

## The Buzzer's contest corner!

**LAST ISSUE'S FARECARD WINNER** You'll have to wait until next issue to find out the winner of the November FareCard contest—the final date for entries was mistakenly written as Dec. 8, so we have to honour that date. But no matter, there's still a contest in this issue to enter!

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



**What are the four new bus routes introduced in the December round of bus service improvements?**  
(Hint: it's in this issue!)

Enter by **Mon Jan. 12 at 9am**; we'll draw a name from all eligible entries if more than one is right. See who won in the **Jan. 16** issue!

**PRIVACY POLICY** This is a new addition to tell you that we don't use your personal info for anything but the contest, and we delete all contest entry e-mails after we pick a winner. Here's the long version though: *Your personal information is being collected, pursuant to section 26(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, solely for the purpose of administering this contest; it will be destroyed upon the determination of a contest winner. Please direct any questions regarding this collection to the Buzzer Editor at TransLink, 1600-4720 Kingsway, Burnaby, BC V5H 4N2, or [thebuzzer@translink.bc.ca](mailto:thebuzzer@translink.bc.ca).*

## Backpacks: watch how you carry them on transit!

We've been getting a lot of calls to Customer Relations from your fellow passengers, telling us that other people's backpacks are making for some unpleasant rides.

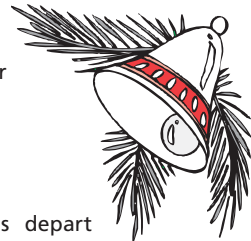
So we'd just like to remind you of the general etiquette for backpacks and bags on transit.

Please **remove your backpack and put it on the floor**—especially when standing. And if seating space is limited, please **don't put your bags on a seat**: you're taking away seats from other passengers.

Just be considerate about how your bags affect the people around you—your backpacks, luggage, grocery bags, laptops and more can be very difficult for nearby passengers!

## Holiday season transit service and fares

Please visit [www.translink.bc.ca](http://www.translink.bc.ca) or call 604-953-3333 to ensure that you have correct schedule information for your holiday transit travels.



### WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24

*Regular weekday fares*

**West Coast Express** afternoon trains depart downtown at 1:00, 3:00, 4:50, 5:30 and 6:20, plus the regular TrainBus service.

### THURSDAY, DEC. 25

*Regular holiday fares—only a single-zone fare is needed for travel in all zones all day. As well, on a Sunday or holiday, all passengers with an adult FareCard, West Coast Express 28-Day Pass, or Annual Employer Transit Pass can take either five children, or one adult and four children on transit with them for free.*

**Most bus routes** will run according to their Sunday/holiday schedules; however, some routes will also run with further frequency modifications.

**SkyTrain** and **SeaBus** will run on a Sunday/holiday schedule.

There will be no **West Coast Express** service on Christmas Day.

### FRIDAY, DEC. 26

*Regular holiday fares—see Dec. 25 entry for more info.*

**Most bus routes** will run according to Sunday/holiday schedules. Service frequency will be enhanced for routes that serve major shopping destinations and entertainment venues.

**SkyTrain** will run according to its Saturday schedule, but will feature more frequent service during midday to accommodate shopping crowds.

**SeaBus** will run according to a Sunday/holiday schedule, but will extend late-night service according to a Saturday schedule.

There will be no **West Coast Express** service on Boxing Day.

### WEDNESDAY, DEC. 31

*Regular weekday fares until 5 pm, then free service.*

**Buses** will operate on a regular weekday schedule, with extended late-night service on a number of routes.

**SkyTrain** and **SeaBus** will extend late-night service by one hour, with the last train and ferry leaving Waterfront Station at 2:20 a.m.

**West Coast Express** afternoon trains will depart from downtown at 1:00, 3:00, 4:50, 5:30 and 6:20 plus the regular TrainBus service.

### THURSDAY, JAN. 1

*Regular holiday fares—see Dec. 25 entry for more info.*

**Buses**, **SeaBus** and **SkyTrain** will operate on regular Sunday/holiday schedules.

There will be no **West Coast Express** service on New Year's Day.

## BACK ISSUES

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

**1947** For the first time in its history, the Dec. 5, 1947 *Buzzer* was specially home-delivered to residents of Vancouver, all to explain a controversial new post-war fare structure.

Cash fares were jumping to 10¢ from 7¢, and tickets were now three for 25¢ instead of four for 25¢. Interurban commutation ticket prices also jumped to 10 for 90¢, when previously they were about 10 for 75¢.

But two main factors were at play: first, wages and material costs had skyrocketed since 1940, and second, there hadn't been any fare increases since April 1929. B.C. Electric, the private company who ran transit at the time, also needed funds to upgrade a tired system that had seen high demand and little expansion during the war years.

