving and getting home at different times.

Steven Parfeniuk, HDSB Superintendent of Business Services, said board staff has met with bus operators to work with them on the issue of hiring additional drivers for September.

"Often a younger sibling eligible for busing was getting home from school earlier than an older sibling who was responsible for the after-school care, but who had to walk. I hope that the new, more consistent walking distance will alleviate this worry for parents," said Tuck Kutarna.


Parfeniuk added the board intends to send another note home with students encouraging parents to become bus drivers, is informing board employees, and posting the need for drivers on the board's website.

The policy change will mean students who live north of Guelph St. and attend Centennial Middle School, whose parents attempted at the school board unsuccessfully last year to get

Also approved by the Halton School Board is that the start times at schools be modified to range from as early as 8 a.m. and as late as 9:45 a.m.

Changing bell times could potentially save the board \$200,000 to \$300,000 annually.

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By Cory Soal  
R.H.A.D.

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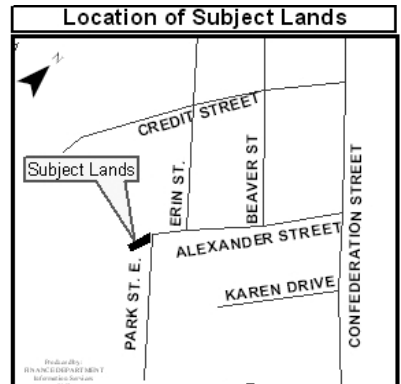
**NOTICE OF CLOSURE AND SALE OF LAND**

NOTICE is hereby given that Council for the Town of Halton Hills will be considering the passage of a By-law to close and authorize the sale of the following road to the abutting owner, at Council's meeting to be held on **Monday, March 17 at 7:15 p.m.** The meeting will be held in the Council Chamber in the Civic Centre, 1 Halton Hills Drive, Georgetown:

**Part of Alexander Street, Plan 10 (Parts 4 & 5, 20R-17578), Glen Williams.**

Inquiries regarding the proposed closure and sale should be directed to Karen Knowlton, Legal Coordinator at 905-873-2601 Ext. 2336. Council shall hear any person who claims that the person's land will be prejudicially affected by the By-law and who applies to be heard. Persons wishing to be heard should notify the Clerk's Department prior to the meeting date. 21

**Location of Subject Lands**



1 Halton Hills Dr.,  
Halton Hills, ON L7G 5G2  
Tel.: 905-873-2600  
Fax: 905-873-2347

**Fundraiser to be held Saturday for injured teen**

A benefit evening will be held Saturday at the Leathertown Tavern (28 Mill St. E.) in Acton for a young Erin man injured after being struck by a car last month.

accident but returned to Georgetown Hospital this week, pending placement into an Etobicoke rehabilitation centre.

Kyle Payne, 17, of Rockwood suffered serious head injuries Feb. 10 when he was struck by a car while shovelling out a vehicle that had become stuck in a snowbank near his home.

The fundraiser, which starts at 8 p.m., will include entertainment by One Nite Stand and raffles. A fundraising account has also been opened in Payne's name at Scotiabank in Acton (account number 70102-0236527).

Payne was airlifted to Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto shortly after the


For further information contact Deedee Seddon at 905-875-8838 or Leesa at 905-299-3664.



Mr. Robert Given and the late Donna Beach; Laura Given and Dave Majury of Georgetown are happy to announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, **Angela Given to Derek Downey**, son of Mark and the late Dianne Downey of Toronto. Wedding to take place March 13, 2008 at Graceland Wedding Chapel, Las Vegas.

*Love You's and Best Wishes Your Family & Friends xxx ooo  
Best Wishes Mommy & Daddy! Love Kyle*

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