

SkyTrain is a safe place

There's been a hubbub lately over SkyTrain safety, but we'd like to set the record straight and say that SkyTrain is quite a safe place. To explain, here's an excerpt from a letter by **Jim Hopkins, manager of SkyTrain Safety, Security, and Environment**, written in response to an inquiry from a high school student. We hope it will put things in perspective.

Based on what's in the newspapers or on TV, it may seem that SkyTrain is not a safe place to be. But before you accept this as fact, consider that SkyTrain carries about 230,000 people every day, and about 80,000,000 every year.

With that many people on SkyTrain, it should not seem out of the ordinary that things will sometimes happen. But the fact is that the vast majority of SkyTrain passengers travel safely day in and day out. My wife and daughter have been riding SkyTrain for the past 18 years at all hours of the day and night, and have never been threatened or harmed.

It is also worth pointing out that many stories you hear about SkyTrain don't happen on SkyTrain at all. SkyTrain is a wonderful landmark, everybody knows where it is. So when a crime of some significance happens, it seems easier for the media to report the crime as happening near a place most people can identify, such as SkyTrain.

So what makes SkyTrain safe? We have the only transit police in all of Canada patrolling our system; we have well-trained and well-equipped SkyTrain attendants roving the system in stations and on trains; we have one of the most extensive security camera networks in Canada (over 950 cameras); there are systems in all stations and trains that let passengers immediately notify us if they see something that warrants our attention (red emergency phones on every platform, and intercom and silent alarms on trains); and we work tirelessly with police and other emergency responders to identify problem areas to make travel even safer.

Some other tips for travelling on SkyTrain, on a bus, or even walking in your neighborhood:

- » *Take a moment to look around SkyTrain vehicles and in stations so that you know where the emergency phones, PAs and silent alarms are located: don't wait until you need them.*
- » *It's important to be aware of your surroundings. Avoid wearing an iPod or other device plugged into your ears*

so you can hear what is happening around you.

- » *Keep your head up and walk with a purpose.*
- » *Try to travel in well-lit areas where other people are around.*
- » *Carry a cell phone and/or a whistle to call for help, or to bring attention.*
- » *Travel with a friend whenever possible.*
- » *If something doesn't feel right, immediately take steps to call for help or move to a safer area. If it means staying aboard an extra stop or staying in a station until you feel safe: do it! Your time is valuable to you, but your safety and security are even more valuable.*

I hope this helps. If there is something I may have neglected to mention or you are still curious about, please let us know.

And if you do have more questions or concerns, we'd love to hear from you. Just send us a note to thebuzzer@translink.bc.ca, and we'll respond in the next issue of the Buzzer.

BACK ISSUES

Back Issues is a new section that mines past issues of The Buzzer for nuggets of transit history. Huzzah!

1991 The first articulated buses—the long buses with a bendy accordion joint in the middle—entered the Metro Vancouver transit system on June 7, 1991. An official welcoming ceremony was held at the PNE Park & Ride for the 21 "artics," built by New Flyer Industries of Winnipeg.

The new buses went to work in the fall on route #160, travelling from Port Coquitlam to Coquitlam, then Port Moody, and to downtown Vancouver. The Buzzer reported that the artics were "equipped with comfortable fabric seats for 59 passengers, reading lights, wheelchair lifts, and state-of-the-art emission and electronic engine controls that help them meet 1991 Canadian emissions standards."

Today, we've boosted our artic numbers even higher to keep up with demand. There's now 136 diesel artics serving high capacity routes like the #99 and #98 B-Line, and this year, we introduced 40 articulated trolleys, chiefly on the #20 route. And next year, we'll have even more big buses—we'll receive 34 more articulated trolleys and 39 diesel-electric hybrid artics in 2009!



These 21 articulated buses joined the Metro Vancouver transit system in 1991.

Contest corner: win a FareCard!

FARECARD WINNER We had 421 correct entries in our last contest, and **Alla V.** won the FareCard. The answer? The Golden Ears Bridge will link Maple Ridge and Pltt Meadows on the north with Surrey and Langley on the south.

WIN A FREE FARECARD! It will be for 1, 2, or 3 zones, based on where the winner travels. Email thebuzzer@translink.bc.ca with the answer to the question below, your full name, daytime phone number, and where you got the Buzzer (include route numbers for buses). Make sure you include everything—entries missing any of this info will not be entered to win! And one entry per person, please.

