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## School buses running late until end of September

Driver shortage brings delays at both boards

By Richard Leitner  
News Staff

The chair of Hamilton's public school board says he's hopeful a driver shortage that's seen school buses run up to 90 minutes late will be fixed by the end of the month.

Todd White said he's been told by the arm's-length consortium that contracts bus service on behalf of the public and Catholic boards that additional drivers are expected to be trained and in place by then.

A list posted on the public board's website on Sept. 7 initially identified 18 schools that were experiencing delays, including six in Ancaster, five on the Mountain and Billy Green in Stoney Creek.

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### Moving meditation

Dave Lukas leads a class at the Taoist Tai Chi centre on Hester Street prior to an open house Saturday morning. Practitioners tout tai chi as a way to relax, increase flexibility and improve general health. The non-profit group offers regular classes at its Mountain location as well as in Caledonia, Dundas and Stoney Creek. See taoist.org. | photo by Gord Bowes

# Congested arteries

Whitehead blames downtown bike lanes for Mountain traffic tie-ups

By Kevin Werner  
News Staff

Mountain traffic at the start of September has been so bad said Councillor Terry Whitehead that it took some residents about 15 minutes to drive down the escarpment to St. Joseph's Healthcare or into

the downtown.

The Ward 8 councillor is blaming the converted streets of Herkimer and Charlton for the traffic tie-ups that used to take about five minutes.

Herkimer and Charlton now have bike lanes, and Herkimer is one-way with a bike lane and an-

other lane for parked vehicles.

"I'm getting a lot of complaints from health personnel," said Whitehead.

He said traffic was backed up on Garth Street and West 5th on the mountain during the first week of September.

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## Power protest planned

Residents ready to rally against high hydro rates. pg. 5

### SPORTS



## 90 years of champions

Hamilton Olympic Club celebrates anniversary. pg. 39

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# Telling Tales Festival this Sunday

The free Telling Tales Festival takes place on Sunday at Westfield Heritage Village in Rockton.

This year's festival features over 25 award-winning Canadian authors, illustrators, storytellers, and musicians who promise to entertain and delight over 7,000 children and their families.

The Telling Tales Festival will launch several brand new Canadian books this fall, including: Kenneth Oppel, with *Every Hidden Thing*, which is described as Romeo and Juliet meets Indiana Jones; Jeremy Tankard, who explores the dilemma of going

on a hike without snacks in *Hungry Bird*, which makes its first appearance at Telling Tales; Ruth Ohi and her brand new picture book *Fox and Squirrel: The Best Christmas Ever*; Andrew Larsen and his new picture book *A Squiggly Story*, which explores how worlds are opened up when children begin to read and write; Shane Peacock with his fast-paced novel *Separated*, a prequel to *Seven (the Series)*, exploring the terrors of being lost in a foreign city, and Joel A. Sutherland, who shares more chilling true ghost stories from across the country with *Haunted Canada 6*.

# Herkimer bike lane remains an 'experiment': traffic manager

From page 1

By removing a lane on Herkimer Street and Charlton Avenue essentially a main thoroughfare for residents living on the mountain, he said, it has caused a traffic nightmare in the mornings.

Bike lanes were installed on Herkimer and Charlton this past June.

Whitehead has been critical of downtown councillors and city staff for converting main roads into what is known as "complete streets" that involves bike lanes, bump outs, and reducing the roads to one lane.

He said because of the traffic delays on Garth and West Fifth, Mountain motorists are now using local neighbourhood roads, such as Aberdeen to get to their destinations and adding to the traffic problems in those areas.

Lower city councillors have argued for complete street programs to protect cyclists and pedestrians.

Martin White, manager of traffic operations, said staff's decision on Herkimer remains an "experiment" that needs continued study.

"I don't think we did the wrong thing," he said, in answer to a question from councillors at the Sept. 8 public works committee meeting.

Ancaster councillor Lloyd Ferguson agreed with Whitehead's assertion about the traffic problems. He said some Ancaster resi-

"I don't think we did the wrong thing."

dents consider Aberdeen "downright dangerous" to traffic and pedestrians.

Whitehead said converting important roadways needs to be done in a more "balanced" way, but in favour of vehicles. He said there could be about 1,000 vehicles using Herkimer, but only about 15 cyclists per day.

