

TransLink is making a major investment in our transportation system to improve travel times, access and safety for both transit and road users.

Transit fares have increased and property taxes, fuel taxes and a regional parking tax will be used to help pay for transportation improvements,

On January 1st, monthly FareCard pass prices increased by approximately 10%, cash fares are 25 cents more for one and two-zone travel, and 50 cents more for three-zone travel.

However, FareSaver tickets, DayPasses and all fares for seniors and children have been FROZEN.

HandyDART customers are able to pay with FareSaver tickets for convenience and extra savings.

These prices will remain in effect for three years.

Expansion highlights

- **More frequent service to more areas. Increase bus service by 375,000 hours (an increase of 9.5%)**
- **New Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority Police Service.**
- **Replacement of old equipment and the purchase of additional buses for better service. Expand the bus and HandyDART fleet by 163 vehicles.**
- **Start work on two new rapid transit lines.**
- **New bridge access and major road improvements.**
- **Expand West Coast Express Park & Ride facilities at Maple Meadows Way and Port Coquitlam.**
- **Pay for rising operating and maintenance costs including labour, parts and fuel.**
- **Expand transit priority measures.**

For more information about service improvements and new fare prices, visit www.translink.bc.ca or call 604-953-3333

A man rushed into the doctor's office and shouted, "Doctor! I think I'm shrinking!" The doctor calmly responded, "Now settle down, You'll just have to be a little patient."

COMING EVENTS

Hastings Park Conservancy hosts monthly nature walks in the Sanctuary at Hastings Park. The first walk in 2005 will be on Saturday, Jan 8, at 10 am. Meet at the north-east corner of the Sanctuary for a walk that will last about 2 hours, rain or shine. Info: Virginia at 604-255-9458 ✓ Scottish Ceilidh Dance. Learn the easy social dances of Scotland to live music by 'Calanais' and guests. Fridays Jan 7 & 28 at the Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson St, Van. Lesson 7 pm, Dance 8-11. No partner required. \$8/6. Info: 604-436-3193 ✓ January is national Alzheimer Awareness Month. The story is changing for people in B.C. whose lives are affected by Alzheimer's disease. There is hope. For help or information, go to www.alzheimerbc.org or call toll-free 1-800-667-3742 ✓ Union Gospel Choir, Sat, Jan 15, 8 pm at the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts, 6450 Deer Lake Ave, Bby. Tx \$20. Proceeds to the MS Society of Canada, Lower Mainland Chapter. Rsvp: 604-205-3000 ✓ S.A.G.A. monthly art rental - an affordable way to have original paintings in your home or office. Special rental day, Jan 13, 2 to 5 & 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Surrey Art Centre, 13750-5564 Ave, in Bear Creek Park. Info: 604-501-5564 ✓ Antique and Collectible Toy, Doll & Bear Show, Sun, Feb 15, 10 am to 3 pm at the Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive at 16th Ave. Dinky, Matchbox, Hot Wheels, Meccano, Corgi, Artisan bears & dolls, Star Wars, Barbie, etc. Info: 604-214-0179 ✓ The Vancouver Burrard NDP Constituency Assoc will host the COUNTDOWN CABARET on Jan 13 at 8 pm in the Buffalo Club, 1161 Granville St, Vancouver. Doors open 7:30 pm. Show at 8 pm. Line up: Long John Baldry, Vancouver Raging Grannies, Vancouver Lesbian and Gay Choir, Christine D Best and the thin Men, a comedy troupe - Radio Edit and Bughouse 5 with our MC, Pussy Willow. Tx \$15 at Little Sister or \$20 at the door. Info: 604-687-1723 ✓ Confederation Centre is hosting a Flea Market, Sat, Jan, 15, 9:30 am to 2 pm. Free adm. Over 50 indoor tables of pre-loved merchandise. Confederation Centre is located at 4585 Albert Street, beside McGill Library ✓ Senior's Centre Tour of two Richmond Senior's Centres and Lunch. Lunch served at Minoru Place and refreshments at Southam Community Centre, March 16, 10 am to 3:15. \$15 ✓ Armchair Traveller. Sit back, relax and visit Expo 86 as James Lawrence takes you back to Vancouver on the world stage. Thurs, Jan 13. \$1.75 includes light refreshments. Confederation Centre, 4585 Albert St, beside McGill Library. Info: 294-1936 ✓ Confederation Centre Mini-bus trip to see the Trev Deeley Collection of 260 motorcycles, Jan 19, 10 am to 2 pm. \$5 for transportation and admission. Lunch at Hon's Wun-Tun House extra. Info: 294-1936 ✓ Join a naturalist on Thursday, January 20, for a walk and view the snowy owls along the shores of Boundary Bay. Then visit the Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Society Care Centre. The heaviest of North American owls, the Snowy Owl stands nearly half a metre tall, with a wingspan of almost 1.5 metres. Bus departs from the Richmond Nature Park at 9:30 am. Participants bring their own lunch. Phone 604 276-4300 or visit www.city.richmond.bc.ca to pre-register. Pre-registration is required. ✓ 21st Century Antiques Fair, Feb 20, 10 am to 3 pm at the Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive at 16th. Close to Broadway SkyTrain Station. Adm \$3. Children 12 & under free with an adult. 175 tables and booths of 19th & 20th Century Antiques and Collectibles under one roof.

