



GRT switches fleet to diesel

REGION BRIEFS

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Grand River Transit (GRT) is getting rid of its fleet of natural gas buses.

The GRT will retire its 23 compressed natural gas buses and replace them with 23 clean diesel buses through a bus replacement program.

The natural gas buses are 12 years old and have become "increasingly unreliable", according to regional documents. Compared to diesel buses, the natural gas fleet has 20 per cent more on-road breakdowns and 25 per cent more reported defects. Natural gas buses are also 50 per cent more costly to maintain.

The fleet replacement will also lead to the dismantling of the natural gas fuelling station on Strasburg Road in Kitchener.

Region's population continues to grow

More than 6,500 moved into Waterloo Region last year, according to the region's annual population and household estimates report.

As of Dec. 31, 2007, the region's population estimate was at 515,600. And, unlike census population counts, that estimate includes full-time university and college students who are residing here.

The annual growth rate over 2006 represents an increase of 6,560 people, or a rate of 1.29 per cent.

The number of households increased by 3,020.