

GO Transit announces major overhaul to schedules

By Tim Foran
METROLAND WEST
MEDIA GROUP

The train hasn't left the station, but GO riders should check their schedules to make sure they don't miss it.

Trains departing earlier or arriving later by a few minutes and the cancellation of some buses and off-peak trains are among the highlights of the first major overhaul of GO Transit's schedule in 43 years.

The transit agency has announced it will revise the schedules of a significant percentage of

its routes, including changes to 40 of its 185 trains, beginning April 3 "to better reflect actual travel trip times."

Other major changes affecting Halton commuters include the cancellation of three round trip buses operating between Oakville and Milton, the extension of an early afternoon train to Georgetown from Union, and the cancellation of three round trip off-peak trains and buses operating in the Georgetown to Union corridor.

Commuters are advised to check www.gotransit.com and click on service changes to see the

new timing for their buses and trains.

The majority of changes to trains running in Halton region involve pushing up their departure times or pushing back the arrival times, but a GO spokesperson said this is not an attempt by the agency to increase its on time performance percentage without actually speeding up the trains.

The new schedules are designed to reflect the actual departure and arrival times of GO trains, which take longer now due to changes that have been seen in recent years, said GO spokesperson Vanessa

Thomas.

"Typically, GO Transit issues routine schedule changes about five times a year for a few reasons, such as we've added a new train or we've adjusted the schedule to complement our buses that connect with trains," explained Thomas in an email.

"This time, a group of GO Transit's transportation planners and engineers conducted in-depth research on the schedules and travel patterns of commuters at various transit agencies across North America. What they found was that we needed to change with the times.

"Our ridership has grown which means it takes longer for passengers to load and unload and it means that the trains are required to pause at stations longer to accommodate our passengers. Also, more and more stations have become accessible, adding a little more time at each stop to deploy the ramp. Also, our trains have become longer, moving from 10-car trains to 12-car trains, which increases the number of people one train can carry."

She said the agency's on time performance goal — for trains to arrive at a destination within five minutes of schedule — for its system remains at 92 per cent, the same figure it outlined in its GO2020 strategic plan released in December, 2008.

However, with the extra cushion of time added to the schedules of trains in Halton, it is possible that on time performance will increase following the April 3 changes. According to statistics provided by GO, the average on time performance for weekday trains running in Halton last year were:

- Milton Westbound — 91.43 per cent
- Milton Eastbound — 94.43 per cent
- Georgetown Westbound — 88.5 per cent
- Georgetown Eastbound — 86.25 per cent
- Lakeshore West Westbound, (departing Oakville, Burlington or Hamilton) — 89.32 per cent
- Lakeshore West Eastbound — 87.38 per cent

Tim Foran can be reached at tforan@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

OUTSTANDING HOME SHOW EXHIBITING OPPORTUNITY!

NOW IS THE TIME

to reserve your company's exhibit space in the 5th annual **Lifestyle Home Show**

You just can't beat face-to-face exposure to get more sales. Talk directly to thousands of qualified customers in JUST 3 DAYS!

sponsored by **The Canadian Champion**

April 16 - 18, 2010 • MILTON MEMORIAL ARENA

77 Thompson Rd. S. - just south of Main Street

CALL TODAY!

Jenkins Show Productions **1-800-465-1073**

(Ask about our other shows too!)

LIMITED SPACE STILL AVAILABLE

BE A DESIGNATED DRIVER



Join the many people who agree not to drink alcoholic beverages...and to drive everyone in their group home safely.

Public meeting on proposed south Milton development

Mattamy Homes is looking to build about 500 more homes in south Milton.

The development giant is seeking a zoning bylaw amendment from the Town to make way for 473 houses at the southwest corner of Regional Road 25 and the future extension of Louis St. Laurent Avenue.

Local residents can have their say on the plans at a public meeting Monday evening, to be held during the administration and planning committee's regular monthly session.

The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. in Milton Council Chambers at Town Hall, located at 150 Mary St.

The committee will also hold

two other public meetings that night — one on a proposed Montessori school on Bronte Street South and the other on the Town's plans to install a fence along some property lines in east Milton.

The fence, which staff has indicated is being proposed to provide a consistent streetscape, would affect properties fronting onto Main Street East between Thompson Road and Maple Avenue, and along Thompson Road from Main Street East to Sprucedale Lane.

For more information visit at www.milton.ca. Planning reports on the aforementioned topics are expected to be available on the Town's website by tomorrow.



Hear what you've been missing and get the whole story.



VALERIE J. PATTERSON
Hearing Instrument Specialist

We offer the most advanced hearing aid technology to suit every budget and lifestyle. Call today for your complimentary hearing test.

905-878-1100

- IN BUSINESS FOR OVER 21 YEARS
- 100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEED
- 30-DAY NO OBLIGATION TRIAL PERIOD
- HEARING AID ACCESSORIES AND BATTERIES
- COMPLIMENTARY ANNUAL EVALUATIONS
- COMPLIMENTARY HEARING AID CLEAN AND CHECK
- VAC/WSIB ACCEPTED

Milton: 107 - 470 Bronte Street South

PRECISION
Hearing Centres

WANTED

7 HOMES THAT NEED ROOFING

7 Homes in your area will be given the opportunity of having an INTERLOCK metal roofing system installed on their home at a reasonable cost.

This lifetime product is capturing the interest of homeowners across the country who want to know this will be the last time they will have to re-roof their home. Our product is environmentally friendly and comes with a transferable Lifetime Limited Warranty with an excellent choice of colours to complement your home and is going to be introduced to your local market. Your home can be a show place in your neighbourhood and we will make it worth your while if we can use your home.

BEAT THE HST!

1-866-601-7366

Toll-free 24 hours 7 days a week
www.ontariorooft.com

Over 5,000 members
Milton Moms
We are open for local business!
Visit us to learn more.
www.MiltonMoms.net

"The business that considers itself immune to the necessity for advertising sooner or later finds itself immune to business."

Derby Brown