

More can now enjoy the convenience of NightBus service

Coast Mountain Bus Company has now completed the expansion of late-night transit services with the launch of four new **NightBus routes**. For the first time, North Vancouver residents have access to NightBus service and the service will also be expanded to Lougheed Mall. The four new routes are: **the N9** connecting downtown Vancouver and Lougheed SkyTrain Station; **the N16** connecting Hastings Street and Kingsway along Renfrew Street; **the N22** connecting downtown Vancouver and the MacDonald-Dunbar neighbourhood; and **the N24** connecting downtown Vancouver and the Upper Lonsdale area of North Vancouver. NightBus service already operates on eight other major routes. Effective Dec. 13, all 12 NightBus routes began operating on Sundays, meaning the service runs seven nights a week. The routes operate approximately every 30 minutes from Monday through Sunday until approximately 3:10 a.m.

New route #430 connects Richmond and Burnaby

Effective Dec. 13, Coast Mountain Bus Company introduced a major new bus route that connects Richmond City Centre and Metrotown Station in Burnaby. The #430 makes it easier for commuters to travel between Richmond and Burnaby and saves travel time for students travelling to the Richmond campus of Kwantlen University College. Transit customers are able to reach major shopping facilities in both cities and Richmond residents have easier access to the SkyTrain system that serves Greater Vancouver. The route offers 30-minute service during peak times and 60-minute service during non-peak times, Monday through Saturday.

New Community Shuttles service neighbourhoods

Effective 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 are being introduced in the following neighbourhoods:

North Vancouver

The **C15** Community Shuttle serves the neighbourhoods of North Vancouver, East Seymour and Deep Cove and replaces 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

Coast Mountain Bus Company has introduced Community Shuttle service to the downtown peninsula. 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** offers 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.

Overall, the introduction of the Millennium Line and the three-year expansion of the bus service have resulted in a 14.5 percent increase in the amount of transit service available to Greater Vancouver residents compared with 2001. These changes are all part of a broader strategy to create an integrated regional transportation system offering greater freedom and flexibility to our customers.

For complete information on all routes and services, visit TransLink's website at www.translinkbc.ca or call TransLink Customer Service at 604-953-3333

COMING EVENTS

Don't miss the Richmond International Midget Hockey Tournament being held at two rinks during the week Dec 27 to 31. Richmond Ice Centre, 14140 Triangle Road, and at Minoru Arenas, 7551 Minoru Gate. ✓ 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 ✓ Scottish Ceilidh. Learn the easy social dances of Scotland to live music by "Calanais" and guests. Jan 7 and 28 at the Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson St, Vancouver. Lesson 7 pm. Dance 8-11. No partner required. Info: 604-436-3193 ✓ 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 Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged), an outrageous abbreviation of the Bard's plays, his comedies condensed to a single short sketch and his tragedies unmercifully spoofed, 'til-Jan 8 at the Arts Club Theatre. Give the gift of theatre this year from under \$25 per person. ✓ Tree of Memories. The City of Coquitlam is offering a Tree of Memories for those who have friends and family members who have passed on. The tree is located at the cemetery, 621 Robinson, corner of Foster Ave. You are welcome to drop by during daylight hours until Jan 4, 2005 and place ornaments. ✓ The Kinsmen Club of Richmond, the Richmond Firefighters Society, the Richmond Nature Park and the City of Richmond present "Nature Comes to Light" a holiday celebration, 5:30-9:30 pm 'til December 30 (Closed Dec 24 & 25) at Richmond Nature Park. Over 150,000 lights illuminate the pond and highlight the whimsical antics of animals in winter. Warm up with hot chocolate and a cookie while you enjoy the evening's entertainment ✓ 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

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TransLink's stress-free holiday transit services

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TransLink will be working hard throughout the holidays to make travel easier and safer for transit riders throughout the Lower Mainland

New Transit Fares as of January 1st, 2005

CHRISTMAS EVE

Transit services will run on regular weekday schedules on Friday, December 24 with the following exceptions:

- Early departures by West Coast Express, leaving Waterfront Station at 1 pm, 3 pm, 4:20 pm, 5:30 pm and 6:20 pm.

CHRISTMAS DAY & BOXING DAY

Transit services will operate according to Sunday/Holiday schedules on Saturday, December 25 and Sunday, December 26 with some augmented services on December 26.

