

Pilot installation

A SkyTrain ticket machine at Main Street Station is now accepting Visa Cash Cards

VanCity Credit Union is sponsoring a market trial of VISA Cash cards in Vancouver. BC Transit has become a partner with VanCity and VISA so that we can find out how our riders like this new way of purchasing transit tickets.

For this purpose, **one machine at one station, Main Street/ Science World SkyTrain Station**, has been retrofitted to accept VISA Cash Cards instead of cash and is now in service. Please be aware that regular credit cards won't work in the machine. VanCity VISA Cash cards have an embedded microchip with a stored value - at the moment they are available in \$20, \$25 and \$50 denominations. When a purchase is made, its value is transferred from the card to the appropriate retailer or service supplier.

Visa Cash cards are available at VanCity's Quebec & Terminal branch and their Station Square branch, located inside Save on Foods near Metrotown. They are accepted at the Apple Deli and City Stop Convenience Store (VanCity Centre), McDonald's at 1527 Main, Science World gift shop & cafeteria, Starbucks Coffee at Main & Terminal, Subway at 1109 Main, and at the following merchants in Station Square, near Metrotown: A&W, Heavenly Muffins, McDonald's Express, Starbucks Coffee and Tim Horton Donuts.

A Vancouver company, QI Technologies, developed the card reader for the transit ticket machine. SkyTrain, always a leader, is among the first transit systems in the world to offer payment by cash card.

The rat race isn't so bad if you're a big cheese

Bowl for Big Brothers this February and March

Last year over 4,000 bowlers from 186 companies participated to raise \$337,000 in pledges to establish and maintain matches between Big and Little Brothers. Call 876-2447

FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO GET THERE BY TRANSIT

TIMETABLES are available free of charge at public libraries, city and municipal halls, community centres, and the BC Transit Lost Property Office at Stadium Station. **TRANSIT GUIDES** offer a map, a listing of all routes, and fare information. They're available at Safeways, 7-Elevens, SkyTrain station convenience shops and most FareDealers for a small charge. **THE YELLOW PAGES** show a route map, a list of bus routes and fare information. **INFORMATION BY TELEPHONE:** 521-0400. West Vancouver 985-7777, or call Talking Yellow Pages: 299-9000, #2233.

