

The Gibraltar Condominiums
YRCC 688 & 705
22 & 32 Clarissa Drive
Richmond Hill ON L4C 9R7

November 10, 2011

Councillor Vito Spatafora, Chair
Richmond Hill Accessibility Advisory Committee
York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee
access@richmondhill.ca & AODA@york.ca

Dear Councillor Spatafora:

Subject: YRT Community Bus (Richmond Hill #589)

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the residents of The Gibraltar Condominiums I kindly request that the Accessibility Advisory Committees review and resolve an accessibility issue with the YRT Richmond Hill community bus.

The closest community bus stop to The Gibraltar is in front of T & T Supermarkets (formally Weston Produce), located on the south side of Clarissa Drive opposite the condo. For years, residents have asked YRT to make The Gibraltar a bus stop, as it is difficult and exhausting for senior residents, many who use assistive devices, to make their way over to T & T to catch the bus.

YRT claims they cannot get into our complex with their bus and feel that the bus stop at T & T is sufficient. A bus stop at the Gibraltar would be no different then the other condominiums that they currently service. The community bus # 589 route includes stops at Dunlop Residences, Rosetown Apartments, Harding Boulevard/Addison (Dynasty Condos), 33 Weldrick Road Condos, Observatory Apartments, Marshall St. Residences and Baif Residences 15, 20, 40, 50 and 70.

When T & T Supermarket opened earlier this year, the vehicular traffic coming out of the plaza increased to the point that it is dangerous for many of the seniors to cross the road especially on weekends. The driveway entrances of both the plaza and condominium are opposite each other and it is an unmarked crossing point for pedestrians needless to say it is extremely busy and dangerous especially for people using assistive devices or with other disabilities. In addition, the community bus stops in front of the store entrance so there is always a lot of people traffic making it difficult for the people using assistive devices to navigate through the crowds to get to the bus.

Winter is fast approaching and will present additional barriers forcing many of our residents to remain housebound, as they will not be able to navigate the treacherous sidewalks and busy roadway. The community bus is supposed to be for seniors and people with disabilities so they can use fully accessible conventional transit rather than Mobility Plus however, by making the stop inconvenient for Gibraltar residents, it has become inaccessible and dangerous.

We seek your assistance in bringing the community bus into the Gibraltar complex barring that at least establish a bus stop on the north side of Clarissa Drive near the condominium entrance.

I look forward to hearing from you. You can reach me during the day at 416-314-7194 or evenings at 905-770-7294 in case you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Marian Nalley
Secretary, Board of Directors YRCC705

On behalf of the Board of Directors YRCC688 and 705