

Contest corner: win a FareCard!

LAST ISSUE'S FARECARD WINNER We had 1,099 correct entries in our last contest, and L. Fung won the FareCard. The answer? I Love Transit Week was held July 12-16.

WIN A FREE FARECARD! It will be for 1, 2, or 3 zones, based on where the winner travels. Email thebuzzer@translink.ca with the answer to the question, 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 event is being hosted by the BC Paraplegic Association on August 21? (Hint: it's in this issue!)

Enter by **Mon Aug 23 at 9am**; we'll draw a name from all correct entries!

PRIVACY POLICY We use your personal info only for the contest and we delete all entries after we pick a winner. Here's the long version: Your personal information is 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 questions regarding this collection to the Buzzer Editor at TransLink, 1600-4720 Kingsway, Burnaby, BC V5H 4N2, or thebuzzer@translink.ca.



BACK ISSUES

The Buzzer has been published since June 2, 1916! So in this section we mine our back issues for nuggets of transit history. Huzzah!

1990 The June 1, 1990 Buzzer issue announced the arrival of Vancouver's first wheelchair lift-equipped bus – the first of 85 such buses that began service that September.

The article stated, "The Vancouver Regional Transit System will be the first transit system in Canada to provide lift-equipped service that will allow people in wheelchairs access to the regular transit system."

The buses represented 10 per cent of the transit system fleet and provided service on 22 routes.

Today, TransLink's fleet is 100% accessible to people of all abilities.



Ribbon cutting ceremony from 1990 welcoming Vancouver's first wheelchair lift-equipped bus.

TRANSIT STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Amrit Bains: singer!

Amrit Bains has been driving buses in Vancouver since September 1999—but he's also a singer in his spare time! Since 2007, he's released two Punjabi albums in India and a third is on its way by the end of this year.



Amrit Bains

How did you get started in the recording industry?

My wife got cancer in 2005, and I wrote a song during that time of struggle. I thought it was uplifting and I wanted to give it to the people. But you can't have an album with one song, so I recorded more and then sent them to record companies in India. Now, my songs are played all the time, usually on PTC Chakde, a national channel. And also on the TV screens on long route buses, which is a very big thing in India.

What do you like the most about making music?

When I was a child I sang at school and at functions in my village, and everybody liked my songs very much. So it's just something God gave me, and I really want to give it to the people, even though for many years I was away from it. But it's never too late if you can do it. If I'm healthy and energetic and able to do it, then why not?

Thanks Amrit! Check out his music at amritbains.com, and say hello to him on the 99 B-Line, where he drives most of his shifts

PNE transit service

The Fair at the PNE is taking place August 21 – September 6. This year commemorates the Fair's 100th anniversary! To mark the occasion, a special 100th Anniversary PNE Parade will take place the night before opening day at 7pm on August 20. The event will see 100 years of PNE magic travel along Beach Ave from Stanley Park to Sunset Beach in Vancouver.



Translink offers additional bus service to The Fair including the 16 PNE Special from 29th Avenue Station stopping at Renfrew Skytrain Station; 210 PNE Special from Phibbs exchange in North Vancouver; and the West Vancouver Blue Bus Special from Horseshoe Bay.

