

Recapping the bus system in our area

Now that the dust has settled over the battle of the Bayview GO bus, many residents of both Thornhill and Richmond Hill still question the necessity for changes in transit service that have been in effect since October 1.

Representatives of the councils of both towns have met over the issue of a weekend and evening trunk service on Bayview and according to at least one source, a deal has been made whereby Richmond Hill and Markham will split the cost of a weekend feeder service.

However, the reasons for all these changes remain unclear to most patrons of GO Transit and Markham Transit.

The history of the Bayview line question goes back almost four years to a joint study made by the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and the Toronto Area Transit Operating Authority (TATOA) in 1976-77.

It recommended the Bayview GO bus be rerouted Yonge St. to Highway 7, easterly to Bayview and northerly to Richmond Hill. It also felt TATOA should introduce a trunk line service on Highway 7 to serve the Village of Markham and Unionville and provide transit to the Finch subway. Markham Transit was to provide feeder lines to the trunk as well as service in the Bayview corridor between Highway 7 and Finch.

Markham's transit committee rejected that idea in November, 1977 and hired the consulting firm of Marshall, Macklin, Monaghan to review the findings of the original study.

As a result, Markham Transit initiated its own trunk feeder line along Highway 7 and through Thornhill on Bayview to the Finch subway. It was also proposed that Bayview and Highway 7 be used as a convenient transfer point between the Markham trunk bus and the rerouted Bayview GO bus.

Markham's consulting firm spent most of 1978 conducting public meetings and getting set to implement its recommendations — target date for the new services was January 2, 1979.

At meetings with Markham, MTC and TATOA, which were part of the planning process for the

proposed changes to the Bayview line, Markham recommended to TATOA that a 30-minute peak service be retained south of Highway 7 on weekdays in concert with the Markham Transit schedule.

Since this was a change from TATOA's request to reduce all peak service to 30 minutes and reroute all service along Highway 7 to Yonge St., Markham's request was denied in December, 1978.

The stage had been set for confrontation, since Markham was already committed to its planned change in service for January 2. At that date, a duplication of services existed on Bayview — one run by GO and the other by Markham Transit.

A meeting set up for March, 1979, with Markham, Richmond Hill and TATOA saw Markham support Richmond Hill in its choice of "option 6": provision of 30-minute peak and 60-minute off-peak GO service in Richmond Hill with routing along Bayview Ave. to John St. then westerly to Yonge. The service was to operate "closed-door" in Thornhill between Highway 7 and Henderson Ave.

Confirmation of that agreement between the towns came in July, 1979, and that's how the system is working today.

On October 1, a revised Bayview GO service was implemented and according to Marshall, Macklin, Monaghan, Markham Transit has experienced an overall increase in ridership of about 11 per cent. Route 1, which travels along Highway 7 to Bayview to Steeles then on to the Finch subway via Yonge, has a reported peak increase of 25 per cent. This has necessitated the addition of an extra bus.

These are the essential reasons for the history of change and heated debates. Apparently, there has been considerable financial impact — TATOA has reduced its operating cost on deficit on its Bayview GO bus and Markham Transit has increased its financial operating performance which has resulted in a cost recovery within the guidelines established by MTC.

If the most recent agreement between Markham and Richmond Hill can be cemented, maybe Richmond Hill can get some satisfaction as well.



(Photo by Bruce Hogg)

By BOB RICE

Who put beeper in card?

All right . . . who's the wise guy? The entries for my Christmas Present Contest continue to pile up in the hallowed halls of The Liberal and now some joker has really done it to us.

Somewhere in the stacks of mail is a little beeper device that goes off every minute or so! I don't mind a practical joke but this is going too far.

The Grand Poobah has instructed everyone in the office that they are forbidden to touch any of the cards that have been sent in lest anyone think there is any hanky-panky involved.

As a result of these stringent security measures, everyone around here is going bonkers each time the beeper beeps!

I walked into the editorial department today and was immediately besieged by my fellow workers who pleaded with me to search for the device.

So here I am . . . two hours late for my next appointment as I sift through the sacks of mail that have arrived over the past week!

In the course of my pursuit I have had a chance to read some of the neat things that you have noted on your cards. As a matter of fact . . . why don't I answer some of the questions that you have sent in?

Yes Mrs. N. . . . I am terribly good looking and Mr. T. . . . I wasn't the rotten kid who put pepper corns in your bird feeder back in 1958!

A reader in Oak Ridges wants to know if I

ever dated her grandmother (NO) and someone in Thornhill wants to nominate me to the Order of Canada (Please go right ahead).