Fill in the blank: SkyTrain has over _____ security cameras across the system. (Hint: it's in this issue!)

Enter by **Mon June 30 at 9am**; we'll draw a name from all correct entries if more than one is right. See who won in the **July 4** issue!



Cambie & Broadway bus changes

Starting Saturday, June 14, the two westbound bus stops serving the #9, #50, and #99 B-Line on Cambie and Broadway have been discontinued for about three months, owing to construction of the Canada Line and other projects in the area. Catch all three buses at the stop on the far side of Ash St (stop #50924).

Drivers can also expect traffic congestion, as the three months of construction will cut the road down to only one lane eastbound and one lane westbound, located on the south side of Broadway.

Get transit directions on your mobile with Google Maps

If you've got a BlackBerry or other Java-based phone, you can now plan your Metro Vancouver transit trips right from your mobile device!

Just plot your trip out on the latest version of Google Maps for mobile, and the clever map software will show you how to get there through using our transit services. It's accurate since TransLink provides Google with up-to-date transit data.

Transit directions are available only in the latest Google Maps for mobile release for BlackBerry and many Java-based phones—support for other phones will be added soon.

But if you can use it, you can try the advanced features, like quickly finding the last transit trips of the day, and easy browsing through earlier or later trips. See google.com/mobilegmm for more!



Google Maps

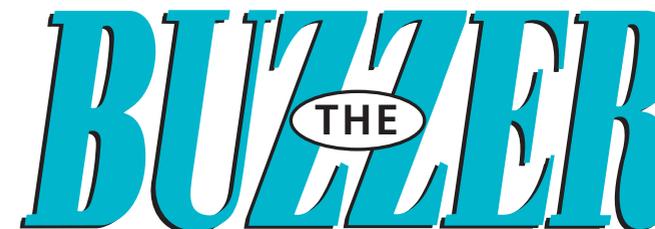
COMING EVENTS

- ✓ **Free outdoor hatha yoga classes** with Kreg Weiss at the Canada Place upper observation deck in Vancouver, Wednesdays 6-7 pm from June 18 to Sept 17. Yoga mat required. Beginner to advanced students welcomed; any donations will go to Doctors Without Borders. Info: www.myyogaonline.com/canada_place.html.
- ✓ The **Greek Community of East Vancouver** hosts its free annual Greek Summer Festival, Fri Jun 27 to Sun July 6, noon to 11pm at 4641 Boundary Rd. Food, entertainment dancing, live Bouzouki music. Info www.greeksummerfest.com.
- ✓ **Mature Women's Network** (women 40+) presents a talk from travel agent Claudia Csaby on "Cruising Vacations," Sat June 28, 411 Dunsmuir, Vancouver. 12:30 pm registration, 1-3 pm program and social. \$4; includes refreshments. Info 604-681-3986.
- ✓ **Richmond Nature Park** presents an opportunity to watch nesting bald eagles at the Britannia Heritage Shipyards, June 28-29, 11am-4pm. Telescopes and binoculars will be on hand. Cost: by donation. Info: 604-718-6188.
- ✓ **Confederation Seniors' Community Centre** in Burnaby is holding a 55+ minibus trip to go berry picking in Langley on June 30, 10am-3:30pm. Cost: \$11.90, barcode #157323. Info 604-294-1936.
- ✓ The **Lions' Gate Rotary Club** presents the **North Vancouver Canada Day celebrations** at Waterfront Park, 12:30-4:30pm, Tue July 1. Free family event for all ages; live entertainment, birthday cake, face painting and crafts for Canada Day, BC's 150th anniversary and Quebec City's 400th anniversary. For more info check out northvancouveraday.com
- ✓ Have you worked in Britain? The **Canadian Alliance of British Pensioners** invites you to their annual meeting on Saturday, July 5 at 1:30pm, in the Alma VanDusen & Peter Kaye Room, Vancouver Public Library, 350 West Georgia Street. Free info session on new British pension laws and application process. Of interest to those 45+. Info: 604-683-3445.
- ✓ **BC Disability Sports** presents "Strength of Abilities and Paralympic Pride," a sport tribute event to Team Canada and all British Columbian athletes. In various locations in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadow, this "have a go" event will take place July 14-19. Various tryout sports, workshops & speakers, display booths and entertainment. Free admission but registration for athletes required. Info 604-598-7891 info@disabilitysport.org.
- ✓ **B.C. Genealogical Society** presents a **free Family History Research Week**, July 21-26, Unit 211, 12837 - 76th Avenue, Surrey. Open 10am-3pm daily. Over 12,000 worldwide genealogical publications and records. Info 604-502-9119 or www.bcgs.ca.