COMING EVENTS

- ✓ Two art exhibits run July 29 – Sept. 20 at the Leigh Square Community Arts Village in Port Coquitlam. **The Legacy of Terry Fox** features t-shirts designed for the Terry Fox Run and other memorabilia. The public can submit stories about the impact of the Run on their lives. **Colourwheels** is a celebration of the artistic expression and achievements of artists with spinal cord injuries. Info: 604-927-8440.
- ✓ **Langara College's Recreation Leadership Diploma Program** will hold an **Open House** on Aug. 18 1–3 pm, room A118a. Program graduates design and manage quality recreation programs and facilities; now recruiting for the Sept. 2010 term. Info: Vince Kreiser, 604-323-5276 or langara.bc.ca/recreation
- ✓ **Starry Night at Deas Island Regional Park** - An enchanted evening illuminated by starlight and lanterns. Listen for howls and hoots as shadows and magical creatures guide you. The night will be alive with drumming, storytelling and other activities. Bring a flashlight and mug for the Girl Guide concession stand. Aug. 21 / 7–10 pm. Free event, good for all ages. Info: 604-224-5739.
- ✓ The Ethiopian Community is hosting its **1st Annual Summer Ethiopian Festival** on Aug 28 / 10 am–9 pm at the Richmond Park in Burnaby. The festival exhibits live entertainment, Ethiopian foods, coffee ceremony, cultural dances and displays. Info: vancouverethiopia.com or call 778-847-2785.
- ✓ **Urban Nature Team Challenge at Burnaby Lake Regional Park** – Be amazed by earth's variety of life while competing for great prizes on this two hour trek through trails, forest and marsh. Complete brain teasing, exploratory and adventure check points. Bring your camera, phone, water and snacks, and be ready to get dirty. Free event - great for youth. Aug. 28 / 1–5 pm. Start at Avalon Ave park entrance. Points for arrival by bike or transit. Info: 604-224-5739.
- ✓ The **30th Annual Terry Fox Run** takes place on September 19 in communities across the province. Visit terryfoxrun.org for info.
- ✓ The **BC Philatelic Society Regional Stamp Show**. Oct 15 / 10 am–6 pm & Oct 16 / 10 am–4 pm, West Burnaby United Church Community Hall. Up to 70 exhibit frames, 12 dealer tables, special show covers, coffee and tea, free admission & free parking. Info: bcphilatelic.org
- ✓ The **Delta Music Makers Concert Band** wants new musicians and low brass in particular. Practice is Tuesday nights through a partnership with Delta Continuing Ed. Contact Curt Jantzen and Margaret Behenna at happypaddle@telus.net or visit deltamusicmakers.org

Send your community events to
thebuzzer@translink.ca



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THE BUZZER

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i love transit week!



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In this issue...

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Visit the Buzzer blog at buzzer.translink.ca

Rider stories from I Love Transit Week

The Buzzer celebrated its second ever I Love Transit Week from July 12-16. Leading up to the event we asked you to share why you love transit. We received many fantastic stories – including how a woman found love on the 25 bus – and even a song!

All week the Buzzer blog posted essays, stories, discussion posts and more, encouraging everyone to reflect on what you like about transit. Search for “I love transit” at buzzer.translink.ca to read the stories, listen to the song and see all the photos.

Here are just a few of the great submissions we received:

I love transit because...well...I found love on transit! Sounds cheesy but it's true. My husband and I met on the 25 bus about four years ago. As sometimes happens in that great 'third place' called transit, especially when it's busy and you are standing VERY close together with lots of other people, we started chatting. We seemed to hit it off immediately and chatted about everything and anything. Eventually I got a seat and, because it was raining, I offered to hold his bag on my lap so that it didn't get wet on the floor of the bus. After awhile, however, his stop came up and he got off the bus – saying 'goodbye' regretfully I thought, but not asking me for my number.

The next day I was at work and a co-worker of mine burst into my office screaming that I needed to check Craigslist. And what did I see! He had posted a 'missed connections' ad for me. I was nervous and so didn't respond right away but eventually I wrote back and agreed to go on a date. The rest is history – and we got married in February of 2009. You just never know who you can meet on the bus! – Rebekah Mahaffey

Let me take this opportunity to say thank you in I Love Transit Week!

I take SkyTrain from King George station to Waterfront station



Rebekah and Scott who met on the 25 bus

and back every day. Since the SkyTrain starts and ends at both these stations, I am lucky enough to get a seat every day. Every single day!

Never has been a day when I had to stand on the entire 3 way zone. I am happy and at the same time proud to say "I love transit"! – Gautam Modkar

On the second occasion of I Love Transit Week, I would like to offer my comments on SkyTrain & TransLink in general.

