

**GO TRANSIT****Attention City/Assignment Editors:****GO and Ajax-Pickering Transit commuters celebrate Clean Air Day**

TORONTO, June 8, 2005 /CNW/ - GO Transit, the Ajax-Pickering Transit Authority, the City of Pickering, and Ontario Power Generation celebrated Clean Air Day today at Pickering GO Station by thanking commuters for their contribution to a cleaner environment. People arriving at the station during the morning rush hour were treated to music, free coffee and cookies, and other goodies.

Clean Air Day is a national sustainable transportation campaign in which transit systems across the country highlight the links between clean air, climate change, and sustainable transportation through local events and activities.

Residents in Ajax and Pickering -- and elsewhere -- can show their commitment to the environment by choosing to walk, bike, or ride public transit to work on Clean Air Day and every day.

Peter Smith, GO Transit Chairman, explained that "the choice to use public transit is helping Canada meet its commitments under the Kyoto Protocol. It's an opportunity to act locally to address a national global problem."

Although it is often overlooked, transportation is the fastest-growing source of greenhouse gas emissions and the single largest source of air pollution in Canada. "The problem is real and solutions exist," said Maurice Brenner, Ajax-Pickering Transit Authority Board Co-Chair and Pickering Regional Councillor. "A single bus can carry as many people as 40 to 50 cars. Residents can reduce emissions by changing their commuting habits."

People can make a major difference by riding transit. "These individuals are helping to combat pollution, smog, airborne emissions, and traffic congestion," said Pickering Mayor Dave Ryan. "As well, they are helping the 20 per cent of Canadians who suffer from respiratory problems to breathe easier."

"Each of us making one small change in our lifestyle will make a huge impact on our air quality," said Pat Brown, Ajax-Pickering Transit Authority Board Co-Chair and Ajax Councillor.

Clean Air Day is a national partnership of government and not-for-profit groups including the Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA), Environment Canada, Transport Canada, Natural Resources Canada, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Go for Green, and VIA Rail Canada.

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