

More New Year's Eve celebrants "don't take the keys" and choose transit



The number of people taking advantage of the Vancouver Regional Transit System's free New Year's Eve bus service increased from 115,000 in 1987/88 to 138,000 this year — a 20 per cent jump.

Buses, with over 80,000 passengers, again accounted for the majority of the free rides, but SeaBus and SkyTrain registered impressive gains . . . 58 per cent for SeaBus . . . 23 per cent for SkyTrain.

The Vancouver Regional Transit System provided additional service on a number of major bus routes and on SeaBus and SkyTrain.

People seldom think alike until it comes to buying wedding presents.

GVRD regional parks growing in popularity

Officials estimate that 3 million visits were made to the Lower Mainland's 15 regional parks in 1988. That's an all-time record and an almost 60 per cent increase since 1984.

Free classes for employed adults who speak English but have difficulty reading and writing. Provincial Government sponsored program. Phone Mary at XED Services Ltd. 660-0177.

Receipt for multi-zone bus fares

Whether or not you plan to transfer to another bus, SkyTrain or SeaBus, it's essential that you ask for a fare receipt/transfer when paying cash or a FareSaver ticket for a multi-zone, rush hour fare.

When you remain on the same bus for the entire trip, the fare receipt/transfer provides proof of payment when a fare check is conducted at a zone boundary.

Without this proof of payment you can be asked to pay an additional amount.

The Vancouver International Boat Show, Feb. 8-12 at B.C. Place Stadium. Take a bus to downtown Vancouver and walk to the Stadium, or take a local bus or SeaBus to SkyTrain and alight at Stadium Station. Handy and inexpensive.

ODDS & ENDS

Single Mom's Support. Positive Parenting: a few of the programs now accepting registrations at Family Services, New Westminster. Info: 525-9144. □ Armchair Traveller Series features a different country each Monday, 7:30-9:00 p.m. at West End Community Centre, 870 Denman. Non-members \$1. □ Collectors' Canada, an exhibition of more than 90 rarely seen works painted in Canada between 1835 and 1950. Vancouver Art Gallery. □ Diamonds Community Centre for the Retired offers access to fitness classes, crafts programs, bus trips, dances, etc. for \$8 a year. Info: 525-1671. □ Audience tickets for CBC's game show "Talk About", at CBC, 700 Hamilton. □ Entry forms now available for the Community Arts Council of Vancouver Annual Juried Exhibition, March 16-April 11. 837 Davie St. 683-4358. □ Want to be in the movies? Classes are offered by Burnaby School Board's Community Education Dept. 299-4361. □ Acoustic Connection Music & Cultural Society 1st Annual Winter Roots Music Festival. Feb. 9-12, Vancouver East Cultural Society, 1895 Venables. Info: 684-4022. □ Concert in aid of the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund in the Orpheum, Feb. 8, 8 p.m. Tickets at VTC. □ Applications now being accepted from performers who wish to appear in Vancouver's 10-day Fringe Festival. Sept. 8-17. First-come, first-served. Info: 873-3646. □ An exhibition of abstract landscapes by Vince Lorenzi, Jan. 29-Feb. 25 at the New Westminster Public Library Art Gallery, 716 - 6th Ave. □ Magee Secondary School annual Buffet Dinner and Big Band Dance, Feb. 10, 7 p.m.-1 a.m. Tickets: 263-4759. □ To reserve a table (only \$6) for Kensington Community Centre's next giant swap meet, contact Dee at 327-9401. □ Metropolitan Gas Theatre Company presents the White Tourist Co-op production of The Basement, written by Vancouver actress Meredith Bain Woodward, Wed.-Sat. 'til Feb. 11 at R.J. Christie's, 315 E. Broadway. Tickets \$6. Rsv: 737-0434. □ The People's Law School offers free classes on RRSP's, Immigration Law, Co-operative Housing, Landlord & Tenant Law, etc. For winter schedule phone 688-2565. □ SFU at Harbour Centre, 515 W. Hastings, offers courses on Business Writing, Strategic Communications, Technical Writing and Publishing. Info: 291-5100 or 291-5077. □ The 4th Conference of the Northern Justice Society will be held March 28-April 1 in Thompson, Manitoba. Information available from the Society C/O SFU, at 291-3792/4566. □ New classes in writing for theatre, television, and film begin at the New Play Centre in early February. Info: 685-6228. □ The Vancouver Woman's Musical Club presents the Vancouver Bach Children's Chorus at the Unitarian Church, 49th & Oak, Feb. 8 at 11 a.m. □ Canadian Composer R. Murray Schafer will give a lecture, "Music and Media", at the UBC School of Music, Feb. 6, 12:30 p.m. Adm. free. □ Chinese New Year celebrations, Feb. 4-20, at the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden, 578 Carrall St. □ The comic melodrama Zastrozzi at the Frederic Wood Theatre, Feb. 7-11 at 8 p.m. \$6. Rsv: 228-2678. □ Early Music Vancouver presents "The Whole Noyse": Wind of the Renaissance, Feb. 4 at 8 p.m., Recital Hall, UBC School of Music. \$10. Students/seniors \$6. VTC/TicketMaster outlets. □ A artist exhibition, Photographic Memory, at Presentation House Gallery, 1000 Chesterfield Ave., North Van., 'til Feb. 26. □ North Shore Community Concerts presents pianist Lincoln Mayorga, Jan. 29, 8:30 p.m., Centennial Theatre. Members only. Season memberships \$40, available at the concert. □ French Storytimes for 3 to 8-year-olds at North Vancouver City Library. Pre-register in person or by calling 980-4424. □ Oil Exploration in Charlottes, presentation-lecture, Feb. 6, 8 p.m., Robson Square Theatre. \$4.

