

## Improved residential bus services to take effect April 25

Transit customers in Coquitlam-Port Coquitlam and North Vancouver will enjoy improved bus services, effective April 25. The improvements are part of the annual spring service changes. Every April, TransLink and Coast Mountain Bus Co. add transit services where needed and modify existing services to meet the travelling requirements of customers.

### Two new bus routes to be launched in Coquitlam-Port Coquitlam

Among the new services being introduced this April are two peak-period conventional bus routes that will provide Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam residents with a direct connection to the West Coast Express commuter rail service and regional bus service operating out of Coquitlam Station.

Effective April 25, the 179 Johnson/Coquitlam Station will offer peak-period service between the Johnson-Panorama neighbourhoods of Coquitlam and Coquitlam Station, while the 189 Coast Meridian/Coquitlam Station will provide peak-period service between the Coast Meridian-Prairie neighbourhoods of Port Coquitlam and Coquitlam Station. These conventional bus routes will enhance the existing Community Shuttle service and will operate weekdays, every 30 minutes, during morning and afternoon peak times.

### More Community Shuttles coming to North Vancouver

TransLink and the Coast Mountain Bus Co. are introducing Community Shuttle minibuses to improve transit service in the Blueridge neighbourhood of North Vancouver. Effective April 25, Community Shuttles will replace conventional buses during off-peak hours on the #214 Blueridge/Phibbs Exchange route. Off-peak hours include midday and evenings, Monday to Friday, and all day Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

The smaller, more neighbourhood-friendly buses will run more frequently. Currently, the #214 runs every 60 minutes during off-peak hours. The Community Shuttles will run every 30 minutes during those hours. Conventional 40-foot buses will still be used during peak periods to accommodate the higher ridership.

For additional information on the April transit service changes, customers can go to the TransLink website at [www.translink.bc.ca](http://www.translink.bc.ca) or call TransLink Customer Information at 604-953-3333.

### Adidas Vancouver International Marathon - Sunday May 1<sup>st</sup>

With more than 10,000 participants expected in a range of races and events at this year's Adidas Vancouver International Marathon, SkyTrain will start service **90 minutes early** on Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. First train will leave King George at 5:38 am. First trains from Lougheed at 5:45 am, getting runners and volunteers to Stadium Station by 6:15 am. Please note that other transit services, including connecting bus routes, will be operating on regular Sunday schedules. For race and event information, check [www.adidasvanmarathon.ca](http://www.adidasvanmarathon.ca) or call (604) 872-2928.

