

Mayor encouraged that 'light at the end of a tunnel may be train'

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"The light at the end of the tunnel is that there may be a train coming," said Bonnette.

Bonnette said "at first glance" he prefers the west of Acton station site, because it would be more accessible for people from Rockwood and Erin, and Acton residents would be going against commuter traffic to get to the station that's only 1.6 km from Acton. He added it could accommodate up to 400 parking spots.

Ed Shea, a spokesperson for GO Transit, said the EA study identifies potential GO stations, but no decision has been made.

He said the decision whether or not to extend the GO service and where stations would be located will be made by the Minister of Transportation.

GO Transit wants to bring four

passenger trains a day to Kitchener along the Georgetown line by 2011.

GO hopes to complete the EA study by the end of March, 2009.

Design of a preferred route could start later in 2009, and if financing comes through, construction of stations would start in 2010, said Bruce Sevier, GO's senior projects officer.

It depends on money, however.

Sevier estimated the expansion would cost \$40 million to \$50 million, since GO would have to upgrade tracks and buy trains.

"We don't know where the pot of gold might come from," he said, adding that this question hasn't been asked yet. But when GO extended rail service to Barrie last year, the capital cost was evenly shared by Queen's Park, the federal government and the City of Barrie. This could be the way financing is arranged for the Kitchener expansion, he said.

Along with a possible station in Acton, GO is proposing to twin the large trestle bridge over the Credit River in order to improve service on the line.

Currently the single track is a bottleneck for GO between the Georgetown station and the new Mount Pleasant station.

A second track is necessary to increase the number of GO trains on the line along with accommodating the CN freight traffic.

The single track permits only one-way operation inbound in the



TED ARNOTT

morning and outbound in the afternoon to be co-ordinated with CN and GO.

Doubling the track would allow two-way traffic with early morning trains returning for second trips. There is also a possibility of a third track to allow GO to have a two-way operation and CN to have its own line.

GO is still considering options regarding the number of trains and timing, but expects two of the four trains that currently start and end at Georgetown to start and end in Kitchener.

GO is proposing improvements to the Georgetown station including upgrading to full accessibility, more parking, and likely the replacement of the McNabb St. bridge.

MPP Arnott has urged the provincial government to move forward on improving GO Transit service through Wellington-Halton Hills.

"The trains that take people to work every day are critical to our economy, environment, and quality of life," said Arnott in the legislature recently. "That's why I was pleased this spring when GO Transit announced its environmental assessment to extend rail service from Georgetown through Acton to Guelph and Kitchener-Waterloo. Working with the member of Kitchener-Waterloo, together we have supported this vision for years."

He said if the McGuinty government demands municipalities adhere to its Places to Grow growth targets "it has no excuse to deal this crucial transportation infrastructure project.

"I urge the Minister of Transportation to act. I urge him to commit to make this project a GO," said Arnott in the legislature.

Chong overlooked for cabinet post

Wellington-Halton Hills MP Michael Chong was overlooked by Prime Minister Stephen Harper when he selected his cabinet yesterday (Thursday).

The former intergovernmental affairs minister, who was once widely regarded as a rising Tory star, quit cabinet in 2006 after Harper recognized the Québécois as a "nation within a nation." He hasn't been invited back.

Chong was unavailable for comment Thursday.



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Correction Bread Basket serves 237 adults monthly

An article about the upcoming Scout/Guide Food Drive for Georgetown Bread Basket in the Wednesday edition of *The Independent & Free Press* listed an incorrect total for the number of adults served.

The food bank serves 237 adults and 145 children monthly.

The Independent & Free Press regrets the error.

The food drive will be held tomorrow (Saturday). Georgetown residents are encouraged to have their bags (which were distributed in the Wednesday *Independent & Free Press*) filled with food items outside of their door by 8:30 a.m. for pick-up.

The most needed items are canned meat and stew, canned fish, jam, cheese spreads, canned juice and juice boxes, powdered milk, canned milk, canned fruits and vegetables, nutritious snacks for children, mini fruit cups, peanut butter, instant coffee and personal care items such as shampoo, toothpaste and brushes, deodorant, shaving cream and razors.

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