Send your community events to thebuzzer@translink.bc.ca

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Win a free FareCard!



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Bus service improves on June 23

Also in this issue...

- » All the details of the June 23 bus service improvements
- » Why SkyTrain is a safe place
- » Get transit directions on your mobile with Google Maps
- » Canada Day holiday service



Bus service improves starting June 23

Revisions to Surrey's #319 and #340 bus routes are the highlight of the June 2008 quarterly bus service changes. These changes take effect on Monday, June 23.

Please note that these changes are not reflected in the current printed timetables for April 21 to August 31, but will be up-to-date through TransLink's online Trip Planning service, NextBus text messaging, and downloadable PDF timetables.

VANCOUVER, BURNABY & NEW WESTMINSTER

4 Powell/UBC

7 Nanaimo Station/Dunbar

Due to the pending Carrall Street Greenway construction project, westbound #4 and #7 buses will be re-routed off Carrall Street until further notice, travelling instead on Main Street between Cordova and Pender.

9 Boundary/Broadway Station/Granville/Alma/UBC

Late-night westbound trip (leaving Boundary Loop at 2:15 a.m.) extended to Granville Street.

17 Oak/Downtown/UBC

Late-night departure times adjusted to improve connections with other routes.

19 Stanley Park/Metrotown

Summer shuttle service between West Pender at Cambie and Stanley Park bus loop, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends and holidays.

22 Knight/Macdonald

Service improved to every 12 minutes from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends/holidays.

28 Joyce Station/Phibbs Exchange/Capilano College

Phibbs–Capilano College portion of the route will be discontinued until Labour Day. Customers can still use the #239 route between Phibbs and Cap College during this time.

49 Metrotown Station/Dunbar Loop

Evening and weekend/holiday improvements; the 49 will run at least every 15 minutes or more, every day from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

99 B-Line Broadway Station/UBC

Weekday early-morning service will be improved to every four minutes westbound and every eight minutes eastbound. Sunday service will start earlier—7 a.m. from Broadway Station and 7:35 a.m. from UBC.

106 New Westminster Station/Metrotown Station

Improvements to evening and weekend/holiday service; as a result, the #106 will now run at least every 15 minutes, every day from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

130 Hastings/Phibbs Exchange/Capilano College/Metrotown Station

The route portion from Phibbs Exchange to Capilano College will be discontinued until Labour Day. Customers can continue to use the #239 route between Phibbs and Cap College during this time.

430 Metrotown Centre/Richmond Centre

Hourly service extended to 9 p.m. every evening.

SURREY, DELTA, WHITE ROCK & LANGLEY

319 Scott Road Station/Newton Exchange

All trips will extend to Newton Exchange to provide more convenient and consistent service. Customers along 72 Avenue will enjoy more frequent (10-minute) service during weekday peak periods.

The #319 Scott Road Station will leave from Bus Bay 4 at Newton Exchange and will continue to use Bay 5 at Scottsdale Exchange. The #319 Newton Exchange will use Bay 4 at Scottsdale Exchange during its journey.

340 Scottsdale/22nd Street Station

In conjunction with the extension of the #319 from Scottsdale Exchange to Newton Exchange, the #340 will now operate only between Scottsdale and 22nd Street Station. Customers wishing to travel between Scottsdale and Newton can transfer to the #319 at Scottsdale Exchange, or board the #319 at Scott Road Station.

The #340 will run more frequently—at least every 15 minutes on weekdays from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.; at least every 20 minutes on weekends/holidays from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and at least every 30 minutes 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on all evenings.

351 Crescent Beach/Vancouver

Service improves to every 15 minutes, weekdays 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. northbound and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. southbound, and every 30 minutes weekends/holidays in both directions, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

352 Ocean Park/Vancouver

New trip leaving Ocean Park at 6:40 a.m. on weekdays.

601 Vancouver/South Delta/Boundary Bay

Weekend/holiday service improved to every 30 minutes, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

RICHMOND & AIRPORT

430 Metrotown Centre/Richmond Centre

Hourly service extended to 9 p.m. every evening.

NORTH SHORE

28 Joyce Station/Phibbs Exchange/Capilano College

Phibbs Exchange–Capilano College portion of the route will be discontinued until Labour Day. Customers can still use the #239 route between Phibbs and Cap College during this time.