*Everything comes to him who hustles while he waits*

## COMING EVENTS

The Old Hastings Mill Store, 1575 Alma at Point Grey Road in Vancouver, is now open for the season. Saturdays, Sundays, 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Take the #4 or #7 bus to 4th & Alma, then walk north 4 blocks ✓ Mini-Trains are now offering rides on weekends, 11 am to 5 pm. on a 2-mile track at 120 North Willingdon Ave. Rides \$2.50 each. Station phone 604-291-0922 ✓ Giant Thrift Sale - 2 Days - 2 Buildings. Fri, Apr 22, 6-9 pm. Sat, Apr 23, 9:30-noon, Ryerson United Church, 2195 West 45th Ave, Vancouver ✓ April has arrived and with it the 10th Annual International Noise Awareness Day, April 20. The Right to Quiet Society invites you to join the Quiet-Diet, by observing a minute of silence at 2:15. Watch for their Spring Noise Letter [www.quiet.org](http://www.quiet.org) ✓ Seniors Housing Information Program (SHIP) is a non-profit organization which provides information on housing and services for seniors. They also provide a home sharing service for seniors and people under 55 looking for a place to stay or wanting to share their homes. For Homeshare requirements or other housing information, please contact (604) 520-6621. Mon-Fri, 8:30 am-4:30 pm or visit their website at [www.seniorshousing.bc.ca](http://www.seniorshousing.bc.ca) ✓ 4th Annual Kerrisdale Antiques Fair, May 14 & 15, 10 am to 5 pm. Over 250 tables and booths of Antiques & Collectibles. Vintage & estate jewellery, old dolls and toys, sterling & silverplate, etc. Kerrisdale Arena, 5670 East Boulevard at 41st Ave. Adm \$5 at door. 12 & under free with adult ✓ At Confederation Community Centre be entertained by the Maple Leaf Singers, April 10, 1:30 to 3:30 pm. \$8. Learn and practice Bridge, Tuesdays, 6 to 8 pm. 8 sessions \$32.28. Learn Rubber Stamping & Card Making, April 13 & 20, 2-3:45 pm. \$6.42 ✓ Huge Garage Sale, Apr 30, 9 am to 2 pm. Martin Luther Church, lower hall, 505 East 46th Ave, 1 block west of Fraser. ✓ Local Volkssport Clubs will host the following 5-km or 10-km walks in April, Downtown Vancouver on Sunday, April 17. Fraser Foreshore Park, Burnaby, on Saturday, April 30. Free for new participants. Contact Verni at 604-682-8390 for more information. ✓ Theatre West Van (formerly West Vancouver Little Theatre) presents a comedy by Paul Kloegman: Habeas Corpus, a comedy by Alan Bennett, at Presentation House Theatre, 333 Chesterfield Ave, North Vancouver, Apr 15-16, 20-23 & 27-30. Curtain 8 pm. Rsv: 604-983-2633. Tx: \$14. (\$12 seniors & 18 and under) ✓ North Vancouver Community Players present The Price, a drama by Arthur Miller, directed by Eva Lister. In the Theatre at Hendry Hall, 815 East 11th St, North Vancouver. April 15-16, 20-23 & 27-30. Curtain 8 pm. Rsv: 604-983-2633. Tx: \$14 (\$12 seniors & 18 and under) ✓ Music, theatre, storytelling, puppetry, clowning, dance, aerobatics, circus and activities for all ages at the Vancouver International Children's Festival, Vanier Park, May 16-23. Tickets on sale at Ticketmaster, 604-280-4444 or [ticketmaster.ca](http://ticketmaster.ca). Early Bird ticket prices in effect until April 17 ✓ Ballet British Columbia presents the world premiere of John Alleyne's The Rite of Spring, April 21-23 at 8 pm at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre. Tickets, with discounts for seniors and students are available through Ticketmaster at 604-280-3311. For group sales call 604-732-5003, ext 208

# BUZZER

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Vancity

**UPass**

for students  
going places

*With the Vancity U-Pass,  
UBC and SFU students have  
unlimited access to  
Coast Mountain Bus, West Van-  
couver Blue Bus, Community  
Shuttle, SeaBus  
and SkyTrain services as  
well as discounts on  
West Coast Express.*

### Savings by FareCard

*On your  
monthly  
commute  
Save*

Adult FareCard	Cost of 20 Reg. Adult Cash Fare Return Trips	Savings
1-Zone	\$69 \$90	<b>\$21</b>
2-Zone	\$95 \$130	<b>\$35</b>
3-Zone	\$130 \$180	<b>\$50</b>

## The success of the Vancity U-Pass accounted for 15% of ridership growth in 2004

Transit ridership continued to soar during 2004 due in large part to the growing popularity of the Vancity U-Pass. Total transit ridership increased by 8.3 per cent in 2004 – the second highest growth rate experienced in Greater Vancouver since 1986, when ridership jumped by 22 per cent due to the opening of the Expo SkyTrain Line and the Expo '86 World Fair.

A number of factors contributed to the increased transit use, including the success of the Vancity U-Pass program, which was introduced at the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University in September, 2003. It's estimated that the Vancity U-Pass accounted for about 15 per cent of the 2004 ridership growth.

In 2004, the program generated 1.6 million additional student transit trips compared with 2003. Transit passenger counts conducted at UBC and SFU in the fall of 2004 showed that a total of 65,000 weekday transit trips were made to and from the universities, representing more than 12 per cent of total weekday transit ridership. To meet the increased demand, TransLink made further improvements to bus services in September, adding 15,000 additional service hours to routes serving UBC and SFU.

***“The growth in the Vancity U-Pass program continues to exceed our expectations,” said TransLink Chair Doug McCallum. “I think the program has succeeded because it offers students an economical and convenient way to travel without the hassles of fighting traffic or paying for parking.”***

***“Vancity is proud to sponsor this valuable pass program,” said Elaine Duvall, Chair of the Vancity Board of Directors. “Not only is the Vancity U-Pass a bargain for students, it also alleviates road congestion and helps protect the environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions – goals that are in keeping with our values at Vancity.”***

TransLink's Employer Pass program, which offers discounted transit passes to employee groups, is also growing in popularity. In 2004, the number of participating employees increased from 8,300 to 10,000 and the number of employers in the program jumped from 129 to 160.