And while today we encourage you to buy FareCards, the new 1947 fare structure completely did away with the weekly passes previously offered in Vancouver.

Weekly passes, explained the *Buzzer*, were originally introduced in 1932 as a depression measure, but were now a drain on the system.

"[Passes are] open to abuses over which the Company has no control," wrote the *Buzzer*. "Passes are transferred freely from person to person. Many business offices have one or more passes which are used indiscriminately by many employees. The weekly pass therefore works out at a ridiculously low figure per ride."

The *Buzzer* pointed out that B.C. Electric was the only company in Canada offering a weekly pass. In the U.S., few systems had a weekly pass, and almost all of those were now getting rid of it. "For instance," said the *Buzzer*, "the neighbouring city of Seattle, with a straight 10¢ fare and no tickets, has no pass."



## COMING EVENTS

✓ **Spaghetti dinner**, Dec. 7, 4:30-6:30pm, **Holy Spirit Church Hall**, New Westminster. Tickets at the door. Info: Theo: 604-525-3447, Mark: 604-524-8749, Fr. David: 604-521-0334.

✓ **The Good Noise Vancouver Gospel Choir** presents **Christmas Classics, Gospel Style**, featuring Leon Bibb and Bill Sample. Sun Dec. 7, 3pm, at Fraserview Church, Richmond; and Fri Dec. 12 and Sat Dec. 13, 7:30pm, at Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver. \$25 adults, \$18 students and seniors. Info: Christine at [tickets@goodnoisevc.com](mailto:tickets@goodnoisevc.com) or 604-269-0205.

✓ **Vancouver Women's Musical Society** presents **Tommy Huang**, pianist, Wed Dec. 10, 11am, Unitarian Church, 49th & Oak, Vancouver. \$10. Info: Janie 604-732-9986.

✓ **The Scotiabank Dance Centre** presents **LifeLines**, created and performed by Gioconda Barbuto and Emily Molnar for the Global Dance Connections series. Fri Dec. 12 & Sat Dec. 13, 8pm, 677 Davie Street, Vancouver. \$26/\$18 students and seniors, from Tickets Tonight: [www.ticketstonight.ca](http://www.ticketstonight.ca) or 604-684-2787. Info: [www.thedancecentre.ca](http://www.thedancecentre.ca) or 604-606-6400.

✓ **Christmas dance party** hosted by **Ceroc**. Fri Dec. 12, 7:30pm-11pm, Billy Bishop Hall, 1407 Laburnum, Vancouver. Dance lessons, games and mingling, theme is "red and white." All welcome but must be 19+. \$10 members/\$12 non-members. Info: [www.ceroc.ca](http://www.ceroc.ca) or 778-862-3762.

✓ **Vagabond Players** present **Elwoodettes Marionettes' King John's Christmas**, a puppet musical with the voices of the Vagabond Players. Dec. 14, 21, 22, 26, 27 & 28 at 2pm, Dec. 20 & 23 at 7pm, Bernie Legge Theatre, Queens Park, New Westminster. Info: 604-521-0412.

✓ **28th Annual Richmond International Midget Hockey Tournament**, Dec. 26-31, 7:30am-9:30pm daily. Free admission at the Richmond Ice Centre, 14140 Triangle Rd, and Minoru Arena, 7551 Minoru Gate. Info: [www.midgethockeytournament.homestead.com](http://www.midgethockeytournament.homestead.com).

✓ **Salsa Speakers Toastmasters** offers regular sessions to help develop public speaking and leadership skills in a friendly supportive environment. Mondays 6:45 to 8:30 p.m., Rm. 117, Bldg. NE1, BCIT Campus. Info: Adrian at 604-435-1578 or [arzator@yahoo.com](mailto:arzator@yahoo.com).

✓ **St. Mary's Kerrisdale** offers a **free meal** every Tuesday from September to June. Coffee and muffins 10:30am-11:30am and a nutritious hot meal 11:30am-1pm. 2490 West 37th Avenue, Vancouver. Info: 604-261-4228.

✓ **Free weekly Scrabble group** gets together Tuesdays at 7pm, Grandview Legion Hall at 2205 Commercial Drive. Easily accessible by SkyTrain and #20 and #99 buses. Info: Andrea at 604-518-3541.

Send your community events to [thebuzzer@translink.bc.ca](mailto:thebuzzer@translink.bc.ca)

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Win a free FareCard!



# BUZZER

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## Better bus service arrives December 29

Also in this issue...

