

## Please follow your small child when leaving a bus by the rear doors

What often happens is that a parent will get off the bus and then turn to assist the child, but by then the doors, with a three second delay, are already closing on the child and the child doesn't have the weight to activate the pressure switch, the size to disrupt the light beam or the skills to push the handles for activation of the rear doors.

The child screams, the parent is upset and the driver may move back to help, but by then the sensitive edge has opened and closed one more time on the child and the driver may be blamed.

The way to eliminate this problem, of course, is for the parent to **follow** the child and the technique used by the parent will depend on whether they are riding on a low-floor bus or a regular bus with several steps.

**The low floor bus** has a narrow horizontal light beam inside the rear doorway, almost a foot above the floor. The idea is that when the bus is stopped and the lightbeam is interrupted the doors will open. But young children often find it difficult to stand in the right position to interrupt the narrow beam. However, these doors also have long Vertical Touch bars installed on the inside. An adult standing **behind** the child, can open the doors and hold them open by pushing and holding a Touch Bar, while the child descends.

**The regular bus's rear door with several steps** doesn't depend on a light beam or doors with Touch Bars. The doors simply open and stay open at stops when someone sufficiently heavy stands on the steps. To help a small child get off a regular bus like this, the child should be helped to descend from the bus first while the parent stands on the lower step.

Transit schedules are now on line anytime

[www.translink.bc.ca](http://www.translink.bc.ca)

## COMING EVENTS

Renfrew United Church Hall Spring Event, Saturday, May 1, 11 am to 3 pm. Crafts, Sewing, & White Elephant Sale. Lunch \$5. 2855 East 1st Ave ✓ Enjoy a glittering spectacle of music and theatre featuring Dia, host Ed "Stoneface" Sullivan, dancers, and a choir celebrating the ballads of Patsy Cline at Chandos Pattison Auditorium in Surrey, Monday, May 3, 8 pm. All money raised from ticket sales will go directly to supporting the programs and services at Surrey Memorial Hospital. Call 604-280-4444 ✓ An exhibition of 50 original drawings, prints & paintings by Ted Harrison at the Artists for Kids Gallery, 810 West 21st St, North Vancouver 'til May 8. Adm by donation ✓ Citizens' Pet Population Control Soc. Bazaar/Tea, May 1, 11 am-3 pm at Victoria Drive Community Hall, 2026 East 43rd. Baking, bargains, raffles, plants, etc. Adm free ✓ Birding in Richmond, May 15 & June 19, 9 to 10 am. Join a naturalist at Terra Nova West parking lot at 9 am. Bring binoculars and dress for the weather. Suitable for novices 13 plus. Free ✓ Ladies Aux Branch #16, Royal Canadian Legion Bazaar, May 12, 1-3 pm. Food available at noon. Home baking, raffles, Bake Walk, Bingo. 727 East 49th Ave ✓ St. Philip's Fall Rummage Sale, Sat, May 8, 9 am to noon. 3737, West 27th Ave. Lots of good stuff ✓ Springfest Garage Sale & Raffle, Sat, May 1, 10 am to 2 pm at Holy Trinity Cathedral, 514 Carnarvon St, New Westminster. ✓ Garage Sale at Martin Luther Church, 505 East 46th Ave, Van, Sat, May 1, 9 am to 1 pm ✓ Marble and wood figurative sculptures by Valeri Sokolovski at Surrey Art Gallery 'til June 13. ✓ St. Augustine's Anglican Church invites you to its annual spring fair Friday, Apr 30, 6 to 8 pm with full-course ham dinner. Sat May 1, 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. with lunch. Visit bottle booth, crafts, silent auction, thrift store, home baking stand. 8680 Hudson, Van. (Marpole area) ✓ 20 Years of Writing: An evening with Paul Yee at Hycroft, 1489 MacRae Ave, May 6, 7 pm. Adm free. Refreshments served. Since 1983 Paul has published 13 books and several stories. His latest book, A Song of Ba, will be introduced ✓ The Federation of Canadian Artists presents its Juried Group Art Show at the Surrey Arts Centre 'til May 31, 88 Ave at King George Hwy in Bear Creek Park. Adm free ✓ Does public speaking stress you out? Positive Thinkers Toastmasters can help you master the art with opportunities to practise, learn and have fun. Tuesdays, 7:30 to 9:30 pm, BC Hydro Building, 333 Dunsmuir St. Call Debbie at 604-876-3542 ✓ The H.R. MacMillan Space Centre hosts The Canadian National Marsville Program, a cross-curricular program where students use a Mars theme to work on subject areas in science, math, technology, communications, humanities and social sciences. ✓ 21st Century Antiques Fair with 150 tables and booths of 19th & 20th Century antiques and collectibles. Sunday, June 6, 10 am to 3 pm. Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive at 16th Ave. Vancouver. Adm \$3. Free parking. Cafe & snack bar ✓ Ladies Auxiliary Royal Canadian Legion Spring Tea, 3249 Kingsway, Vancouver. Sat, May 29, 12:30 to 3 pm. \$3. Baking, crafts, games & fun ✓ Thrift Shop closing for summer sale, South Burnaby United, Rumble & Gray, 10 am to 2 pm. Clothing, housewares, books, toys, etc.