Other queries include: Does Ron Wallace really enjoy gambling (You bet your bippy he does); where and when did Fred Simpson vault a pole (Warsaw, 1929) and when will Shaaron Hay learn to spell Sharon Hay (Never)?

I still can't find that infernal beeper and I have only 15 more sacks of mail to go through! Look . . . tell you what. Instead of wasting your time and mine, I think I'll just quietly sneak out of the office and hide out somewhere for a week or two.

Just a quick reminder though, if you still haven't entered the contest here's how.

Just send me a Christmas Card by MAIL and on December the Twelfth I'll draw one entry and that lucky person will win the Panasonic Portable TV-Radio with a manufacturer's suggested list price of \$329.95.

Remember that you can enter as many times as you wish BUT each entry must be MAILED separately and be postmarked no later than midnight, December Ninth.

MAIL your cards to:
BOB RICE CHRISTMAS PRESENT
THE LIBERAL
BOX 390
RICHMOND HILL, ONTARIO
L4C 4Y6

The ol' Millpond Philosopher once said . . . "It's easier to make friends . . . than run from enemies."

Letters

She wants readers to cut down garbage

Re this week's front page item 'Garbage problems piling up', the only long term answer to this headache is to reduce the amount of garbage produced.

This seems to me such an obvious and inevitable solution, that I can't understand why so much time and money is spent on the disposal of waste rather than the prevention of waste.

I would like to challenge readers to reduce their own garbage to half a can per week per household of four.

My family can do it, and so can yours. There are two simple principles to follow. First, before you dash to the shops ask 'do I need it?'. and secondly, as you put your foot on the pedal, ask 'who needs this?'

Our buying habits are largely dictated by pressure of friends or advertising campaigns, so learn to think for yourself.

Older models and articles are often worth the time needed to mend or repaint, and for each thing you don't buy you save the energy and resources consumed in the manufacture of another thing that would have been made to

replace it, as well as reducing your garbage. And what about all that packaging on articles that you decide you do need?

If there's a choice, buy the article without the plastic bubble — it's only garbage, after all.

My second principle, 'who needs this?' is technically known as separation at source.

In 1976 I did a research study on this subject and using a sample of 50 people, discovered that everyone separated their garbage to some extent.

If you have a fireplace you probably burn your old newspapers and paper cartons.

This involves separation at source. Anyone with young children would do well to start a 'useful box' into which goes interesting scraps of paper, fabric, packaging, etc.

Imaginative youngsters use these treasures to create anything from a doll's house to a dinosaur.

Anyone with a garden would do well to compost. All that vegetable waste can be made to work for you.

With compost and an abundance of leaves, who needs fertilizer? Then of course there's recycling of tins, bottles

LIBERAL SPRINKLINGS

By SHAARON HAY
Liberal Staff Writer

It's official now.

Christmas IS coming again this year. It must be, last weekend was Richmond Hill's annual extravaganza — the Santa Claus parade.

Probably there is not much need to fill this space describing the parade because by looking at the number who lined the path of the parade (estimated at 10,000 people), everyone in town was there.

I must admit I was surprised by the number of adults shuffling from one foot to the other, or huddled in a summer lawn chair, or listening to the football game in a nice warm car, but with about 2,000 kids involved, I guess the spectators were the proud parents with their Brownie Hawkeye cameras or the envious brothers and sisters, or maybe just adults using kids as an excuse to be a kid again.

Lots were using the opportunity to get re-acquainted with neighbors again.

My two daughters took part in the parade this year so along with many other parents I had a chance to get two interesting perspectives on the annual event — the beginning and the end.

The parade began at 1:30 p.m. this year, so by noon floats were lined from Markham Road almost back to the Bayview Plaza, just below Elgin Mills Road.

At Bayview Secondary School all the bands were grouping, half dressed in their official uniforms and practising tunes to thrill the viewers.

I found it rather interesting to mingle through the combination of drums rolling, pipers piping, mournful bugles and clanging cymbals all playing a different melody (?) and dotted nicely with camp songs from the Richvale Brownies.

It was slightly incongruous to see Ronald McDonald crossing the street with members of the dignified 48th Highlanders.

Anyway the parade got off the ground without a hitch and all the kids were excited and well practised up on their smiles and waves by 1:30.

So I climbed in my car and drove to the Richmond Heights Plaza where the parade was to finish up and joined the crowd of parents hoping to pick up their kids and get a head start home for Sunday dinner.

Probably a good piece of advice for next year's parade is that if you want to find the best place to watch a parade, pick something near the beginning.