- » Details of the December service changes
- » Holiday service for Christmas, Boxing Day, and the New Year

Visit the *Buzzer* blog at [buzzer.translink.ca](http://buzzer.translink.ca)

# Better bus service starts December 29

Four new routes highlight the December round of bus improvements—the #364 Langley Centre/Scottsdale service, #388 Walnut Grove/22nd Street Station route, #609 Tsawwassen First Nation/South Delta Exchange service and a trial route, the #125 BCIT/Patterson Station peak-period service.

All changes take effect **Monday, Dec. 29**, except for the new BCIT service, which starts **Monday, Jan. 5**.

This round of service changes adds another 100,000 annualized service hours to schedules across Metro Vancouver—our largest-ever increase!

Over 100 more vehicles were added to the fleet in 2008, which helped us ramp up our service to meet your demands. That includes 15 extra buses for Surrey Transit Centre and 63 low-floor buses for North Vancouver. Overall, we now have more than 1,500 standard-size, articulated and Community Shuttle buses in the fleet.

Look out for further growth in 2009, too. There will be continued arrivals of new buses—including new low-floor hybrid-engine buses from Nova—which amounts to a fleet expansion of 104 new buses. Plus, look out for the introduction of the third SeaBus, the arrival of 48 new SkyTrain cars, and the opening of the Canada Line.

## VANCOUVER, BURNABY, & NEW WESTMINSTER

### 3 Main/Downtown

Route now extended to Cordova Street (at Seymour Street).

### 17 Oak/Downtown/UBC

Improvements during off-peak periods increase service frequency to a minimum of every 15 minutes, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day.

### 25 Brentwood Station/UBC

More frequent weekday and Sunday/holiday service for all time periods.

### 33 UBC/29th Avenue Station

Introduction of weekend/holiday service plus earlier eastbound weekday morning service.

### 41 UBC/Crown/Joyce Station

More frequent Sunday/holiday early morning service.

### 43 Joyce Station/UBC

More frequent service in the weekday peak periods.

### 44 UBC/Downtown

More frequent weekday service, 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### 100 Airport Station/22nd Street Station

Weekday morning peak service improves to every 12 minutes; evening trips that have been terminating at Marpole Loop will be extended to Granville Street, 10 p.m. to midnight every day.

### 104 Annacis Island/22nd Street Station

Weekday afternoon service improves to every 12 minutes, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

### 123 New Westminster Station/Brentwood Station

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

### NEW 125 Patterson Station/BCIT

The #125 will be introduced on a trial basis starting Monday Jan. 5, offering another transit option for BCIT students with its new weekday peak-period, peak-direction service. The #125 will run every 10 minutes, northbound only (from Patterson Station Bay 1 to BCIT) between approximately 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and southbound only (from BCIT to Patterson Station) between approximately 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

### 130 Metrotown Station/Phibbs Exchange/Capilano University

Additional service will be provided between Phibbs Exchange and Capilano University during weekday a.m. and p.m. peak periods.

### 144 SFU/Metrotown Station

Service increases to every 15 minutes on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### 480 UBC/Richmond

More frequent (10-minute) service, Richmond to UBC, weekdays 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

### C5 Edmonds Station/Royal Oak Station

### C6 Suncrest/Metrotown Station

### C7 Edmonds Station/Metrotown Station

More frequent (30 minute) service weekday evenings and weekends/holidays. Also, weekday evening service will be extended until about midnight.

### N19 Downtown/Surrey Central Station

Late-night Monday–Saturday 3 a.m. trip will continue to New Westminster Station instead of terminating at Metrotown Station.

## SURREY, DELTA, WHITE ROCK & LANGLEY

### 311 Vancouver

### 364 Langley Centre

These routes will depart Scottsdale Exchange via Bay 8.

### 340 22nd Street Station

Will depart Scottsdale Exchange via Bay 6.

### NEW 364 Langley Centre/Scottsdale

This new service on 64 Avenue will run every 30 minutes, weekdays 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday 7 a.m. to 8 pm and Sunday/holidays 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

### NEW 388 Walnut Grove/22nd Street Station

This new limited-stop service provides public transit access along 88 Avenue, in North Langley (Port Kells) and in the Queensborough/Annacis Island area. Initially, service runs every 30 minutes, weekdays only between approximately 5:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### 502 Surrey Central Station/Langley Centre/Aldergrove

Weekend/holiday service from Aldergrove will start earlier (6 a.m.).

### NEW 609 Tsawwassen First Nation/South Delta Exchange

This new service will run hourly between Tsawwassen Drive North (at Falcon Way) and South Delta Exchange, weekdays from approximately 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. and weekends/holidays 5:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

### C62 Walnut Grove

### C64 Willowbrook

Will depart Langley Centre via Bay 6.

