



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Dan Miles, with the York Region Rapid Transit Corporation, demonstrates how to buy a ticket for the Viva bus at the Richmond Hill hub at Yonge Street and Highway 7.

Rush hour service ideal for students

BY LINDA JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Public transit has always been a boon to students.

After all, last minute studying is a lot easier when you don't have to keep two hands on the wheel.

With the introduction of Viva, York Region's rapid bus transit, more students will likely choose to travel to school by bus than ever before.

The new buses take to the streets Sunday, running along Yonge Street from the Finch subway station to Bernard Avenue in Richmond Hill and on Hwy. 7 from York University to Town Centre Boulevard in Markham.

"I think this opens the door to a whole new transit experience. This will provide students with a transit system unlike they've ever seen

before in the GTA," York Region Rapid Transit spokesperson Dan Miles said.

Buses run from 6 a.m. to midnight weekdays. During peak hours (6:30 to 9 a.m. and 4 to 6:30 p.m.), buses will run every five to 10 minutes. The rest of the time, intervals between buses should not exceed 15 minutes, Mr. Miles said. An added benefit with Viva, he added, is anyone waiting for a bus can learn exactly when it is coming by checking the digital display installed at every station, stop and terminal.

"So there's no need for the schedule. Once you get to the station, you just look at the digital display and it says 'two minutes'," he said.

Travel time will be reduced by a system allowing riders to buy their tickets before boarding the bus from

machines at the stop.

That means, when boarding and leaving a bus, they can use any door they prefer.

Fare officers will check tickets at random.

And, unlike tickets in the past that were invalid as soon as a person left a bus, the new ones are good for two hours.

"So, you will have up to two hours to get on and off with that one ticket," Mr. Miles said.

Tickets are also valid if a rider needs to transfer to a regular YRT bus on another route. The single bus fare — the same for adults, seniors, students and children — remains unchanged at \$2.25.

Monthly passes are \$52 (high school students), \$35 (seniors) and \$78 (adults).

In addition to station and terminals, tickets and passes are also available at vendors such as stores and libraries.

In the second of Viva's four-stage introduction, buses start travelling Hwy. 7 from Warden Avenue to McCowan Road and from Martin Grove Road to Downsview subway station, as well as from the Unionville GO station to the Don Mills subway station.

Service will be extended Nov. 20 along Yonge from Bernard through Aurora to the Newmarket terminal.

Finally, a second weekday rush hour route starting from the Finch subway station and going north on Yonge and east on Hwy. 7 to Warden starts Jan. 1.

Viva operates Saturdays 7 a.m. to midnight and Sundays from 9 a.m. to midnight.

For more information, visit www.vivayork.com or call 905-886-6767. For routes and schedules, visit www.yrt.ca

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Unionville Theatre Company

The Unionville Theatre Company is pleased to announce auditions for their upcoming musical play, "Anne of Green Gables". This is a \$35,000 production which will be held at the Markham Theatre for Performing Arts for 6 (six) performances beginning February 22, 2006. We are looking for 40 to 50 actors who are between the ages of 10 to 30; preference is given to York Region residents. A public information session will be held at the upper level of Crosby Arena on Sunday September 11, 2005 at 2:00 PM. Further details can be obtained by calling our hotline at (416) 860-6198 or by logging on to our website at...

Anne of Green Gables

www.unionvilletheatre.com

The UTC is supported by a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

FUTURE SHOP
CORRECTION NOTICE

Toshiba 15.4" Widescreen Laptop M40X-RH4: 10062830. On p. 6 of our August 26th flyer, this product is advertised with a 100GB hard drive. In fact, the hard drive is 40GB.

We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused our valued customers.

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