"Where is the balance?"

Whitehead wanted traffic staff to provide figures for vehicles and cyclists.

White said staff will conduct the traffic counts, but he cautioned that the traffic tie-ups could be an aberration due to the first week of school.

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# Knights win Fum-bowl

St. Thomas More routs butter-fingered Chaminade 49-8 in Golden Horseshoe Bowl

By Mark Newman  
News Staff

The St. Thomas More Knights were clearly a team on a mission.

On Nov. 19, after carrying a 30-point halftime lead to the locker room, they lost to the Cardinal Newman Cardinals in the Hamilton Catholic high school senior football championship.

On Monday, the Knights were determined not to let it happen again when they met the Chaminade College School Gryphons in the OFSAA Golden Horseshoe

Bowl at Tim Hortons field.

More came out flying and dominated the Gryphons in a 49-8 victory that saw the Toronto school fumble the ball eight times (losing six of them) including on their first two possessions, the second of which led to the Knights' first touchdown of the game.

Chaminade quarterback Esson Hamilton, who was under intense pressure from the STM defence all game, had trouble hanging on to the ball and so did his receivers.

The Knight's running game rolled over the visitors.

It was led by running back Michael Chris-Ike, who amassed 97 yards on 13 carries and three touchdowns.

Mitchell Phillips scored two majors for More while Sam Restivo and Jacob Baker had one touchdown each. Kevin Mutuga booted seven single-point converts for the Knights.

He also executed a textbook outside kick in the second quarter, a high curving boot that was knocked out of bounds by Jacob Zivolak to maintain possession.

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Above, the Knights celebrate their Golden Horseshoe Bowl victory. It's the school's third bowl victory in as many tries. At left, Chaminade quarterback Esson Hamilton (2) is roughed up by the Knights' defence. | Photos by Gord Bowes



## Got something to say?

Send a letter to the editor

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Mitchell Phillips of St. Thomas More gets away from the Chaminade defence during Monday's Golden Horseshoe Bowl. Phillips had two touchdowns in his team's 49-8 victory. | Photo by Gord Bowes

# Knights three-for-three in OFSAA bowl games

From page 27

It did not result in any points for the Knights.

The Gryphons only major came late in the fourth quarter on the kickoff following Phillips' punt return TD. Quarterback Esson Hamilton took the ball on a reverse and ran 79 yards for the touchdown. Michael Swank scored a two-point convert.

Even though they led 35-0 at halftime, Chris-Ike said the memory of their loss to Newman meant they were not about to ease up.

"We were thinking about that at halftime because we knew anything's possible," said Chris-Ike, who was playing with a sore ankle that was injured in the Newman game.

The STM defence made several jarring hits and tackles that held the Gryphons to just 63 yards in total offence while the Knights finished with 291 yards.

"The defence is just a bunch of savages, that's all there is to it," said Baker, a More linebacker and one of the team captains. "We blew a 30-point lead (against Newman) so we had to show everybody ... when we play

our best, nobody's beating us."

More head coach Claudio Silvestri said the victory gives his troops a bit of redemption after the city final.

"These boys were heartbroken — physically and mentally devastated from that loss and the way they responded," he said. "As a coach ... I'm just so impressed with these young men."

More photos see HamiltonNews.com

Silvestri noted the Gryphons had not played a game in a couple of weeks while More had played five days ago (beating Burlington Assumption 20-14 in the GHAC semi-finals to earn their bowl berth) and that layoff may have contributed to the Toronto school's difficulty on the field.

The victory was also the Knights' third Golden Horseshoe Bowl victory in three appearances.

Silvestri said the team expects to lose seven players to graduation.

## Lady Knights win OFSAA basketball bronze

The St. Thomas More Knights were bronze medalists at last weekend's Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations AAA girls basketball tournament. The Knights, seeded third heading into

the tournament, lost to second-seed St. John's College (Brantford) 43-28 in their semi-final match.

The Knights won OFSAA AAAA gold medals in 2011, '12 and '13.

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## Chedoke hospital land up for sale

By Mark Newman  
News Staff

It will be a new era for healthcare on Hamilton Mountain.

