



September 27, 28, 29 & 30, 2007



May 15, 2007

York Region Transit,
50 High Tech Road,
RICHMOND HILL, On. L4B 4N7

Attn: Mr. Don Gordon, General Manager

Dear Don:

**Re: Letters to York Region Transit Committee dated January, 2007 and
May 10, 2007**

I would appreciate it if you could arrange for the distribution of the attached two letters to the members of the York Region Transit Committee. If it is necessary for us to request the Clerk's office to do this, please let us know.

Would you also kindly advise via email the date and time of the Transit Committee meeting (office@markhamfair.ca).

Thanking you very much for your assistance in this matter, I remain

Yours truly,

DAN O'BRIEN
GENERAL MANAGER

c.c. Ms. Annmarie Carroll

REGION OF YORK	
TRANSPORTATION & WORKS	
TRANSIT	
MAY 16 2007	
FILE/ROUTING	

Markham and East York Agricultural Society

10801 McCowan Road
Markham, Ontario L3P 3J3
Telephone: (905) 642-FAIR
Fax : (905) 640-8458
Email: office@markhamfair.ca
Website: www.markhamfair.ca

General Manager
Dan O'Brien

1st Vice-President
Blair Seeley

President
Blair Purcell

2nd Vice-President
Karen Murphy



September 27, 28, 29 & 30, 2007



May 10, 2007

TO: YORK REGION TRANSIT COMMITTEE

FROM: MARKHAM & EAST YORK AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

On January 16, 2007, we forwarded a report on behalf of Markham Fair. The report was forwarded to the members of the York Region Transit Committee and subsequently we appeared at the Transit Committee meeting on January 18 as the Chair of the Public Transit Committee of Markham Fair.

The original report is attached, so you can refer to it for more detail.

We talked about the Fair with an attendance of 60,000 – 70,000 people over four days. Briefly other points covered were

- 2,000 rides on York Region Transit system (1,300 Markham; 700 Stouffville)
- The history with Markham Transit which supplied a service to the Fair at no cost to the Fair, but the transit fares were of course retained by Markham Transit
- The inception of York Region Transit at no cost the first year or two, I believe, and then rates of \$40, then \$60, then \$80, and now apparently \$90 an hour.
- The benefit of the Fair itself as well as the Fair site to the Region. The various shows that take place at the Fairgrounds, along with the Fair, bring an attendance of about 350,000 people a year along with the media advertising and media coverage.
- The fact that the Fair is a volunteer organization which depends on the Town of Markham and the Town of Stouffville for some assistance and which needs some assistance now from the Region of York, as the Region has taken over transit, policing and ambulance service and each of these areas of service represent new and ever increasing costs to the Fair.

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The original deputation to transit committee requested

hat council recognizes the value of Markham Fair and its site to the Region of York and to the residents of York and that, in consideration of this recognition, YORK REGION TRANSIT would be authorized to run transit service to and from the Fair each year as part of its operation.

The matter was referred back to transit staff.

On May 10, 2007, I (Dennis Seeley) represented Markham Fair again at a meeting with General Manager Don Gordon and Assistant Manager of Operations, Ann-Marie Carroll. This was a pleasant and co-operative meeting, as all of our associations with Don Gordon have been over the years.

As a result of that meeting, Markham Fair would like to let our original request (above) stand down for a year, and change our current request to the following.

- 1) That transit to Markham Fair (Sept 27-30, 2007) be done according to the same terms and conditions as the last two years.
 - Transit supplies the service to and from Markham and Stouffville
 - Transit keeps the fares collected
 - Markham Fair gives York Region Transit concession space during the Fair to promote the transit system and that the charges for this space would be applied towards the deficit in operating the bus service.
 - Markham Fair pays up to \$2,000 towards further deficits
(We understand this left a further deficit of about \$1,200 to be covered off by York Region Transit in 2006)
- 2) Markham Fair requests that Transit Committee would ask Transit staff to develop a policy to apply to an event like Markham Fair, where there is substantial ridership or potential ridership, which would pay a transit fare and there is no local bus service supplied to the location.

SIGNED:



DAN O'BRIEN, GEN. MANAGER

SIGNED:



DENNIS SEELEY, CHAIRPERSON,
TRANSIT COMMITTEE

- With a proposed \$80/hr charitable charter rate, the rates are going up faster than our ability to pay them and if the YRT ever decided to decline and pay for display space at the Fair, the invoice would be higher still.