### C74 Fraser Heights/Guildford/Surrey Central Station

More frequent (15-minute) service weekdays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; more frequent weekend/holiday service (30 minutes in early morning and late evening; 15 minutes during other times); earlier weekend/holiday service start time (6 a.m.).

## RICHMOND & AIRPORT

### 100 Airport Station/22nd Street Station

More frequent (12-minute) weekday morning peak service; also, evening trips that have been terminating at Marpole Loop will be extended to Granville Street, 10 p.m. to midnight every day.

### 403 Richmond Centre/Three Road

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

### 410 Railway/22nd Street Station

Buses will leave from 22nd Street Station every 10 minutes, weekdays 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

### 480 UBC/Richmond

More frequent (10-minute) service, Richmond to UBC, weekdays 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

### C98 Kingswood/22nd Street Station

More frequent (30-minute) service, weekdays 7 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 6:30 pm.

## NORTH SHORE

### 130 Metrotown Station/Phibbs Exchange/Capilano University

Additional service will be provided between Phibbs Exchange and Capilano University during weekday AM & PM peak periods.

### 212 Deep Cove/Phibbs Exchange

More frequent (30-minute) service Sunday/holidays for most of the day.

### 236 Lonsdale Quay/Pemberton Heights/Grouse Mountain

An additional 236 Harbourside trip, leaving Lonsdale Quay weekdays at 8:35 a.m.

**NOTE** Routing and time adjustments for the #255 missed the print deadline of the North Vancouver timetable booklet, effective Dec. 29. But you can find the updated #255 info on the route and regional booklet on the TransLink website ([www.translink.bc.ca](http://www.translink.bc.ca)).

## TRI-CITIES

### 169 Coquitlam Station/Braid Station

More frequent weekend/holiday service; as a result, the #169 will now run at least every 15 minutes, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day.

### 701 Maple Ridge East/Haney Place/Coquitlam Station

Additional eastbound Sunday/holiday late-night trip leaves Coquitlam Station at 1:07 a.m.

### C29 Parkway Boulevard/Coquitlam Station

Service every 15 minutes during weekday peak periods.

### C37 Port Coquitlam Station/Prairie/Riverside

### C38 Port Coquitlam Station/Prairie/River Springs/Coquitlam Station

These routes will follow Wilson Avenue and Shaughnessy Street exclusively when departing/nearing Port Coquitlam Station. They will no longer travel along Mary Hill Road or McAllister Avenue.

### Port Coquitlam Centre bus bay changes

Bus bay assignments in Port Coquitlam Centre will be as follows:

Bay	Route
1	159 Braid Station 160 Port Coquitlam Station C37 Port Coquitlam Station C38 Coquitlam Station
2	*Bay 2 will relocate to Shaughnessy St near the McAllister Ave intersection 159 Port Coquitlam Station 160 Vancouver C37 Prairie or Riverside C38 Prairie or River Springs <i>Discontinued</i>
3	<i>Discontinued</i>
4	<i>Discontinued</i>

## MAPLE RIDGE & PITT MEADOWS

### 701 Maple Ridge East/Haney Place/Coquitlam Station

Additional eastbound late-night trip leaves Coquitlam Station at 1:07 a.m.

## VANCITY U-PASS

### 17 Oak/Downtown/UBC

Improvements during off-peak periods increase service frequency to a minimum of every 15 minutes, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day.

### 25 Brentwood Station/UBC

More frequent weekday and Sunday/holiday service for all time periods.

### 33 UBC/29th Avenue Station

Introduction of weekend/holiday service plus earlier eastbound weekday morning service.

### 41 UBC/Crown/Joyce Station

More frequent Sunday/holiday early morning service.

### 43 Joyce Station/UBC

More frequent service in the weekday peak periods.

### 44 UBC/Downtown

More frequent weekday service, 7 a.m. to 10 am and 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### 49 Metrotown Station/Dunbar Loop/UBC

Additional short-turn trips will arrive at stops near Langara College in time for the 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. classes.

### 130 Metrotown Station/Phibbs Exchange/Capilano University

Additional service will be provided between Phibbs Exchange and Capilano University during weekday AM & PM peak periods.

### 144 SFU/Metrotown Station

Service increases to every 15 minutes, weekdays between 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### 480 UBC/Richmond

More frequent (10-minute) service, Richmond to UBC, weekdays 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

## Come visit the Buzzer blog!

Visit the Buzzer blog for expanded news about transit, stories from behind the scenes, and more! There's even interviews with the transit fans behind the biggest bus photo gallery in the region, an audio interview about the SkyTrain chime's origins, and one with the voice of the SkyTrain! Visit us at [buzzer.translink.ca](http://buzzer.translink.ca)