*"The excellent is new forever"* Ralph Waldo Emerson

### GRADPASS: Two days free travel for grads

Compliments of TransLink, graduating Grade 12 students can enjoy two days of free travel between May 15 and June 30.

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# BUZZER

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## Upcoming changes for The Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority Police announced

BC's Solicitor General, Rich Coleman, announced on April 23 that the government is enhancing public safety along SkyTrain routes by increasing the powers of TransLink's Special Provincial Constables who patrol the public transit system.

The new policing unit will provide our special provincial constables with increased authority to deal with criminals.

Currently, Special Provincial Constables can only enforce minor offences like fare evasion, liquor problems and assaults. The new designation will provide the officers with the authority to enforce drug laws, execute outstanding warrants and arrest people who commit crimes outside of a SkyTrain station.

The new unit is being set up under the Police Act. The 77 officers will report to a board of police chiefs from municipalities along the SkyTrain route. Officers will wear a "Police" shoulder patch to clearly establish their authority. The new police will be operating by the end of this year.



# New ways to pay

## Purchase tickets with credit or debit cards

**Credit Card and debit card acceptance is being added to all Ticket Vending Machines (TVM's) at SkyTrain and SeaBus over the coming months to provide customers with an alternative way of purchasing tickets.**

- All six machines at Waterfront Cordova Street Concourse were retrofitted and activated April 15.

## The Amazing Urban Race 2004 postponed to June 5, 8 am to 8 pm

The organizers of this unique event tell us that unforeseen circumstances have made it necessary to move it back from May 1 (as listed in the last Buzzer) to June 5. It's a Dry Grad fund raiser for Johnston Heights Secondary School.

Based on the Emmy Award winning TV series, this mini version of the Amazing Race pits teams of four against each other. Teams will need to use wit and will to solve clues and find secret destinations in order to be the first

• The remainder of the system is being retrofitted upon a successful trial experience at Waterfront, commencing with Millennium Line (Sapperton to Commercial Drive), followed by Expo Line and SeaBus.

### Cards Accepted:

- TransLink will accept MasterCard and Visa credit cards, and Canadian bank debit cards that bear the Interac symbol.
- American Express, Discover or Diners Club cards are **not** accepted.
- Foreign, including U.S. cards bearing the Visa or MasterCard logo are accepted as credit cards only. *Only Canadian debit cards can be used.*
- TransLink does not charge a transaction fee. Your bank or financial institution may charge fees per your credit or debit card agreement.

### The Purchase Process:

- Start by selecting a ticket, then select credit or debit. After that, follow instructions on the screen. When making a debit card transaction, you will also need to follow instructions on the PIN pad. Always protect your PIN number. Always have cash as an option.
- Buying more than one ticket at a time? Use the "Multiple Fares" button. Tickets will still expire as for cash payment (single-trip tickets in 90 minutes; DayPasses at the end of the current day's service).
- Monthly Passes can **not** presently be purchased from a machine. This service may be added later.
- After making your purchase you may ask for a receipt. This receipt is not valid for travel.

to cross the lower mainland and the finish line after a 12 hour trek.

Team members must be no younger than 13 years of age and must have at least one adult of 18 years or older. All adults teams are allowed. In order to register, each team must collect a total of \$400 in pledges and complete all registration forms and waivers. Cash prizes will go to the first, second and third place teams, with other prizes to be announced.

To get further information, please e-mail: [amazingurbanrace@hotmail.com](mailto:amazingurbanrace@hotmail.com)

Please include a name, address and phone number.

# SkyTrain

## SkyTrain Saturday morning track maintenance

As detailed in the last issue, scheduled track maintenance will affect SkyTrain service on Saturday mornings from start of service until approximately 10 am every week until mid-July.

Millennium Line passengers change trains at either Columbia or Broadway/Commercial.

Reduced frequency on the Expo Line between Waterfront and King George.

Some additional trains will operate between Waterfront and Metrotown.

Please allow an extra 10 to 15 minutes for your trip, watch for signs, listen for announcements. Thanks for your patience and cooperation.

### #640 Tsawwassen Ferry/Scott Road Station

Since April 26, the #640 has operated on its regular route from Scott Road Station to Ladner Exchange where it now terminates. Please check public timetables or the web page for increased frequency of service, and new revised routing into the Tilbury Industrial Park on some trips.

### #620 Tsawwassen Ferry/Airport Station

Since April 26 a new #620 Tsawwassen Ferry/Airport Station service has operated between Tsawwassen Ferry Terminal, Ladner Exchange and Airport Station. Please consult public timetables or web page for route details.

### Fast on their feet, too

We're pleased to announce that TransLink won its Corporate Team Division (Transportation) in the Sun Run, April 18.

*Congratulations*

### Did you know?

*that Vancouver hired its first two women police officers on July 9, 1912*