The Bay Area Health Trust (BAHT) is looking to sell 18.5 acres of land on the Chedoke Hospital site that had been previously used by Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS).

Terri Johns, planning consultant for the non-profit group, who has been working with land matters on the west Mountain site for 26 years, said a request for expressions of interest for the land were published on Oct. 20 and about a half-dozen groups and organizations have indicated an interest.

See page 3



### Champs

The Sherwood Saints celebrate the school's first junior girls basketball title since 1971. The team, led by Amber Hewitt with 22 points, won the Hamilton-Wentworth Interscholastic Athletic Conference Division 2 championship on Nov. 12. Story, page 27 | Photo by Gord Bowes

## City committed to receiving Syrian refugees

By Kevin Werner  
News staff

Hamilton Mayor Fred Eisenberger remains committed to welcoming an untold number of Syrian refugees to the city.

In the wake of the terrorist attacks in Paris last Friday, and with two of the attackers reportedly entering the European Union through Greece, Eisenberger said it will be up to the federal government to establish

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# Extra lane parked

Red Hill, Linc widening in neutral as council eyes other priorities

By Kevin Werner  
News Staff

Hamilton councillors have parked the idea of asking the federal government for millions of dollars to widen the Red Hill and Lincoln Alexander parkways.

Instead council referred Stoney Creek councillor Doug Conley's motion to examine the feasibility

of expanding both roadways to accommodate a growing Mountain residential housing boom and eliminate traffic slowdowns to the city's on-going transportation master plan review.

"We need to put the brakes on this," said Ward 4 councillor Sam Merulla, who backed constructing the Red Hill Parkway. "This is so 1950s. I'm not here to support this

redundancy. It doesn't meet the objective of the city's needs today."

Conley, who has been under pressure from upper Stoney Creek residents complaining about traffic jams along the Red Hill, introduced a motion at the Nov. 2 public works committee requesting a feasibility study that would examine the widening both parkways to

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### NEWS

## Duvall, Taylor to share office space

Federal, provincial Hamilton Mountain reps together. **pg. 13**

### BUSINESS



## Concession completed

Business district roadwork finished; praise for results of \$10-million project. **pg. 12**

### COMMUNITY

## Sherwood air is safe, says board

But former VP says asbestos was to have been resolved years ago. **pg. 4**

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## Council parks Linc expansion idea

From page 1

six lanes and to include it in the city's infrastructure priority list when city officials ask the federal government for funding. Hamilton council members are expecting to tap into the federal Liberal government's promised \$60 billion infrastructure funding that was announced during the recent election campaign.

Conley said both roadways were constructed with the understanding that they could be widened eventually. He said there are about 59,000 vehicles travelling per day along the parkways and it's taking longer to drive along them because of the congestion.

West Mountain councillor Terry Whitehead said a dialogue needs to start to talk about expanding both roadways to accommodate a growing Mountain population and service a booming industrial base. He said if traffic congestion isn't fixed along the roadway, "we may as well shut down the businesses."

"This is all about starting a discussion," said Whitehead.

He said if council supported spending \$1.2 billion in provincial money to build a new light-rail system for the downtown, then the city can examine widening two highways that accommodate residential and business needs.

"We are already exceeding the traffic model (of both parkways), said Whitehead.

Mayor Fred Eisenberger said expanding the parkways "wasn't on my priority list."

Other more pressing infrastructure issues for councillors include affordable housing, transit and fixing the city's older roads.

The mayor said the issue should be put in context of other infrastructure needs of the city.

Public works staff is already reviewing the city's traffic issues in its transportation master plan. A \$500,000 report, which includes information from public meetings held across the city, is scheduled to be presented to council next year.

The city's 2007 transportation master plan identified 2031 when the Red Hill and Lincoln Alexander parkways, along with Highway 403 and the Burlington Skyway, will have a "poor level of service" and be in need of improvements. The Lincoln Alexander Parkway opened in 1997, while the Red Hill opened in 2007.

Some councillors talked about how Hamilton taxpayers will be paying off the \$245 million cost of the roadways until 2026.

Eisenberger said if the city does widen the highways, it would mean adding capacity problems onto Highway 403, which the provincial government has not decided should be expanded.

Rough estimates by city staff have pegged the cost of widening the two parkways at upwards of \$100 million.

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