



Herrema returns for third term of office

Uxbridge's Gary Herrema has been acclaimed to a third term as chairman of Durham Region.

The incumbent stood unopposed at regional council's inaugural meeting Wednesday in Whitby.

Mr. Herrema considered retiring from politics this summer when afflicted with severe facial paralysis, but recovered enough that he decided to stand for another term.

The chairman recently told The Weekender he enjoys the job and is looking forward to his next three years at the helm of Ontario's fourth largest regional municipality.

A former mayor of Uxbridge Township, he views the future handling of Durham's garbage as a major issue.

Regional Council has been forced to seek a new dump location because the Pickering landfill site is rapidly nearing its capacity, Mr. Herrema explained. There have been preliminary discussions with members of the private sector about establishing a mechanical recycling plant somewhere in Durham.

Chairman Herrema also wants to explore the possibility of amending the Official Plan to allow residential development (likely in the form of five- or 10-acre building lots) on non-agricultural land situated in rural areas.

"We should be prepared to take a look at what kind of housing can be allowed in these areas," he said. "There seems to be a demand for rural lots, especially in the southern part of Scugog and Uxbridge."

Miracle Food Mart helps hospital

Maria Colangelo, assistant manager of Miracle Food Mart in the Markville Shopping Centre, presents a cheque for \$310 to Markham Stouffville Hospital trustee Bill Boyes. The money came from the employee charity fund.

VIA moves to speed up its service

Commuters on VIA Rail's Toronto-Havelock dayliner are getting to work faster since the train's speed was increased last month.

In an attempt to upgrade the service, VIA raised the passenger car's speed from 40 to 50 miles per hour, thus cutting approximately 45 minutes off the one-way trip time.

The dayliner runs seven days a week from Havelock to Union Station, making stops in Durham Region at Claremont, Dagmar and Myrtle.

According to a revamped schedule, the train leaves Havelock at 5:50 a.m. instead of the old time of 5:05 a.m. and arrives in Toronto at 8:30 a.m. Morning stops are made at Myrtle, 7:33 a.m.; Dagmar, 7:39; Claremont, 7:47; and Locust Hill, 7:57.

On the return trip, it departs Union Station at 5:30 p.m. and drops passengers off in Locust Hill at 6: Claremont, 6:10; Dagmar, 6:17; and Myrtle, 6:24.

Saturday riders can board in Claremont at 8:57 a.m. and arrive in the city by 9:40. All times are listed in the new VIA Rail schedule.

In another development, regular riders are now able to purchase passes good for all five return trips in a Monday-to-Friday week.

A weekly pass from Myrtle to Toronto is \$50, representing a saving of about \$5. Those travelling from Peterborough five days a week will save \$10 when they buy a \$100 ticket.

A single return fare from Claremont station costs \$8.

The passenger load has averaged from 50 to 60 each day but VIA Rail officials hope this figure will grow to 100.

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