BUZZER

THE

Published by TransLink, Friday, January 7, 2005

SkyTrain

SkyTrain at 19

Greetings from the staff of SkyTrain as we celebrate 19 years of service to our passengers and the community

Since opening day on January 3rd, 1986, SkyTrain has carried more than 700 million passengers – a queue that would encircle the globe nine times. And our fleet of 210 cars has accumulated more than 400 million kilometres of travel. We thank you for your patronage as we strive for continuous improvement to give you the best service possible.

Season's Greetings

SkyTrain Service Alert

Millennium Line Stations beginning Sat, Jan 22

SkyTrain will begin work to enhance the safety and security systems at a number of Millennium Line stations beginning January 22nd.

The work will take place five nights a week. Service will be affected after 7 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday nights, after 4 pm on Saturday and Sunday. Normal service will operate on Thursday and Friday nights.

The work is expected to take approximately four weeks. Crews will be working in the early evening through the night to complete the project as quickly as possible.

Expo Line operation will continue to run normally between Waterfront and King George Stations. Evening frequency may be slightly reduced to coordinate with Millennium Line operation.

Millennium Line trains will continue to operate to/from Waterfront Station, but passengers may be required to change trains once at a Millennium Line station, varying from night to night, depending on the location of the work.

Service frequency may be slightly reduced and trains may be held briefly at some stations. Please read platform destination signs, listen to announcements and follow directions provided by our staff. Every effort will be made to minimize delays and inconvenience to our passengers. We would like to thank you for your patience while this essential work is completed. Please watch for updated notices in stations, future issues of "The Buzzer" and details on the TransLink website at www.translink.bc.ca

A reminder that four New Community Shuttles are now servicing neighbourhoods

On Dec. 13, Coast Mountain Bus Company launched four new Community Shuttle routes, including the first new Community Shuttle on the North Shore. The neighbourhood-friendly minibuses connect passengers to local destinations, including downtown shopping districts, and to the regional transit network. The shuttles were introduced in the following neighbourhoods:

North Vancouver

The **C15** Community Shuttle serves the neighbourhoods of North Vancouver, East Seymour and Deep Cove and replaced the #215 conventional bus route. The C15 provides more frequent service and longer hours of operation than the conventional bus service. The C15 also offers transit service to a broader area, including extended service to Deep Cove and direct service to the Parkgate Community Centre during off-peak periods. The shuttle service operates seven days a week and runs every 15 minutes during peak times.

Yaletown

The #1 Beach/Burrard Station conventional bus route has been replaced with the **C21 Yaletown/Beach/Burrard Station and C23 Yaletown/Davie Community Shuttles**.

The #1 offered travel in one direction only with service every 15 minutes during peak times and no Sunday/Holiday service. In contrast, the new Community Shuttles operate in two directions with service every 10 minutes during peak times and the hours of operation include Sundays and Holidays.

Cambie/Richmond

A new Community Shuttle route called the **C96 East Cambie/Richmond Centre** provides direct service to the growing Crestwood employment area in Richmond and improves service coverage to residential neighbourhoods adjacent to Cambie Street. The shuttle service operates seven days a week and runs every 30 minutes during peak times.

A new look for SkyTrain Station Attendants

SkyTrain Station Attendants (STA's) are receiving new uniforms which will begin appearing over the next month. Why new uniforms?

Mostly to address customer concerns regarding the visibility of STA's. The current uniform jackets were unique when first introduced and had an easily identified colour. The colour is now very common for coats worn by the public.

The new uniforms will improve on existing ones by:

- Providing a distinctive look, thereby increasing visibility
- Adding to the STA's approachability and professionalism
- Being more functional and durable
- Reflecting the Skytrain logo colours of blue, yellow and white.

Additional benefits:

- The entire uniform will now be locally made.
- Uniform problems will be responded to more quickly
- Handling and ordering costs have been reduced.

We look forward to your comments on the new uniforms as we continue to work with the public to improve service

Our thanks ...

to those who took the time to participate in TransLink's recent fare change consultation published in The Buzzer. Your assistance was of great value.

The three winners of 3-zone FareCards were:

J. Dardiner of Vancouver
K. Gallant of Port Coquitlam
J. Poulin of Richmond

"The excellent is new forever" Ralph Waldo Emerson