*Sign outside an Arizona church:
"You think it's hot here?"*

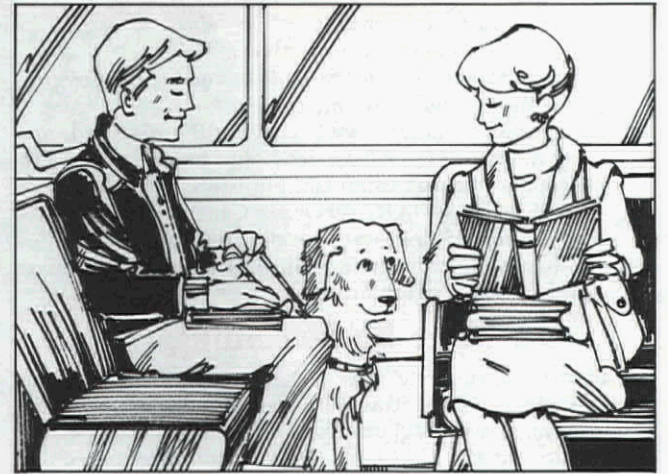
COMING EVENTS

Feb. 4 — Thrift Sale, Lutheran Church of Christ, 585 West 41st, 9-11 a.m.

Feb. 9 — Thrift Shop Sale, South Burnaby United, Rumble & Gray, 10:30-2:30. Clothing, housewares.

The Buzzer

85 new buses this year P3



New forward facing "Courtesy" seats

The first forward facing bus seats, on both sides of the aisle, are now being designated as additional "Courtesy" seats for seniors and disabled passengers.

These seats are particularly appropriate for blind and visually impaired passengers accompanied by dog guides. The dogs can crouch under the seat and stay safely out of the aisle. The CNIB has also asked that we remind other passengers that dog guides should never be petted or fed. Decals indicating the location of the new "Courtesy" seats are presently being installed on adjacent windows. We would appreciate your cooperation in seeing that those who would really benefit from the use of the seats have an opportunity to use them.

An additional \$34 million will improve transit services

A \$34 million program to improve transit services and upgrade capital equipment and facilities in Greater Vancouver, Greater Victoria and various B.C. communities was announced on January 9th by the minister responsible, the Honourable Rita M. Johnston.

The program has four basic objectives:

- (1) Increase transit service reliability and comfort by purchasing 63 new diesel buses;
- (2) Purchase 31 handyDART vans for the disabled, and expand handyDART service hours in Vancouver, Victoria and various small communities;
- (3) Provide handyDART service in Greater Vancouver for preschool children with special needs; and
- (4) Enhance the radio communications for the Vancouver and Victoria region buses.

More buses coming

BC Transit will order 68 new diesel buses for delivery this year. Of this number, 50 will be earmarked for the rapidly growing Vancouver Regional Transit System, 18 for Greater Victoria and other B.C. communities. **The minister noted that the 50 diesels earmarked for Greater Vancouver, will be in addition to the 35 currently on order.** "The introduction of 85 new buses for Greater Vancouver during 1989 will assist in both the capacity and the reliability of transit services for all riders."

"The Vancouver Regional Transit System is under considerable service pressure. Demands on transit services are escalating because of population growth, increased traffic flows, plus an expanding economy," said Johnston.

Greater Vancouver transit revenue passengers last year totalled 102 million. This year, the number is projected to be 106 million, an increase of 4.4 per cent.

Service for disabled expanded

The program provides for the purchase of 31 handyDART vehicles. Of these, 18 will be assigned to Greater Vancouver. The Vancouver handyDART system provides its 13,600 registered riders with an average of 35 rides per year, and the demand for service is growing. This new funding program



will permit an increase in the level of service from 208,000 hours in 1988 to 240,000 hours in 1989 — an increase of more than 15 per cent.

Young children who have special needs

Preschool children who have special needs will benefit through this announcement. handyDART services in the Lower Mainland are being expanded to provide regular transport for children aged three to six years. "Parents have asked for transit assistance in getting children to regional preschool program centres, and this expansion recognizes that need," said the minister. Service expansion will provide some 60,000 trips a year for preschoolers who have special needs. It will allow these children to get to program centres five days a week.

More bus radios

Last year the provincial government approved a \$1.2 million program to provide the initial basic structure for a radio communications system on Greater Vancouver buses. It includes remote transmitter stations, communications facilities and a variety of support equipment. The program announced recently will enable BC Transit to equip 445 buses with radios — just over half of the Lower Mainland fleet. In addition, all new buses will be equipped with radios. "Radios on buses will increase security for passengers and staff, act for a deterrent for vandals, and allow staff to call for medical assistance in the event of an on-board emergency," said the minister.



35 Classics on order

The 35 new diesel buses on order for the Vancouver Regional Transit System are MCI Classics and delivery is expected before mid-year. The additional 50 diesels are being put out to tender and should be delivered before year's end.

The Classic, then built by GM, was first introduced on Lower Mainland routes in mid-1987. It has an advanced design with 50 per cent more window area, double stream front and rear doors, power steering, quieter performance, tilt steering and more space for standees, particularly at the rear of the bus.

20 of the new Classics will also be specially equipped for hill climbing. With features that include a Detroit Diesel turbocharged engine, they can handle grades to 20 per cent, compared to the normal buses' 12 to 14 percent. These hillclimbers will improve service in Burnaby and North Vancouver.

The remaining 15 Classics will be specially equipped for suburban runs. Passengers travelling to and from Delta, White Rock and South Surrey will enjoy comfortable bucket seats and reading lights, and the convenience of rear exit doors.

MAGEE REUNION

Magee Secondary School will hold a 75th Anniversary Reunion, May 26 and 27. All former students and staff are invited. Phone Don Bain at 263-2321.