Other factors contributing to the increase in ridership include moderate economic growth in Greater Vancouver, higher gasoline prices, improvements to bus service frequency on busy routes, including the B-Line Rapid Bus routes, and the introduction of Community Shuttle mini-buses. There has also been continuing ridership growth on SkyTrain, in particular the Millennium Line, which experienced a 10 per cent increase in passenger volumes in 2004.

The 2004 ridership increase marked the second consecutive year of strong transit ridership growth, following an 11.7 per cent increase in 2003.

## Higher transit Fare Evasion fines in effect

The provincial government has passed an Order In Council that more than triples the fine for transit fare evasion to \$150. With the Victim's Surcharge, the total fine will be \$173. The previous fine including the Surcharge was \$46.

While the public becomes aware of the new fines, TransLink Special Constables, who have the authority to issue violation tickets for transit fare evasion, will issue more warning tickets to first offenders and give them an opportunity to pay the proper fare. TransLink has advocated for higher fines for some time to pose a greater deterrent to fare evasion. The tickets issued by TransLink's Special Provincial Constables are provincial violation tickets and the province collects the fines revenue. The Victims Surcharge goes into a fund that provides support and services for victims of crime.

## New transit police service to be armed

BC Solicitor General Rich Coleman has announced that police officers with the new Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority Police Service (GVTAPS) will carry firearms. Coleman says the officers will face the same perils as municipal and RCMP members and will be conducting the same kind of enforcement, sometimes in support of local police. GVTAPS is being formed mainly from the complement of Special Provincial Constables now patrolling the transit system. Most of these constables are ex-police officers and have an average of 18 years of policing experience. All will receive the required training, including with firearms. GVTAPS will have broader powers including the authority to enforce drug laws, outstanding warrants and to operate off transit property. It will be the first new police service created in BC in over 60 years and the first of its kind in Canada. Officers' conduct will be subject to the same review process as for other independent (non-RCMP) police departments. GVTAPS is governed by an independent police board made up of senior police officers from the RCMP, Vancouver Police and the New Westminster Police Service as well as a representative from TransLink, which will continue to fund the service.

## Vancouver Sun Run – April 17th

Several transit services will operate early for the annual Sun Run on Sunday, April 17th. With more than 50,000 participants expected, and many road closures in the downtown area, transit is a good way to go, but plan your trip early.

**SkyTrain** will start **30 minutes early**, with first train leaving King George at **6:38 am**, Lougheed at **6:45 am**, arriving downtown by 7:15 am. Full “rush hour” level of service will operate before and after the race. Avoid delays by having exact fare ready, and by pre-purchasing your return ticket as you exit Granville or Burrard station before the race.

**SeaBus** will begin operating from Lonsdale Quay at **7:02 am**, with 15-minute service throughout the morning and early afternoon.

**West Coast Express** will operate a special train leaving Mission at **7 am** and arriving at Waterfront Station at about 8:13 am. **The return trip** will depart downtown at 1 pm.

**Coast Mountain Bus** will operate regular Sunday hours. Most routes provide service or connections in time for the race. Check on line trip planning at [www.translink.bc.ca](http://www.translink.bc.ca) for details.

## Bus re-routings:

**Due to road closures and traffic congestion, several bus re-routings will be in effect from early morning until approximately noon:**

- #22** will be diverted between 4<sup>th</sup> & Macdonald, and Granville & Pender, via 4<sup>th</sup>, Burrard, Broadway, Granville, in both directions.
- #8/15** will use Granville Mall instead of Burrard between Robson and Pender, in both directions.
- #4/7** will divert between 4<sup>th</sup> & Burrard, and Granville Bridge via Burrard, Broadway, Granville, in both directions.
- #50** will bypass the Granville Island/False Creek area, operating via Granville and Broadway to its eastern terminus at Willow.
- #19** from Metrotown will terminate at Pender and Howe. A separate shuttle service will operate to and from Stanley Park.
- North and West Vancouver services via 1<sup>st</sup> Narrows will operate along Pender Street instead of Georgia.**