

STUDENTS & STATS

New initiative lets classes compile, discuss numbers on themselves

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Staff Writer

The thought of analyzing statistical data may sound like a snore, but a new initiative taking place in classrooms across the nation is making the data management part of math class a little more enjoyable for students.

Statistics Canada's census in the classroom project allows students to see statistics come alive, according to Shona Duthie, a teacher resource for the federal government agency.

"This program makes it easier for students to relate to data since they will be looking at themselves," she said.

Last year, 14,000 primary and 3,500 secondary students across Canada answered age-appropriate questions pertaining to height, body measurements, demographics, what they had for breakfast, how they spend their free time and more.

After completing the census, their answers were compiled and results analyzed in the classroom with a teacher and a representative such as

Ms Duthie.

"The data allows students to explore the numeracy side of statistical data," she explained. "But other data like have you been bullied or who do you look up to can be used to stimulate discussions."

The idea originated in Great Britain seven years ago and started in Canada Canada three years ago.

Its main purpose is to teach students how data is collected, analyzed and used.

"Teachers also use the

results to see what students are feeling, like how much pressure they feel at school," Ms Duthie said.

"But we also want our children to be statistic literate and media savvy, since the press can put a slant on statistics."

With this program, Statistics Canada not only hopes to make learning data management more relateable, but there are hopes students will go home and discuss the importance of the Canadian census with family members.

Jobs, homework dominate

Highlights of the Ontario census in the school project:
• High school students in Ontario spend more time on paid jobs and homework than those in other provinces with 34 per cent working outside the home. That's double the national average.

Twenty-six per cent spend seven or more hours on homework per week compared to the national average of 18 per cent;

• 93 per cent of Ontario students have a computer, compared to 90 per cent nationally;

• more females (34 per cent) own cell phones than males (32 per cent);

• only 58 per cent of the secondary school-aged girls in Ontario said they had spent some time participating in sports during the previous week, compared with 71 per cent nationally.

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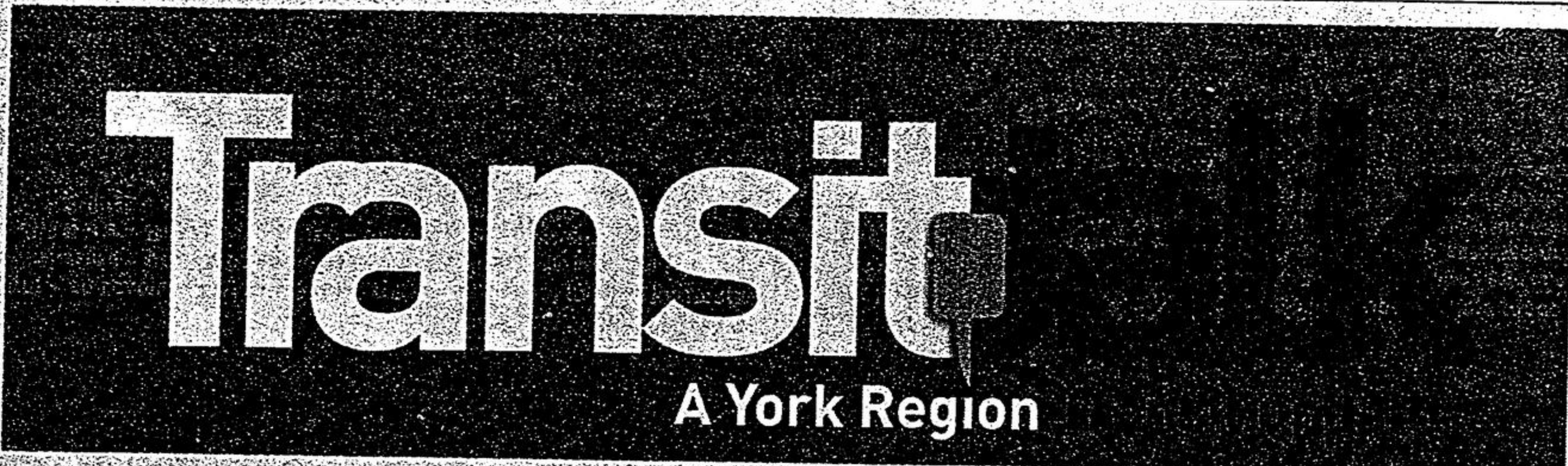
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Call 905-640-4440 for reservations.

Save this update for your reference



YRT makes it easy to connect to GO.



50¢ Ride to GO fare keeps riders smiling.

