

So far, York garbage OK going to Keele Valley

BY ROGER VARLEY
Staff Writer

Picket lines by striking Toronto employees at Keele Valley landfill — where York Region dumps its garbage — aren't hindering curbside pickup.

Since the strike by 6,800 members of Local 416 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees began just over a week ago, striking workers have maintained a picket line at the entrance to the Maple dump.

However, garbage trucks are being allowed to enter the site, which is owned and operated by the City of Toronto, with a minimum of delay.

Garbage trucked into the site is being processed and buried by management staff.

Arnie Astbury, a picket-line captain, said strikers are stopping trucks for only two minutes going into the landfill site and three minutes when exiting.

"That's if they turn their engines off," said Mr. Astbury. "If they leave their engines running, it's five minutes in and five minutes out."

He said residents entering the landfill site to drop off household waste are not being stopped at all. "The public can come in and out all day long," he said.

Mr. Astbury said all garbage trucks are being delayed because the pickets have

no way of knowing if they are carrying garbage from York Region or Toronto.

But the delays at Keele Valley are much shorter than at transfer stations in Toronto, where vehicles are being stopped for up to 15 minutes each, creating line-ups in which some vehicles must wait for three hours or more.

At one point Tuesday morning, about 20 vehicles were waiting to enter Keele Valley, meaning a wait of approximately 40 minutes for the last one in line.

But, so far, it doesn't appear to be affecting curbside pickup in area municipalities.

"It's not affecting our residents at all,"

said Newmarket spokesperson Wanda Bennett. "Garbage pickup is still happening as per normal schedules."

Nor is Vaughan experiencing any delays in its schedules, despite the caution it issued to residents last week that there might be disruptions.

"We've been lucky so far," said director of public works Brian Anthony.

He said Vaughan has added some extra trucks to make up for time lost at Keele Valley but the city's twice-a-week pickup service is still in force.

Claudia Marsales, manager of waste management, said the strike has not affected curbside collection in Markham.

"Certainly, garbage trucks are having to wait, but so far the public hasn't noticed any effect," she said.

"We're anticipating we'll be able to continue to dump at Keele Valley."

Georgina's director of public works said the strike won't delay service in that municipality, but disposal costs could increase if it continues.

Bob Magloughlin said last week if delays reach the point where garbage trucks can't get into Keele Valley, York Region has made arrangements for disposal at landfill sites in St. Catharines and St. Thomas. That would cost an additional \$20 per tonne, he said.

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Local commuters have new GO station choice

MIKE ADLER
Staff Writer

Small-scale transit improvements will soon offer Markham and Stouffville residents new ways to reach Toronto.

GO Transit, which already brings commuters from both towns south to Union Station on its Stouffville line, is set to open a new station platform in Scarborough.

The Kennedy GO station, likely to open in 2003, is on Eglinton Avenue, which will make it the last stop before Union.

The \$1.2-million GO platform will be built beside the Toronto Transit Commission's Kennedy Station, a useful entry point for the city's Bloor Street subway line.

GO's tight capital budget prevents the platform's construction this year. "It's ready to go but it's on hold," said Karen Majerly.

Ms. Majerly said GO plans access from its Kennedy platform to a local community centre. Community groups in Scarborough, however, see the new station as the cornerstone of area redevelopment and are urging GO to add a station building that could be shared by private interests, said Andrew Shulz of the Scarborough Eglinton Avenue Modernization Project, or SEAM.

In a council motion passed this year, the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville this

See WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE, page 12.

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