COMING EVENTS

An appreciation of Peking Opera. In preparation for the performance of *The True and False Monkey King* to be given by the Shenyang Peking Opera Company, Feb 21, 22 and 23 in Vancouver, a free multi-media introduction will be presented Jan 31, 7-8:30 pm at SFU Harbour Centre. Reservations: 291-5118 or 291-5112. Fax 291-5112 ✓ Norma Hawkins will read from her book *Chokecherry*, a story set in a small prairie town, on Jan 28, 2 pm at King George High School, 1755 Barclay, and Feb 11, 7 pm at Dunbar Library. Adm free ✓ The Surrey Art Gallery is offering *An Introduction to Marketing your Art* for visual artists, designers and craftspeople, Feb 8, 10 am to 4 pm. Fee: \$60. Lunch extra. Register by Feb 2 at 501-5566 ✓ Introduction to the Internet at the Central Library: free live demonstrations Feb 8, Feb 22 and Mar 22 at 10:30 am, 1:30 and 3:30 pm. Also on Feb 1, Mar 8 and Mar 15 at 10:30 am. Demonstrations available at the Renfrew branch on Jan 25 and at the Oakridge branch on Mar 1. Both at 1:30 pm. Phone 331-3746 to register ✓ The Deep Cove Cultural Society presents an evening with Long John Baldry and guitarist Tony Robertson, Jan 24 & 25, 8 pm, Deep Cove Shaw Theatre. Tx \$14. 929-9456 ✓ The Fraser Valley Gilbert & Sullivan Society is looking for artistic directors, choreographers and producers for *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* (Fall '97) and *HMS Pinafore* (Spring '98). Submit resume by Jan 31 to the Society at P.O.Box 162, Surrey, B.C. V3T 4W8 ✓ The Fraser Valley Gilbert & Sullivan Society will be presenting *The Mikado*, May 22-31, 1997 at the Surrey Arts Centre. Auditions for singers, dancers and principals will be held Jan 14, 16 & 19, 7:30-10 pm, St. Cuthbert's Church, 11601-82nd Ave, North Delta. Info: Denny O'Donovan at 536-7983 ✓ Bring your bag lunch and network with other business people at *Food for Thought*. Lunches at a different location each weekday. Drop-in fee \$5. Info: 669-0209 ✓ The Surrey Art Gallery is sponsoring a coach trip to Seattle's ArtFair, Feb 22, 9 am to 9 pm. \$40. Adm and lunch extra. Register at 501-5566 by Feb 16 ✓ The People's Law School, now in its 25th year, provides free legal classes on a wide number of subjects at locations throughout the region. Topics range from *Buying a Franchise* to *Seniors' Benefits and Mortgage Matters*. For information call 331-5412. Fax 331-5401 ✓ Richmond Art Gallery presents exhibitions by Brian Grison and Marcus Bowcott 'til Feb 17. Workshops by Grison Feb 8 and Bowcott Feb 15 ✓ The Community Arts Council of Vancouver Gallery presents *mixed media hand made paper works* by Hye Sun Baik and *mixed media works* by Tyler Hodgins, 'til Feb 8. 837 Davie. Adm free. ✓ *Family Good Luck Day*, Feb 9, 10 am to 4:30 pm, at Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden. Stories and folklore, divination with joss sticks, music, painting, calligraphy, Nia the people-eating monster, etc. Adm free. ✓ Metro Theatre presents the English thriller, *Murder with Love*, Wed-Sat 'til Feb 8. Rsv: 266-7191 ✓ Antique Identification Clinic, Jan 25, 1-3:30 pm, Richmond Cultural Centre, 7700 Minoru Gate. Limit of 2 objects per person. Fee: \$5. ✓ Richmond Museum *Volunteer Docent Training Program*, Thursdays, 10 am-noon 'til June 5. Info: 231-6457.

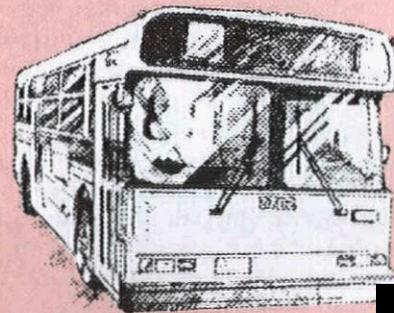
Feb 6 - Thrift Shop Sale, South 10-2. Housewares, clothing, books Burnaby United, Rimble & Gray,

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BUZZER

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Sorry for the inconvenience

Things are improving but in the meantime please check before leaving your home or workplace for

information on peak service cancellations

See pages 3 & 4

Suburban commuter (Express) services have limited-stopping procedures

Don't get carried away - find out where you can get off before boarding

Before boarding an unfamiliar limited-stop commuter bus, please check the timetable or phone transit information for detailed stopping information.

Suburban commuter services with route number 101 or higher, provide local service within their suburban service areas and limited-stop service within Vancouver. For example, after crossing the Oak Street Bridge, the stops for Vancouver-bound services, such as the #401, 403, 406 and 407 from Richmond are for **drop-off only** and are limited to Marine at Oak and Hudson, Granville at 64th Ave, 49th Ave, 41st Ave, King Edward, Broadway, Bridge approach, Seymour at Davie and then all regular bus stops to the terminus.

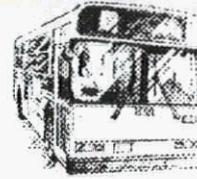
The reverse is true as suburban-bound services head back to the Oak Street Bridge. They stop at the same limited number of stops in Vancouver but for **pick-up only**. Those planning to get off at a Vancouver stop should take a local bus.

