

Contest corner: win a FareCard!

LAST ISSUE'S FARECARD WINNER We had 723 correct entries in our last contest, and **David B.** won the FareCard. The answer? On Feb. 20 TransLink's online Trip Planner handled 51,070 requests!

WIN ANOTHER 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 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.



Name the new project that is a third link between north and south Port Coquitlam. (Hint: it's in this issue!)

Enter by **Thu Apr 22 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!

1987 The May 22, 1987 *Buzzer* mentioned a celebration event at B.C. Place in honour of Rick Hansen completing his "Man in Motion Tour." The day after his triumphant return to Vancouver, a huge crowd greeted Rick at the stadium, and dignitaries and performers were also in attendance.



March 21, 2010 marked the 25th year anniversary of his remarkable journey through 34 countries, which inspired millions and laid the foundation for extraordinary progress in the spinal cord injury field.

We said it in '87 and we'll say it again - well done Rick!

TRANSIT STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Oliver Neubert: author!

Oliver Neubert has been a maintenance planner with Coast Mountain Bus Company since 2007—but he's also a children's book author on the side! Pick up his four-book series *Chantel's Quest* at Kidsbooks, at Chapters, or from your local library... or see below to win free copies of the first two books!



Oliver Neubert!

How did you start writing books?

I went to night school for some years, and I would tell my daughter stories in the evening. When I finished school, my wife said, "Why don't you write the stories down?" That was in 2005.

I spent evenings and weekends writing four books in one year. Within a year I found a local publisher, Simply Read Books. So the first two are now in print, and the third one is due out this fall. And next year we'll publish the last one.

In each book, I focus on an underlying idea. The first book talks about sharing. Chantel is a 12-year old who has to find four relics. On her birthday, she finds out she is the last descendant of her family, and has to go on this quest. In the first book, she is looking for a golden sword, and it's a symbol for sharing, not fighting.

In the meantime, I've written six more books. The next is a three-book series called Vita, about two tribes with special powers. It's nice to be creative! With fantasy novels, you're not bound by anything.

Thanks Oliver! Visit www.oliverneubert.com for more info, and see the Buzzer blog (buzzer.translink.ca) for a longer version of this interview. Plus: we have a set of Oliver's first two books to give away! E-mail thebuzzer@translink.ca by Mon Apr 12 at 9am with the subject "Chantel's Quest." Put your name and phone number in the message, and we'll draw two winners at random!

Graduating high school? Get yourself a GradPass!

Graduating grade 12 students living in TransLink's service area are entitled to a free GradPass. Get one from school and let transit take you home from your grad celebration. It's good for two days of unlimited travel on bus, SeaBus and SkyTrain, from May 15 to June 30. You choose the days: they don't have to be consecutive. And remember to carry your GoCard and present it when using the GradPass.

COMING EVENTS

- ✓ **Burnaby Artists Guild 40th Anniversary Art Show** at Shadbolt Centre for the Arts, 6450 Deer Lake Avenue, Burnaby, April 9-11. Featured artist: Olga deSousa. Info 604-291-6864 or burnabyartistsguild.com
- ✓ **United Entertainers Society presents, Once Upon a Time...Happily Never After**, a musicale fantasy and 'spoof' on four fairy tales. April 9, at 7:30 p.m. / April 10 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Genesis Theatre in Ladner. Call 604-946-9949 for more info.
- ✓ **Thursday & Friday Evening Dances** at the Confederation Seniors Centre. Thursdays 7-9pm, taped music. Fridays April 9,16,23,30 7:30-10:30pm, live music. Call 604-294-1936 for info.
- ✓ **Local Volkssport Club** is hosting the following 5K/10K walks: Downtown Vancouver - April 2; False Creek & Shaughnessy - April 17; Steveston - April 18; Terra Nova area of Richmond - April 24; and Stanley Park - May 1. Free for new participants. Call 604-682-8390.
- ✓ **Betty Huff Theatre Company** is presenting the musical, "Beauty & the Beast". April 12-15 @ 7 p.m. Tickets are \$6 and available at the door: 13055 Huntley Ave. Surrey. Info: 585-3104.
- ✓ Théâtre la Seizième's presents **Les Medecins De Molière**, an adaptation of Molière's most famous farces. Show runs April 14-17 at the Vancouver Studio 16. Visit www.seizieme.ca for details.
- ✓ Peace Arch Hospital Auxiliary Society's annual spring fund raiser, "New to You Linens and Collectibles". Featuring vintage linens, lace, bedding, dolls & more. April 16, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. and April 17, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. First United Church, White Rock. Info at 604-531-1681.
- ✓ **Pilgrimage to Burns Bog** - Join hundreds of others on April 25 for a Pilgrimage to Burns Bog - a free event hosted by various environmental and faith groups. There will be talks, entertainment and displays. More info at www.pilgrimage2burnsbog.org
- ✓ **Cottonwood Community Garden** has garden plots available in their new expansion that is fully accessible for seniors and people with disabilities. Strathcona area. Large garden plots, annual fee (\$15). For information call 604-608-0384.
- ✓ **The Dance Centre's Discover Dance!** presents a program of dynamic contemporary dance with **MovEnt & Friends**. April 29, 12 noon at the Scotiabank Dance Centre. Tickets at www.thedancecentre.ca

