GO tickets still available here

GO Transit backpeddled

By Frances Niblock

GO Transit has backpedalled on plans to pull a ticket sales agent contract from Acton Town Milk, thanks to the intervention of Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette.

When store owner Phyllis Song informed GO that the Main Street North variety store was being sold, GO decided not to sign a ticket agent contract with the new owner, leaving riders to buy their tickets from the driver, or in Guelph or Georgetown.

Song said they receive a commission – rumoured to be approximately 10 per cent – on sales of tickets between \$2,500 and \$3,000 a month, and GO told her it was making the change to save money.

Song did not think that was fair, and called Mayor Bonnette.

"He was so strong, so strong," Kimm said on Saturday as she praised Bonnette for convincing GO to reverse its decision, adding she was "kind of upset" they would end the decades



TICKET TO RIDE: Acton Town Milk owner Phyllis Song and GO Transit user Keith Reid of Acton said they have Mayor Rick Bonnette to thank for convincing GO to continue selling GO bus and train tickets at the Main Street North variety. – Frances Niblock photo

long agency contract to save a little money.

Bonnette, who found it ironic that the very government that was spending millions of dollars to try to get people to take public transit, would inconvenience its loyal riders.

"This was nickel and dimeing the community of Acton to save commissions," Bonnette said on Friday, adding GO has closed six other ticket sales agents, including one in

Brantford.

"It's to cut costs, but by the same token, that's not customer service...we like our small town service and we expect it," Bonnette said, adding that GO may negotiate a lower commission with the new store owners, but the service won't be withdrawn.

"I was glad to hear that GO backed down – they are getting a lot for the commission they pay, including a warm, dry place for people to wait for the GO bus when the weather is bad," Bonnette said.

Acton's Keith Reed is a regular GO Transit user who makes several bus trips each week to the Guelph and Georgetown areas and always buys his tickets at Acton Town Milk.

"I always buy my tickets here – it's convenient, I don't have to have the right change, and it's easier than trying to get a ticket from a driver who is busy with traffic," Reed said.





May this festive holiday bring peace and joy to you and your family. We look forward to helping you in the New Year.



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