Limited-stop service also applies on some specialized routes: #10 Hastings Express, #22 Macdonald Express, #32 Downtown/Dunbar Loop, #85 UBC. The #99 B-Line also provides limited-stop service but unlike the others, passengers can board or alight at any B-Line stop.

Please understand that in order to do their intended job, these services cannot make unscheduled stops.

Timetables carrying detailed stopping information are available at public libraries, city and municipal halls, community centres, Travel InfoCentres, chambers of commerce and the BC Transit Lost Property Office at Stadium Station. The Transit Information number is 521-0400. For Vancouver Blue Buses, 985-7777.

Volunteers required for Chinese New Year Festival, Jan 30 to Feb 2 at the Plaza of Nations and Concord Pacific Place. Volunteer areas: Ticket sellers, Set up, Tear down, Security, Traffic Control. Phone Ros or Beth at 687-3549, fax: 687-4746. e-mail: 75100.1500@compuserve.com



Check before leaving your home or workplace

Information is available on peak-period service cancellations

Over the past few weeks, BC Transit has had to cancel a number of morning and afternoon peak-period bus trips because a larger than usual number of buses have been out of service for maintenance and repairs. When forced to cancel regularly scheduled service, we attempt to minimize the impact on customers by cancelling trips where an alternative service exists or where another bus follows shortly. Nonetheless, some customers have been subjected to overcrowding and longer waits. We apologize for the inconvenience. Your patience is greatly appreciated in this temporary situation.

The current bus shortage and the resulting service cancellations are expected to decline steadily in the next few weeks. In the meantime, please take advantage of regularly updated information regarding peak-period trip cancellations.

Call Talking Yellow Pages: phone 299-9000, code 2233, option 1 for morning and afternoon service cancellation updates.

For a listing of cancellations in individual areas, then: PRESS 1 for Vancouver/Richmond/South Delta. PRESS 2 for Surrey/North Delta/White Rock/Langley/Aldergrove

PRESS 3 for Burnaby/New Westminster.

PRESS 4 for Coquitlam/Port Coquitlam/Port Moody/Pitt Meadows/Maple Ridge.

PRESS 5 for North Vancouver.

Visit the BC Transit website on the Internet

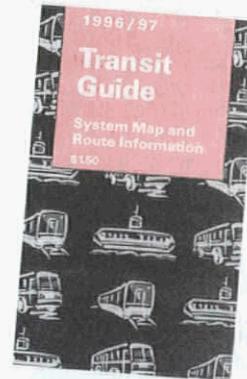
at www.bctransit.com/news/flash.htm

Information on cancelled trips is updated daily for both the morning and afternoon rush hours.

Newspaper ads. Watch for trip cancellation information in daily and local newspapers.

Use a Transit Guide to plan trips throughout the Vancouver Regional Transit System

The Transit Guide offers a large system-wide route map together with a listing of bus routes and service frequencies. There are also detailed schedules for SkyTrain and SeaBus, information on cash fares, prepaid fares, fare zones and a list of many local attractions that can be reached by transit. Transit Guides are available at Safeways, 7-Elevens, convenience shops and FareDealers for only \$1.50.



#501 trip becomes #590

The 3:09 pm trip from Surrey Central Station that formerly left as a #501 Langley South (local bus), Monday to Friday, now operates as a #590 Langley South (Express).

Winner of the Grizzlies tickets

The first correct answer drawn for the pair of tickets to the January 28 Chicago game at GM Place, was submitted by Mike Parr of Langley. The answer was: Steals, Shooting Guard, Rebounds, Assists, Fouls, Freethrows, Points, Blocks, Point Guard, Baskets, Three-pointers, Slam Dunk. Congratulations to the winner and our thanks to all those who entered.

Bad spellers of the world unite