Three miles later, balloon and candy hand-outs had run out, hair-dos had drooped, smiles looked a little painted and waves were robot-like. Everyone looked weary and cold.

Armstrong Real Estate provided the bright spot for many not-so-perky kids by handing out free hot dogs and hot chocolate to all the participants.

All 61 units were a smashing success but two that attracted special interest were the OPP Golden Helmets precision motorcycle unit, impressing kids with a tremendous display of special formations, and a seven-year-old jaguar named Peggie who is the star of a film entitled "Leopard in the Snow".

(I'm not sure whether Councillor Al Duffy, wandering absent minded along the roadway on his wife's Suzuki, is a member of the Golden Helmets or not.)

A Richmond Hill resident by the name of Peter Smith at York Home TV in Bayview Plaza has about one-half hour on film he is willing to share, just call 884-4165; and the Richmond Hill Fire Department have about 36 color pictures of individual floats that will be available for groups to purchase.

Participants, spectators, supporters and the Santa Claus Parade committee deserve congratulations and a special "Thank You" from all of us in the community for a superb parade.

Briefly, then...

FIREFIGHTERS RESCUED

Last Tuesday night, Richmond Hill firefighters, both full and part time, were taken to Concord on a Richmond Hill Transit bus.

They were there to view how Canadian National Railways handles the transportation of dangerous chemicals.

On the way home, the bus refused to climb the hill on Major Mackenzie Drive in Maple, and rescue vehicles had to be dispatched from the Richmond Hill fire department to rescue the stranded firefighters.

INFLATION

If you drive north from Oak Ridges and you're observant you have already spotted the difference in the sign advertising the price of homes in Beaufort Estates.

When the sign went up, you could buy one of those beauties for a mere \$149,000.

But that figure didn't last long. Today, the sign says, the same house starts at \$159,000.

Too bad you didn't buy a dozen of them a month ago, huh??

ENERGY SAVERS

Richmond Hill Arena is taking steps to reduce energy consumption, but don't worry, the ice won't melt nor will you freeze.

Manager of the arena, Ed Sackfield, said simple measures such as switching off many of the inside night lights and checking washers on taps have been taken care of recently.

Water temperature has been reduced from 160 degrees to 120 degrees for flooding the ice as well as the showers and some of the ice

making equipment is being manually controlled to reduce the horse power needed in off hours.

Mr. Sackfield said he is now in the process of working with the figure skating clubs to reduce the number of foot candle power at ice level, but he does not intend to cut it at all for the hockey clubs.

"They need all the light they can get," he said, "you can't take a chance on them not seeing that puck."

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Sunset Beach Road. there'll be no garbage

It really can be fun seeing garbage in a new and creative way. To put it in a nutshell: Reject, Reuse, Recycle and

Elizabeth Davis
Box 56
Oak Ridges

Seneca liked news coverage

Again I want to thank you and your reporters on behalf of Seneca College for excellent community coverage of our recent Women's Fall Break program at the King Campus.

As you know this was the first Women's Fall Break program, and, with the help of the weekly press and the York Region Women's Committee, the program on November 3 was well-attended by over 140 women.

My personal thanks to this year's York Region Women's Committee who

planned and organized a tremendous full day program: Elaine Bisset, Fran Dundy, Lynn Douglas, Ruth Gaal, Charlie Gullickson, Jane Anne McClelland, Heather McKenzie, Bess Payne, Skip Perryman, Sheila Roy, Bea Salmond, Ann Szarka, Danielle Volpe, Anita Waite, Eileen Macrae Community Education Services Co-ordinator

Driver refused to allow an elderly woman off bus

The bus was well below Steeles Avenue and the driver told the passenger she could only be allowed off at Number 7 Highway.

The passenger was upset but the driver wouldn't let her off. When the driver made a

stop to pick up a passenger on Yonge Street just south of Steeles Avenue, the elderly woman quickly jumped off the bus, at which point the driver made an unkind remark, quote: "I bet she didn't think she could move so fast," unquote.

Though the driver was in the right and those were his instruction as to the service he needs to provide, I feel such behavior towards the people who must rely on public transportation is not necessary.

James L. Matt
District President
York Summit

Helen Stohr
Markham Road
Richmond Hill

Summit Scouts say thanks for coverage

On behalf of York Summit District, Boy Scouts of Canada, I wish to offer our thanks for giving Scouts front page coverage on Apple Day, October 13, 1979.

We are very pleased that the Boy Scouts' activities are being made known to the community by this medium.