

Response to bus routes positive

But Cavell St. residents have safety concerns

By GORDON MANZER

Special to The Champion

Residents had their say on proposed changes to the town's transit system at a public meeting Tuesday.

At Hugh Foster Hall, representatives from Oakville Transit — which is helping set up the new system — made a brief presentation outlining the proposed routes.

Three set routes would replace the existing dial-a-bus system. The three buses would return to the Milton GO station to meet trains entering or leaving the town.

Heide Schlegl, the Town's co-ordinator of traffic and transit, said feedback from the community has been mainly positive.

"Residents want fixed routes," she said. "It will be far more convenient than the dial-a-bus system."

Ms Schlegl said the dial-a-bus system will be phased out once the buses are running on the new routes.

According to residents who attended the meeting, the major issues were safety and convenience.

Many residents from Cavell Street turned out to oppose the route showing a bus travelling down their already-confined street.

James Coey said that with sidewalks so close to the houses, there's already a safety issue.

"My pick-up is so close to the sidewalk that if I'm backing up, I can't see if somebody walks behind me," he said. "Now add a bus coming down the road and it

becomes a big problem."

Sandra Wright, who also lives on Cavell Street, said there are many children on the street and residents don't feel comfortable with a 26-foot bus driving along their road.

"We're happy that they (transit officials) are going to change the route, but we're still going to take it to town council," she said. "We won't be completely satisfied until we see it in writing."

Mark Stacey recently moved to Milton with his family. He said that the infrastructure of a community begins with the transit system and the proposed new routes are a step in the right direction for the town.

"A dependable transit system will reduce the number of cars on the street," he said. "It will give seniors a way around town and just be safer for everybody."

The dial-a-bus system now in place enables Milton residents to arrange for a bus to pick them up at a certain time given that they call at least an hour prior to the pick up.


Tony Agozzino said he uses the current dial-a-bus system daily and finds it inconvenient. "If I have a doctor appointment I know what time it begins, but I don't know when it will end. I end up sitting around waiting for a bus. With a set route I would know when to expect the bus."

The final routes will be in place for a mid-August launch, said Director of Community Services Jennifer Reynolds.

"The current system is inconsistent," she said. "There is no certainty in routing or scheduling. With the new system we are adding a third bus for added coverage area and set routes and schedules. People will find the new system much more useful."

Oakville Transit and the Milton Community Services Department will

review the feedback from the meeting and make changes before going to town council this summer with the final routes.



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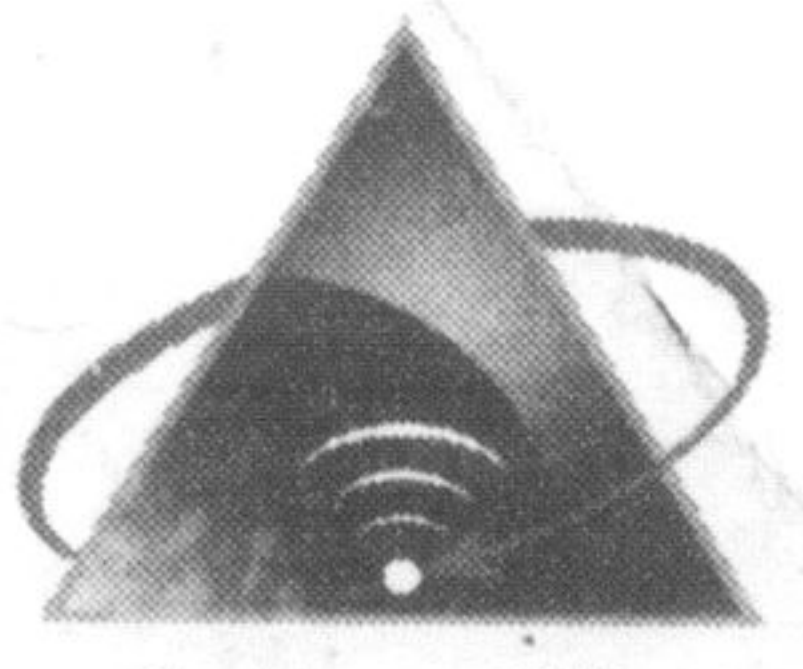
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