130 Hastings/Phibbs Exchange/Capilano College/Metrotown Station

The route portion from Phibbs Exchange to Capilano College will be discontinued until Labour Day. Customers can still use the #239 route between Phibbs and Cap College during this time.

210 Upper Lynn Valley/Vancouver

211 Phibbs Exchange/Vancouver/Seymour

214 Phibbs Exchange/Blueridge

Due to the pending Carrall Street Greenway construction project, southbound #210, #211 and #214 buses will be re-routed off Carrall Street until further notice, travelling instead on Main Street between Cordova and Pender.

239 Park Royal/Lonsdale Quay/Phibbs Exchange/Capilano College

Weekday late-night trip leaving Lonsdale Quay at 1:38 a.m. will be extended to Capilano College.

240 15th Street/Vancouver

Service will be improved to run every 15 minutes, seven days a week from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

TRI-CITIES

701 Maple Ridge East/Haney Place/Coquitlam Station

Buses will run at least every 15 minutes, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day.

MAPLE RIDGE & PITT MEADOWS

701 Maple Ridge East/Haney Place/Coquitlam Station

Buses will run at least every 15 minutes, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day.

VANCITY U-PASS

9 Boundary/Broadway Station/Granville/Alma/UBC

Late-night westbound trip (leaving Boundary Loop at 2:15 a.m.) extended to Granville Street.

17 Oak/Downtown/UBC

Late-night departure times adjusted to improve connections with other routes.

49 Metrotown Station/Dunbar Loop

Service will improve to every 15 minutes in both directions, weekends/holidays 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., and eastbound weekdays 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. As a result, the #49 will now run at least every 15 minutes or more, every day from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

これはたいせつなお知らせです。どなたかに日本語に訳してもらってください。	重要資料 請找人為你翻譯
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Canada Day transit service

All transit services will run on a Sunday/holiday schedule during Canada Day, Tuesday, July 1.

SkyTrain will also provide extra daytime service for events at Canada Place near Waterfront, as well as to and from the evening fireworks. The first SkyTrain leaves King George at 7:08 a.m. and the last leaves Waterfront at 12:15 a.m.

SeaBus will also extend its holiday service by one hour, setting the last sailing to North Vancouver at 12:20 a.m. to pick up customers from the last SkyTrain. Regular SeaBus holiday service is every 15 minutes in midday and every 30 minutes from 6:45 p.m. onward.

Remember, on a holiday, you only need a single-zone fare to travel in all zones all day. As well, on a Sunday or holiday, those with an adult FareCard, West Coast Express 28-Day Pass, or Annual Employer Transit Pass can take either one adult and four children or five children on transit with them for free.



Our whole transit system is now fully accessible!

After 19 years of hard work, the whole Metro Vancouver transit system is now fully accessible!

This means people using wheelchairs or other mobility aids can now get on every bus, train, shuttle, and SeaBus in the system. BC Transit originally committed to making our fleet accessible in 1989, and TransLink saw that commitment through to today.

TransLink and the Coast Mountain Bus Company celebrated with a ceremony on June 2 in Grandview Park. Members were on hand from TransLink's Access Transit group and advisory committee, which guide our accessible transit efforts.

And Sam Sullivan, Mayor of Vancouver, spoke at the ceremony.

"Barriers that were accepted as a fact of life for almost a century no longer exist now, and this is an historic day for all people in the city of Vancouver and the entire region," he said.



Photo: Michele McDonald
Mayor Sam Sullivan spoke at a ceremony marking full transit accessibility.

Third SeaBus coming in 2009

Look out, North Shore! We're getting a third SeaBus in 2009!

This is the first new SeaBus added to the fleet since the service launched in 1977. It's going to be built in Victoria by the Washington Marine Group, and will be completed in summer 2009.

With a third SeaBus in action, service will increase across Burrard Inlet, running every 10 minutes at peak times rather than the current schedule of every 15 minutes.

But that won't happen just yet—when the new SeaBus is launched, it will first replace one of the two older vessels as it is refurbished and updated. All three vessels will be sailing across Burrard Inlet by early 2010, carrying up to 400 passengers each.

The new SeaBus will cost \$25 million to build, with \$4.8 million contributed by the Province of British Columbia as part of their Provincial Transit Plan.



A third SeaBus will join the fleet in 2009.