I must say "Congratulations" to all TransLink staff & all involved in the smooth everyday transit all around BC. I think it is the surest, fastest way to commute safely & comfortably. Transit Police and staff are quick to respond when any issue arise. They efficiently deal with the issue in question & transit keeps moving on as if nothing happened. SkyTrain delays do occur for various reasons, but they are quite rare. Bus drivers are very considerate, kind & patient with passengers, especially the elderly, always waiting until they have been safely seated. – Marian S.

Thank you to everyone who submitted!



Transit haiku contest winners!

As part of I Love Transit Week, we asked readers to submit a transit haiku to be posted on our ad screens. Congratulations to our two contest winners—and thanks to everyone who wrote in!

*what a rainy day
crazy drivers everywhere
sweet rest on the bus
– Peter Brouwer*

*Silver dragons claw
Sky, wind from water spirit
Long chime destiny
– L. Ryan, playing on the
imagery of the SkyBridge*

I Love Transit Night!

I Love Transit Night, a live meetup, was held on July 15 at the Heritage Grill in New Westminster. Thank you to every one of the 65 people who came out. We had an incredible time!

Guests played a round of transit bingo, a game where teams competed to board the bus the fastest, and a rousing round of transit trivia. And everyone enjoyed buttons, stickers, colouring books, cutouts, old books of Buzzers, and even a working Super Express train set brought by a transit fan! Search for “I love transit” at buzzer.translink.ca to find more photos!



Photos from the I Love Transit Night meetup. Clockwise from top left: a bus cutout decorated with transit pins; everyone playing transit bingo; two lovely attendees; outside of the Heritage Grill for the bus boarding game.

Join the 9th annual Bus Stop Hop!

The BC Paraplegic Association's Peer Program will host its Annual Bus Stop Hop in and around the Metro Vancouver on August 21. The Hop is an 'Amazing Race' styled event that takes place on accessible transportation. Participants search for clues, read maps, and problem solve, all while watching the clock! Each team is made up of four participants: two individuals with mobility impairments and two able-bodied individuals. Interested in taking part? Find yourself a partner and contact either Lydia Walczak at lwalczak@bcpara.org or Brad Jacobsen at bjacobsen@bcpara.org.

Bus buddies on the 159

Linda Lund sent in this great story about the friends she's made while riding the 159 bus!



Gavin, Jakki, Denise, Pat, Jesse (Jakki's son), Dorothy, and Linda with the bus cake on Dorothy's 65th birthday.

It's handy having bus buddies. If you fall asleep going home from work, someone will wake you up with an elbow and tell you that your stop is next. If you can't sleep—well, we do crossword puzzles as a group at the back of the bus which is a lot of fun. One day, none of us could get the answer and Steve across the aisle called out “armlet” (like an anklet he said) and he was right. We made him an honorary bus buddy on the spot. He was taking a 6-week course at SFU and we gave him a cheer when he finished and graduated. He's gone back home to Prince George now, probably still shaking his head about the crazy people he met on the 159.

We are varying ages and have different jobs – Elizabeth works for a bank, Gavin is at city hall, Linda works for a union, Pat works at a parts distributor company, Dorothy and Jakki work for a property management company, Denise is a special-needs teacher and Chris works at an addiction recovery clinic. (We haven't seen Chris in a few weeks—we miss her!) There are others who don't travel quite as regularly but join our group whenever they see us – or maybe they didn't see us in time and couldn't make their way to the front again. The party is in the back of the bus!

We took a field trip this year to try out the new Canada Line and have lunch at the airport. We were impressed with the Canada Line cars because they have lots of space for luggage. Now we are planning field trips to Granville Island and Lonsdale Quay in North Vancouver this summer. We thought you'd like to hear how friendships have been formed, just because we take the bus.



Jakki, Linda, Gavin, and Dorothy at the bus stop waiting for the 159!