

Quick Start kicks off next year

From page 1.

and a sign," Sam Zimmerman, a project manager for the York Rapid Transit Plan, promised.

Quick Start's first services should be operating by September 2004, he said, and the rest within three years.

Queue-jumping technology will allow buses on the rapid routes to proceed or turn before other traffic, starting at major intersections with the longest delays.

At Keele Street and Hwy. 7, where turning buses can be stuck for two or three light cycles, this could save commuters five minutes on their way to York University, Mr. Zimmerman said.

An intelligent transportation system will watch transit vehicles, offering them priority treatment to keep a schedule or to keep buses spaced out and avoid "bunching."

Service on Quick Start routes will be frequent — 10 minutes or less — and electronic signs at stations will announce the buses before they arrive.

Fares will be common between different levels of bus service and transfers free. For example, you could pay the driv-

er of a neighbourhood mini-bus and not have to pay again.

Mr. Zimmerman said only low-floor buses with wide, multiple doors will be used, so they will be as quick to enter as a sub-way car, saving more time.

Vancouver's 98B line from suburban Richmond to the city's downtown, an inspiration for Quick Start, boosted local ridership 25 per cent in two years, he said. York expects a 30-per-cent improvement.

PROVINCIAL QUESTION

Confusion remained at press time, however, over whether the province had indeed committed its \$50-million share for the program this week.

Reports said Finance Minister Janet Ecker promised the funds in comments following the budget presentation but York Rapid Transit Plan staff said they were still waiting for a formal announcement.

"We're delighted she made these comments," said Mary-Frances Turner, the York plan's executive co-ordinator.

"The ball is now in the court of Ontario," added John McCallum, Markham MP and Canada's defence minister, after the federal government contributed \$435 million to address

what he said is one of his constituents' biggest problems — gridlock.

"It's not going to silence our critics forever, but it certainly shows goodwill on our part, that we take these things seriously."

GO chairperson Gordon Chong said separations on the Bradford and Stouffville lines, projected to cost \$60 million and \$50 million, respectively, would take 18 to 24 months if started today.

"They've made a commitment. The question is when does the cheque get written?" he said.

Elements of GO's 100-km BRT could be running in a year or two, but Mississauga is where the route will be completed first. The rest of it could take eight years or more, Mr. Chong suggested.

Ms. Ecker announced a Central Ontario Transit Authority to oversee public transit spending but the news was disappointing to several business groups, which had recommended a GTA transportation authority that could also deal with road improvements.

"At least it's a start," Markham Board of Trade president Ruth Burkholder said.

A message from The War Amps
"Safety is no accident, so PLAYSAFE!"
 For more information, call: 1-800-250-3030
 This message brought to you as a community service of The Economist & Sun/Sun-Tribune



Patricia BRIDAL SALON'S
 Famous Annual
CLOTHES-OUT SALE
1 Day Only
Sat. Apr. 5th 10-6pm

Bridal Gowns 80% off
 up to Sizes 4 - 28

Wedding Gowns as low as 49⁹⁹
 Headpiece & Veils from 49.99
 Mother's Gowns from 19.99

Prom & Grad as low as 9⁹⁹
48 Washington St. MARKHAM
 905-294-4054 (2 Blocks N)
 905-294-4084 (1 Block East)
 48 & 7

featuring:
 • Mori Lee • Madison
 • Fabulous Formals
 • Alfred/Angelo
 • T&G Sweetheart
 • Sincerity • Private Label
 • P.C. Mary's • Bonnie
 • Anjollique • Alfred/Sung
 • Nu/Mode • St. Patrick
 • Paloma Blanca
 • Bridalane

FOCUS ON BUSINESS

Call us For a **FREE** Professional Design!

Design Services:
 Interlocking Brick
 Ponds & Waterfalls
 Decks & Wood Work
 Retaining Walls
 Landscape Lighting
 Stone Work
 Irrigation
 Gardens
 and More!

Call Now
 905-472-9112

GENOSCAPE
 Landscaping Services

A dream garden, courtesy of Genoscape Inc.

Have you ever visited that dream garden in a public park or seen an estate property in a magazine and found yourself captivated and in awe? We all have.

Invariably, we are left wondering: "could I reproduce that atmosphere in my own backyard?"

The foundation of an attractive property is the "skeleton" — landscaping — around which plants are layered to create the final form. Winding pathways, landscape lighting, terraced flowerbeds, patios and water features all add extra elements of color, design and texture.

This is where the experience of a trained professional landscape designer comes to the fore. You simply can't underestimate the value of a professional landscape designer in crafting a beautiful property saving you a lot of expense and heartache by making the right choices and performing the necessary work. Knowing how to blend the right garden features with the appropriate architectural elements is key to a beautiful landscape.

For a small project you may be able to do-it-yourself, but for an elaborate landscaping project you'll need help. The yard you're looking for can be yours, with professional help.

In Markham, look no further than Genoscape Landscaping and Design Services, a new business proudly announcing its first year in business. Owned and operated by Joseph Genovese, who has earned a reputation of excellence in the community over twelve years of professional landscaping.

Genoscape Inc. is a full service landscaping company that offers the homeowner a comprehensive range of services from the initial development of a concept design to the implementation of the final project. They provide a wide variety of landscaping services, including interlocking brick, natural stonework, retaining walls, flagstone, landscape lighting, decks and woodwork, irrigation, ponds and water features. They specialize in residential design and construction.

"All work is guaranteed and we pride ourselves on prompt completion," says Mr. Genovese. "Once we start a job, we finish it to the customers' satisfaction before we start another."

Genoscape is fully insured with new, state-of-the-art construction equipment to ensure an attractive jobsite. Professionalism and skill, in all aspects of the operation, are trademarks of Joseph Genovese's work.

"We are committed to quality workmanship and are dedicated to the needs of our customers," explains Mr. Genovese. "The appearance of our customer's property is our product and we stand strongly behind our product!"

For a free professional design call 905-472-9112 or email genoscape@rogers.com.
 Genoscape Landscaping and Design Services is located at
 5694-4 Hwy. #7, Unit 178 Markham.

ALL DECKED OUT

Planning and Design
 Custom Build
 Restoration
 Landscape Integration
 Hot Tub Enclosures
 Pressure Treated
 Cedar • Concrete

(416) 779-DECK (3325)

STEVEN CUI CLINIC

- Registered and Licensed Acupuncture
- 27 Years of Experience in Acupuncture Practicing and Treatment with Herb Medicine.
- Specialized in: Stroke, Weight Loss
- Cancer, Asthma, Insomnia, Headache, Stress
- Dizziness, Tinnitus, Trigeminal Neuralgia
- Osteophytes, Osteoporosis, Arthritis, Sciatica
- Shoulder, Back, Neck, Leg, All Kind of Numb Pain

2 Sanderson Rd., Markham
 905-284-9021 416-455-4600

Mr Stoop & Scoop

Pet Waste Removal

FIND US IN THE TELUS DIRECTORY

Let Us Do The Dirty Work.
 416-898-GONE (4663)
 or 905-642-6464

Dr. Angela Zuliani
 Chiropractor - A.R.T. Certified

&

Andrea Gareau
 Registered Massage Therapist
 We Care About Your Health
 258 Main St. N., Markham Village
 Chiropractor 905-201-6590
 Massage Therapist 905-294-3501

To Advertise in
FOCUS ON BUSINESS
 Call Your
 Sales
 Representative
 at
905-294-2200