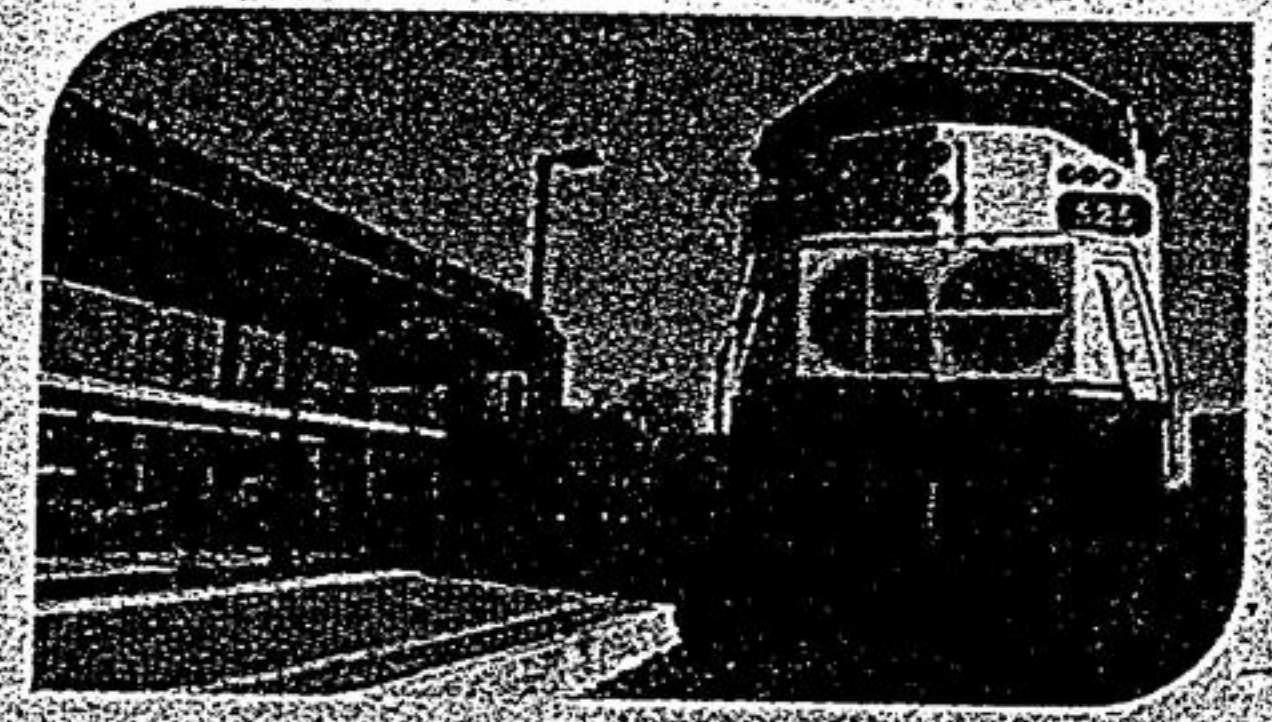
York Region Transit and Viva provide commuters a relaxing alternative to driving to their GO Train stations. The service is called 50¢ to GO and it lets commuters ride Viva or YRT buses to GO Train stations for only 50¢.

For commuters, this is an especially convenient transit service as it takes away the frustrations of dealing with rush-hour traffic and finding reasonably priced downtown parking. Instead, riders can catch up on sleep, work or even a crossword puzzle.

The program isn't just convenient and stress-free, it's affordable. For just 50¢, YRT buses and Viva rapid transit vehicles (RTVs) offer riders a choice of several routes servicing 13 GO Train stations. Riders can also opt to travel on YRT's special GO shuttles. Custom-designed around GO Train schedules, these shuttle buses make connecting to GO effortless. YRT shuttles arrive at GO Train stations

early and wait for commuters on arriving GO Trains.

Buying a Ride to GO fare is simplicity itself. Fares can be paid by dropping in correct change upon entering a YRT bus. Commuters can also buy Ride to GO fares (which are valid on both YRT and Viva) from oneRide and multiRide fare machines. For more details visit yrt.ca.

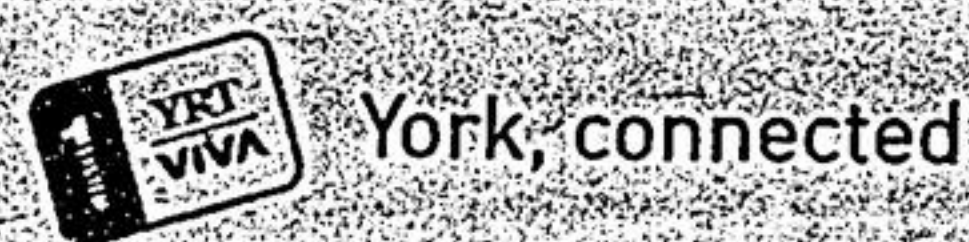


RIDE OR DRIVE? DO THE MATH.

So how much money can you save by taking transit? Consider these facts: On average, just the cost of gas, maintenance and parking downtown works out to \$1,000 per month. Comparatively, commuters using the 50¢ Ride to GO fare, can get to work and back on GO Transit and YRT or Viva, for about \$180 per month. That's one-fifth the cost. What would you rather do?



You must have a valid GO Transit ticket or pass on hand to ride for 50 cents.
*Based on driving 80 kilometres per day, 20 round trips per month, at an average of 48¢ per kilometre and downtown parking at an average of \$12 per day over a 20 day period.
**Based on the purchase of a \$160 GO Transit monthly pass, and the use of 50¢ to GO round trip fares over a 20 day period.



Next in our series of updates: how tickets that are valid for two hours set you free to do more.