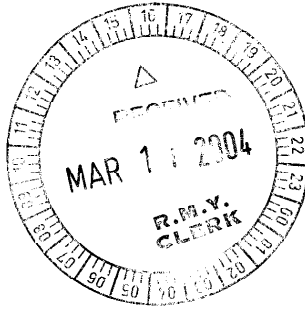




March 11, 2004

Mr. Bill Fisch,
Regional Chair & CEO and
Members of York Region Council,
C/o Mr Dennis Kelly – Regional Clerk,
Corporate Services Department,
York Region Administrative Building,
17250 Yonge Street, 4th Floor,
Newmarket, Ontario.
L3Y 6Z1

REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE

FILE No. - P34

via: facsimile

Dear Mr. Fisch:

I am writing this letter in my capacity as Chair of **Jericho Youth Centre** and also as Chair of **The Learning Centre for Georgina** in support of a budget request before you from Transit Georgina. Their request if funded, will make a huge difference in both organization's capacity to serve our participants.

Jericho Youth Centre serves over 1,500 youth in Georgina who attend recreation based programs in various locations throughout the Town. The lack of available and affordable transportation to and from program continues to be an issue.

The Learning Centre for Georgina is a free adult literacy program serving all of Georgina and transportation barriers (no YRT) are a huge issue in being able to get participants from Pefferlaw and Sutton to our program in Keswick.

The extension of a "ride subsidy" as well as the implementation of a pilot "dial-a-ride" project to be provided by Transit Georgina is well worth supporting and will result in a **cost avoidance** for YRT in that bus service to Pefferlaw and Sutton (while being requested now) could be initially provided using this grass-roots community based solution proposed by Transit Georgina and at a much more reasonable cost. The isolation of many of Georgina's rural residents with no access whatsoever to affordable transportation can be addressed by approving their request.

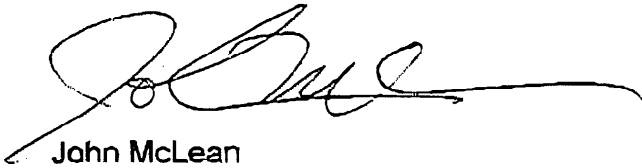
The addition of a proposed skateboard park in the near future (2004) in the Keswick area will only further exacerbate the transportation disparity that exists in our Municipality between urban Pefferlaw, Sutton and Keswick. We also know that expansion of full YRT service to these underserved areas is not currently economically feasible and may not be for a considerable period of time. This alternative may delay the need for implementation of a full service resulting in a cost savings. Clearly it represents a significant "stop gap" measure that will benefit the community as a whole.

This initiative would not be possible were it not for Transit Georgina who have a proven track record of excellent service to our residents. It would be a shame for YRT and the Region not to partner to better serve them.

Approval of Transit Georgina's request is definitely a step in the right direction towards addressing Georgina's current transportation needs. I estimate that their request represents significantly less than the cost of one additional bus to link from Sutton to Keswick on a "semi-regular" type service.

Georgina is a unique community with a significant "at risk" urban and rural population who are currently underserved and much in need of York Region Council's support for this project. On behalf of Jericho and The Learning Centre I request your favourable consideration of this initiative.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John McLean', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John McLean
230 Catering Road,
Sutton West, Ontario.
L0E 1R0

Cc: Mayor Robert Grossi
Cc: Deputy Mayor Danny Wheeler
Cc: Donald Gordon - General Manager YRT
Cc: Patty Simpson - Transit Georgina