A DECISION TO NOT RUN YRT SERVICE TO MARKHAM FAIR WOULD IMPACT NEGATIVELY ON BOTH YRT AND THE FAIR:

- 2,000 rides would have to be done some other way.
- Some residents of the Region and from Toronto would simply be unable to get to the fair.
- Markham Fair would probably run school buses from the fair grounds to McCowan & Major McKenzie (1 ¼ miles from the Fair Grounds) or McCowan & Bur Oak where it would meet up with the existing YRT system and overload it, particularly on Friday and Saturday night.
- It would be almost impossible for Stouffville residents to get to & from the Fair by transit and 500 - 700 rides are on the Stouffville bus.
- We anticipate both the Fair & YRT & Regional Council would receive complaints from residents.

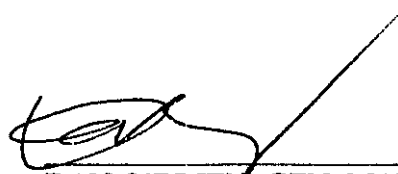
IN CLOSING:

- *Markham Fair wishes to commend Don Gordon and thank him and his staff for their co-operation and efforts over the years.*
- *To our knowledge there is no other Fair or Festival in York Region that has the history and transit service requirements of Markham Fair.*

OUR REQUEST TO TRANSIT COMMITTEE AND YORK REGION COUNCIL:

That council recognizes the value of Markham Fair and its site to the Region of York and to the residents of York and that, in consideration of this recognition, YORK REGION TRANSIT would be authorized to run transit service to and from the Fair each year as part of its operation.

SIGNED:


DAN O'BRIEN, GEN. MANAGER

SIGNED:


DENNIS SEELEY, CHAIRPERSON,
TRANSIT COMMITTEE



September 27, 28, 29 & 30, 2007



January 16, 2007

DEPUTATION

TO: YORK REGION TRANSIT COMMITTEE

FROM: MARKHAM & EAST YORK AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Re: Markham Fair requests YRT to operate an appropriate transit service to and from the annual Markham Fair, as part of their ongoing operation. This is in keeping with the previous arrangements Markham Fair had with Markham Transit before the inception of the YRT.

ABOUT MARKHAM FAIR:

Markham Fair is run for four days each year on the weekend before Thanksgiving and it is run at the Fair Grounds at McCowan Rd. and Elgin Mills Rd. in the Town of Markham and close to the border of Stouffville.

The Fair is run by Markham and East York Agricultural Society and it dates back to the 1800's when there was a political East Riding of York. It continues to be a fair that features agricultural and home craft competitions and exhibits.

Additionally there are a myriad of events for all ages.

- Opportunities to compete and showcase your music, gymnastic and other talents
- Horse pulls, horse competitions, livestock shows and competitions
- Tractor pulls and car derbies
- Horse races and midway entertainment
- Antique implements and displays
- Police motorcycle precisions rides and BMX bicycle shows
- Lumberjack shows, rodeos and fireworks
- Commercial exhibits and Old MacDonald's Farm

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- The fair has over 700 volunteers on 70 committees to showcase the fair. It is touted as the largest volunteer organization of its type in the Region and possibly in the Province.
- The year round operation of the 110 acre site is carried out by 24 volunteer Directors, 6 of whom are 26 yrs or younger. The Fair has 3 paid employees
- Attendance is in the range of 60,000 – 70,000 over the 4 days
- 100 bus loads of school children attend the Fair
- *The fair operates on a close to break even basis financially and money can be made or lost according to the weather at Fair time.*
- The fair is also a main fund raiser for many, many community groups who operate booths. Groups such as Lions, Rotary, sports clubs, churches and so on.

MARKHAM FAIR PROMOTES THE REGION OF YORK:

Throughout the year Markham Fair is the host site to other major & minor shows:

- Markham Fair
- Home show
- Craft show
- Ribfest
- Vintage and Antique Car Shows
- Cross country trailer rallies
- Regional and all Ontario horse shows, livestock shows and dog shows
- Community dances and Fund raisers

Many of these shows, along with the Fair, are well promoted in the media and we believe about 350,000 people a year come to the fair grounds and they come from all over the Region of York and the Province.

ABOUT (Y.R.T.) YORK REGION TRANSIT and MARKHAM FAIR:

History:

- Fair moved to current site in 1977 and transit was by school bus. The Town of Markham subsidized \$1,000 towards this cost.
- Subsequently, Markham Transit ran their buses to the Fair. Transit kept the fares and there was no cost to Markham Fair.
- As Y.R.T. came into being, YRT considered that Markham Fair was chartering buses and we believe the rate was \$40/hr. Markham Fair always took the view that it was subsidizing YRT to extend their service to the Fair. In either case, the Fair paid YRT about \$1,000, as well as giving YRT concession space during the Fair. YRT also collected the fares from the fare box.
- About two years ago, the YRT charter rate went to \$60/hr and Markham Fair paid \$2,000 to YRT.