

Special week celebrates town's new transit system



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Mayor Gord Krantz, town councillors Wendy Schau and Mark Curtis and Director of Community Services Jennifer Reynolds hold gift bags as they join transit committee members Mike Bugala and Wainneann McLaughlin in promoting Transit Appreciation Week.

Transit Appreciation Week celebrated with free rides, prizes

The Town has declared next week Transit Appreciation Week to mark the one-year anniversary of its new transit system.

As part of the festivities, local residents will be able to ride the transit system for free each day between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. and submit contest ballots on the bus to take part in prize draws that'll be held next Friday at 6:30 p.m. at the Milton GO station.

There'll also be random give-aways to bus riders and a chance to ride the transit system for free with Mayor Gord Krantz and councillors next Friday from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Local businesses are providing gift certificates for the draws, including Milton Mall, Montana's, The Post Office Bar and Back Kitchen, Milton Downtown Business Improvement Area merchants and A&P.

Ballots for the draws are available in the Town's ads in The Champion and at www.milton.ca, the Milton Leisure Centre, Milton Sports Centre, Seniors' Activity Centre, Milton Public Library, the lottery kiosk in Zellers, Town Hall Victoria Park and Town Hall Annex 555 at 555 Industrial Dr.

The Town moved from its former Dial-a-Bus system and began offering an expanded transit service August 16 last year, which included three fixed bus routes, scheduled bus stops on weekdays and transfers between all routes at the GO station.

This was a result of resident input and recommendations from the North Halton Transit Strategy Study.

From January to August this year, more than 45,000 rides were taken on Milton Transit buses. Total ridership on the previous system in 2003 was about 27,000.

Last month, two new transit routes — routes four and five — were introduced to better meet the needs of the growing community.

Route four provides bus service to residential areas east of Thompson Road and south of Derry Road. The current route stops are temporary due to reconstruction of Thompson Road. Once work is complete, a permanent route four will be implemented.

Route five provides bus access to the Milton Crossroads power centre at James Snow Parkway and Steeles Avenue.

More details on Transit Appreciation Week are available on the Town's Web site mentioned above or by calling (905) 878-7252, ext. 2165.

Information on Milton Transit service is also available on the Town's Web site or by calling (905) 815-2020.

Operations Open House set for Oct. 22

Residents can check out the Town's winter snow control equipment October 22 during an Operations Open House.

The event will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

at the Town yard on Nipissing Road, east of Loblaws.

There'll be a free barbecue, contests and the chance to check out the Town's large

equipment and talk to staff and equipment operators. The open house will be held rain or shine. For more information call (905) 878-7252, ext. 2551.



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