Adjusted services for December 25-26 as follows:

- Eastbound SkyTrain service from Waterfront Station will begin 30 minutes earlier on December 26, leaving Waterfront at 7:20 a.m. and extra trains will be in operation to accommodate Boxing Day shoppers.
- HandyDART operations will be for essential services on December 25.
- West Coast Express and Bowen Island Community Transit will not operate on Dec 25 & 26.

December 27-28

Regular fares will apply on these days.

Transit services will operate on regular weekly schedules with the following exceptions:

- SkyTrain frequency will be reduced slightly during rush hour due to lighter loads.
 - Reduced service by West Coast Express, leaving Mission at 5:27, 6:27 and 7:27 am, and Waterfront Station at 4:20, 5:30 and 6:20 pm.
- TrainBus will run in the morning and afternoon as normal.

Free Service from 5 pm, New Year's Eve

TransLink will once again play the role of designated driver on New Year's Eve. This free service, first introduced in 1979, will again provide safe journeys for party goers into the early hours of the New Year. **All Coast Mountain and West Vancouver Blue Buses, SkyTrain, SeaBus, Community Shuttle services, West Coast Express and HandyDART will offer a fare-free evening from 5:00 pm, December 31 until regular fares start again at 5:00 am, January 1.** So make an early resolution to leave the car at home and have a safe journey by transit.

• SkyTrain will run extra trains and schedules will be extended by one hour

The last inbound train to Waterfront Station will leave King George at 1:43 am, arriving at 2:22 am. The last outbound train from Waterfront Station will leave at 2:20 am and arrive at King George at 2:59 am. This train will allow passengers to transfer at Broadway Station in time to catch the last Millennium line train leaving Commercial Drive Station at 2:35 am eastbound to Lougheed Town Centre.

• Major routes on Coast Mountain Bus Company schedules will be extended to meet final SkyTrains.

• **In addition**, 12 NightBus routes will offer service from downtown Vancouver until approximately 3:10 am. Coast Mountain will have a number of overload buses and Community Shuttle minibuses available to handle extra capacity as needed.

• **West Vancouver Blue Bus service** will operate from Vancouver until 2:10 am.

• **SeaBus** will be sailing every 15 minutes until half-past midnight from Waterfront and then every 30 minutes at quarter to and quarter past the hour until the final departure at 2:16 am from Waterfront. The last sailing from Waterfront Terminal is at 2:16 am.

• **West Coast Express** will depart early, leaving Waterfront Station at 1 pm, 3 pm, 4:20 pm, 5:30 pm, and 6:22 pm.

Albion Ferry will operate regular service, augmented after 1:30 am if necessary.

Due to First Night Celebrations, some downtown blocks will be closed from 5 pm onwards. Georgia Street will be closed from Homer to Beatty Streets. Homer, Hamilton and Cambie Streets will be closed between Dunsmuir and Robson Streets. As a result, the following bus routes will be temporarily re-routed: 240, 241, 246, 247, N24, 17, N17.

For additional information about routes and schedules, customers can visit www.translink.bc.ca or call TransLink Customer Service at 604-953-3333. To get the best service, it would be prudent to visit the website well in advance of travel.

New Year's Day

Transit services will operate according to Sunday/Holiday schedules on January 1, 2005

January 3:

Regular fares will apply on this day.

Transit services will run on regular weekday schedules with the following exception:

- Reduced service by West Coast Express, leaving Mission at 5:27, 6:27 and 7:27 am, and Waterfront Station at 4:20, 5:30 and 6:20 pm.

For additional information on routes and schedules, you can visit www.translink.bc.ca or call TransLink Customer Service at 604-953-3333

SkyTrain at 19

Season's 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.

More service. More security.

TransLink is making a major investment in our transportation system over the coming years to improve travel times, access and safety for both transit and road users. Transit fares and property tax will rise next year to help pay for transportation improvements.

Effective January 1st, monthly adult FareCard pass prices will increase by approximately 10%, to \$69, \$95 and \$130. The Concession Card will still be \$40.

Adult cash fares will be 25 cents more for one and two-zone travel, and 50 cents more for three-zone travel.

However, the cost of

FareSaver tickets, DayPasses and all fares for seniors and children will be frozen. HandyDART customers will be able to pay with FareSaver tickets for convenience and extra savings.

These prices will remain in effect for three years.

Major Expansion Highlights:

- More frequent service to more areas
- New Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority Police Service
- Replacing old equipment and buying additional buses
- Starting work on two new rapid transit lines
- More HandyDART service
- Expanding U-Pass
- New bridge access and major road improvements

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

*Season's Greetings
Happy New Year*