# GO Transit announces major overhaul to schedules

By Tim Foran METROLAND WEST MEDIA GROUP

The train hasn't left the station, F but GO riders should check their 5 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 offpeak 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."

Halton commuters include the and Milton, the extension of an to increase its on time performance early afternoon train to percentage without actually speed-Georgetown from Union, and the ing up the trains. cancellation of three round trip offthe Georgetown to Union corridor.

Commuters are advised to check www.gotransit.com and new timing for their buses and Thomas. trains.

times or pushing back the arrival cancellation of three round trip times, but a GO spokesperson said

The new schedules are designed peak trains and buses operating in 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, click on service changes to see the said GO spokesperson Vanessa

"Typically, GO Transit issues The majority of changes to routine schedule changes about trains running in Halton region five times a year for a few reasons, Other major changes affecting involve pushing up their departure such as we've added a new train or we've adjusted the schedule to complement our buses that conbuses operating between Oakville this is not an attempt by the agency nect with trains," explained Thomas in an email.

> and engineers conducted in-depth research on the schedules and travel patterns of commuters at various transit agencies across North GO, the average on time perform-America. What they found was that we needed to change with the

"Our ridership has grown which cent 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 "This time, a group of GO of time added to the schedules of Transit's transportation planners trains in Halton, it is possible that on time performance will increase following the April 3 changes. According to statistics provided by ance for weekday trains running in Halton last year were:

Milton Westbound — 91.43 per

Milton Eastbound — 94.43 per

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.

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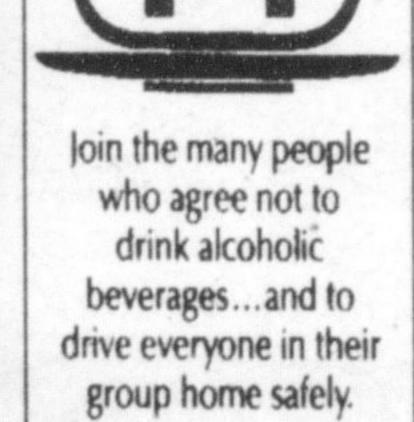
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## Public meeting on proposed south Milton development

Mattamy Homes is looking to 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.

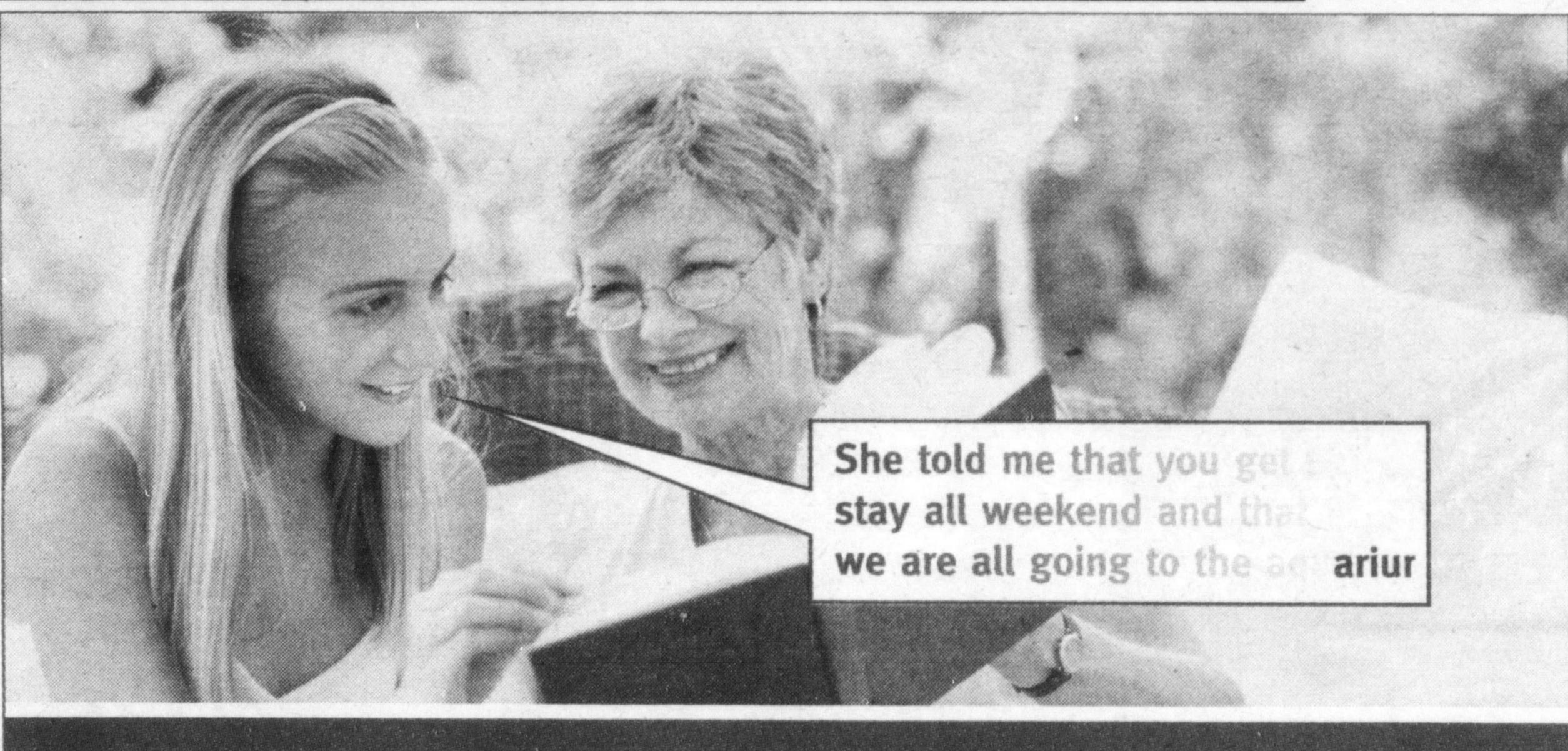
The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. in Milton Council Chambers at Town Hall, located at 150 Mary St.

The committee will also hold

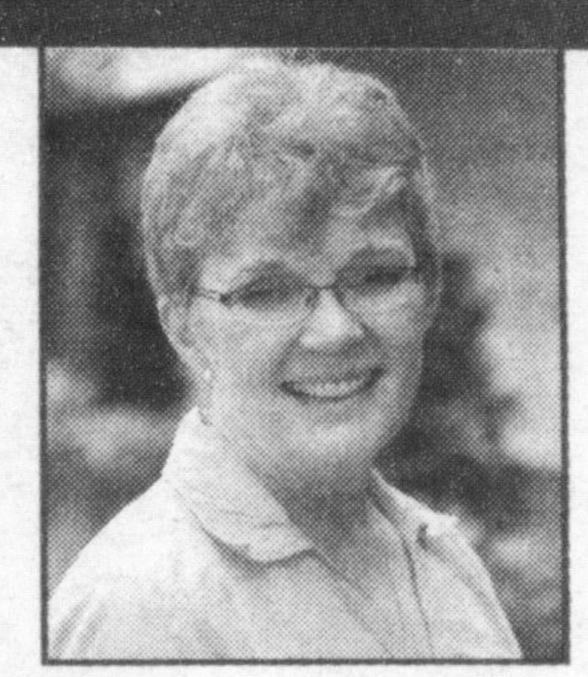
two other public meetings that build about 500 more homes in night — one on a proposed Montessori school on Bronte Street South and the other on the Town's plans to install a fence along some property lines in east Milton.

> 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.



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