



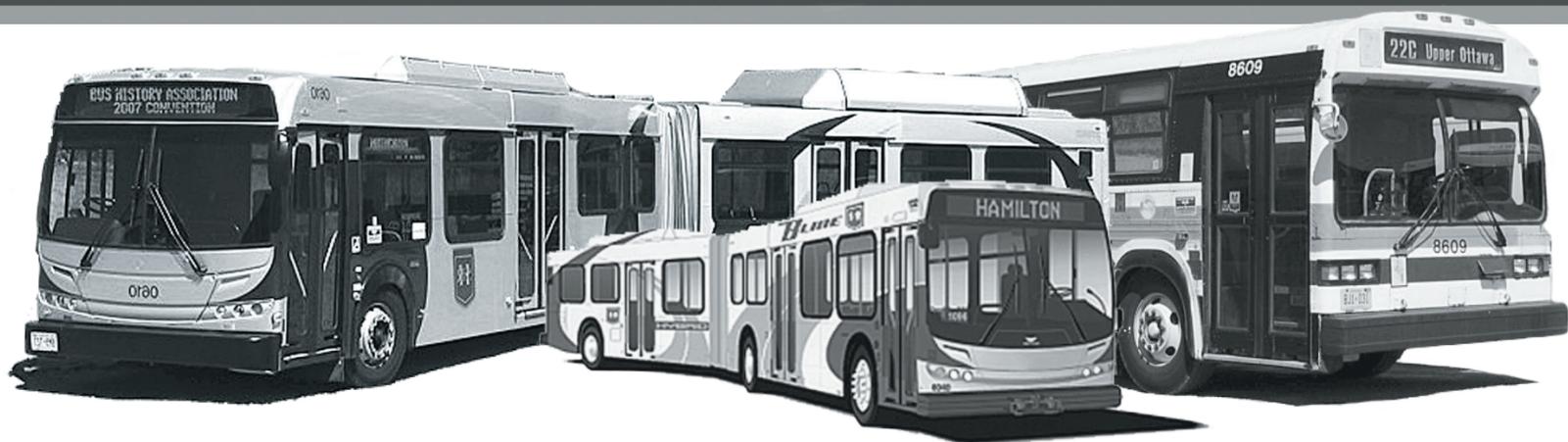
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President's Page



THE FUTURE OF TRANSIT ON CAMPUS

A series of changes to the public transit system could leave some students scrambling



Public transit in-and-around campus is a dynamic issue. Most recently, there has been growing concern stemming from

both the increase in bus fare and the perceived instability of transit routes around campus. The MSU has been involved with these discussions for some time now and I feel that the student body should understand some of the most important developments to creep up recently.

To begin, GO Transit attempted to remove half of the student body's commission revenue in recent contact negotiations. Fear not - they weren't successful, but we need to start thinking about how we're going to integrate GO Transit into the longer-

term transit scheme around campus. They already have a terminal, but there are rumblings about wanting to increase transit lines and capacity at McMaster. Such an event would indeed be a victory for McMaster students, but the question remains - who will shoulder the associated costs of these upgrades? I hope, as I'm sure you do as well, that the student body isn't called upon to 'do our part' when our part was accomplished long ago by consenting to our payment agreements.

On the local side of transit, just in case you haven't heard yet, bus fares in Hamilton are jumping up about 15 cents come January 1st, which means monthly passes - and our U-Pass by default - will see an increase in price next year. This is coupled with continuous discussion amongst university administration about removing buses from the core of campus altogether. So it is not unfair to

say that McMaster students are facing the potential situation wherein we will see increasing costs associated with the student U-Pass, alongside decreased accessibility to campus.

The problem of accessibility extends way beyond the need to get as close to campus as possible though, as hundreds of students rely on city buses to go to-and-from work. In a year where we've seen the highest rates of student unemployment over the summer, it is unfortunate that we have to fight for the basic requirement to go to-and-from our places of work, if we are even lucky enough have one. Transit must remain accessible and affordable to students if only because our livelihood depends on our ability to have an accessible campus and easy transport to our places of work.

All is not lost though. Our contract with the HSR is up for renewal next year and there are calls for a reduction

in price for the U-Pass. We can't forget the plan to remove buses from the core of campus though and in my mind it is the result of these discussions and negotiations that will directly impact the tone around the table when we negotiate next year's contract with the HSR. For a successful negotiation, the student body needs university administration to take discussions about a long-term transit solution seriously.

A real solution to the pending issues surrounding transit is one that will involve the university and the City of Hamilton, but in the end it is about what works best for students and their access to home, campus and work - otherwise known as the staples of university life.

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Video won't kill these radio stars

Poll shows that CFMU 93.3 is alive and kicking in MUSC B119



Last week, the MSU Elections department held an online survey asking the student body about how you felt about the way we conduct

our elections. One of the questions on the survey gauged what advertising methods students preferred. To our surprise, advertising on CFMU 93.3 beat out all of the traditional methods other than posters. That's huge.

CFMU 93.3 is your community radio, and why wouldn't you listen to it? There are shows for just about any taste and we offer something unique and different than traditional radio stations. The MSU Board of Directors have our

own show on CFMU 93.3 called "MSU & YOU", which airs live every Monday at noon. The four of us guys get together and talk about everything from "who would win in a fight between Martha Stewart and the Cookie Monster", to topics that actually affect you as students such as Student Financial Aid and the quality of education here at McMaster. We also talk about events that the MSU is hosting, as well as what's going on in the greater Hamilton community. Not to mention the guilty-pleasure songs that we throw into the mix.

Are you a budding artist or in a band? Do you need some airtime? It can be tough getting your name out and scoring gigs around the city. If you're a student here at Mac, we are more than willing to toss your track on the air and

provide you with an opportunity to get yourself heard. Just drop your CD (radio-edited, Attn: "MSU & YOU") at the MSU office, room 201 on the second floor of the Student Centre. Please attach your band's short bio to introduce you with and we'll play one of your songs on the show *and* plug your band the following week!

It's easy to tune into the Top 40 countdowns or listen to the same old crap on commercial radio, but there is always something new on CFMU 93.3. CFMU even acts as your destination for live Marauder athletics play-by-play. The next time you're listening to the radio, or you are sitting at the computer, tune into

93.3FM
or listen
online at cfmu.mcmaster.ca - It's your community, and this is your campus radio.

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CONGRATULATIONS WINNERS OF THE 2009 POP POLL

GRAND PRIZE - NETBOOK WITH WINDOWS 7
PAUL VANOOSTVEEN, *Engineering I*

GIFT CERTIFICATES
BASEL JARRAD, *Engineering IV*
SARAH MILNE, *Social Science IV*
TALIS BARBALHO, *Engineering III*

Thanks to all those who took the time to participate! We received over 2,000 responses, which offers significant insight into how students feel about MSU elections.

FOR THE FULL RESULTS, VISIT MSU.MCMASTER.CA/ELECTIONS

THE VOTES ARE IN

-  What is your most preferred method of voting?
71% of you said *Online*
-  What is the most effective way to advertise an MSU election?
58% of you said *Posters*
-  How long should an election campaign last?
51% of you said *One Week*
-  What are the best locations for election debates?
66% of you said *MUSC*
-  What is the biggest obstacle to voting?
52% of you said the *Lack of knowledge of candidates' platforms*
-  What would make MSU elections more accessible?
52% of you said *Provide an online option to cast your vote*