

TRANSPORTATION: GO Transit juggles routes into Union Station

GO puts the brakes on earliest morning run

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
STAFF WRITER

GO Transit's train and bus service is about to change in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Stouffville's early morning GO bus will be cancelled on Sept. 8, while the morning trains will leave the station a few minutes earlier.

Canceling the 5 a.m. bus has been attributed to low rid-

ership. Under the changes, a new bus will leave Stouffville at 5:40 a.m., arriving at Union Station at 6:40 a.m.

The 5 a.m. bus run from Stouffville to Union Station was introduced last fall. It experienced low ridership from the beginning, GO officials say.

"The 5:40 bus should be a more convenient time for most customers who need to travel downtown before the first train," said GO Transit spokesperson Ed Shea.

"The 5 a.m. was too early to be attractive," he added. Changes to Stouffville's train route are slight. Beginning on Sept. 8, the 6:30 a.m. train leaves Stouffville at 6:27 a.m., while the 7:23 a.m. train will pull out of Stouffville at 7:20 a.m.

In the interest of customer service, GO Transit makes adjustments to their schedule on an ongoing basis, Shea stressed.

Regular riders are kept up to date through a customer bulletin, said Shea.

This is not the first time low ridership has put the brakes on public transit in Stouffville. Last year, a private bus company introduced a Markham-to-Stouffville bus run. However, the service lacked ridership and was discontinued.

As well, last year Mayor Wayne Emmerson lent his support to a region-wide call for immediate full GO rail service for York.

York is the only region within the GTA that doesn't have full GO rail service even though half of York Region's work trips are to Metro, representing the highest rate in the GTA.

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