Send your community events to thebuzzer@translink.ca



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THE BUZZER

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Visit the Buzzer blog at buzzer.translink.ca



Explore the cherry blossoms by bike on April 17!

Take a Great Ride... bike the blossoms!

Consider taking part in the 3rd annual **Bike the Blossoms** cycling tour on April 17! It's a great way to see the blossoming of the cherry trees, one of the most beautiful aspects of springtime in Vancouver.

Organized by the **Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition** and the **Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival Society**, the tour is a meandering ride from Vanier Park to VanDusen Botanical Garden, through Vancouver's East Side and back to the seaside relaxation of Vanier Park. Cyclists will see several types of cherry blossoms as well as several sides of Vancouver.

Along the route enjoy refreshments & live entertainment. Plus, take advantage of on-site bike mechanics. At Vanier Park there will be even more festivities including live music, and vegetarian BBQ food for sale.

Ride registrants also receive half-price entry to VanDusen Botanical Garden and the Museum of Vancouver at Vanier Park.

For more information, including registration costs, visit the Great Ride's website at www.greatriders.ca and get riding!



Prices rise on April 1 for FareCards and FareSavers

There's no easy way to say this, but the cost of transit monthly FareCards and FareSaver tickets will go up as of April 1, 2010. DayPasses and cash fares will stay the same.

West Coast Express fares will also increase on April 1—visit www.westcoastexpress.com to see those fare changes.

It's small comfort, but the reason we are increasing fares is to pay for the expanded service we have put in place since 2004.

That includes Canada Line, Golden Ears Bridge, a new SeaBus, 48 new rail vehicles, 304 new buses, an additional 92,000 bus service hours, and the Central Valley Greenway biking and walking path.

The increase in fares is expected to bring in an additional \$18 million per year in revenue.

Monthly FareCard		Adult	Concession
Monthly transit passes are eligible for federal tax credits	1 zone	\$81	
	2 zones	\$110	\$46 for all zones
	3 zones	\$151	
FareSaver Tickets		Adult	Concession
Book of 10	1 zone	\$21	\$17
	2 zones	\$31.50	
	3 zones	\$42	

Coast Meridian Overpass opens in Port Coquitlam

On March 7, the Coast Meridian Overpass officially opened to traffic. The Overpass provides a much-needed third link between north and south Port Coquitlam, improving mobility and access throughout the City and region. Plus, reduced congestion on Lougheed Highway results in less air pollution from idling vehicles.

The project was funded by the City of Port Coquitlam, TransLink, the Province of BC, and ICBC. It's one of the largest projects to be funded through TransLink's Regional Major Road Network major capital program, and is Port Coquitlam's largest-ever transportation project to date.

To commemorate the opening, a celebration event was held on March 6th. Festivities included a parade, street hockey game, live music, tasty eats, displays and a ribbon-cutting ceremony.



A grade four class gets a special ride on transit

White Rock Christian Academy's grade four class found themselves in a predicament recently when their bus broke down en route to the Vancouver Maritime Museum. Another school bus couldn't pick them up in time to make their scheduled field trip. Someone contacted TransLink's Customer Service Centre, who directed the class to a nearby bus stop. The driver kindly let the children on and helped them get to the Museum. For many students, this was their first ride on public transit and we received a bundle of thank you letters from them! Here's a couple excerpts:



A drawing by grade four student, Matti

"Thank you for letting us on the bus! You were also very kind and patient with all the distractions and noise we were making. That was my first time on a city bus. It was a great experience." – Halle

"Even though it was one field trip, it felt like two. It was really fun to ride on your bus." – Amy

Vancouver Sun Run and BMO Marathon transit service

Inspired by the amazing Olympic performances of recent weeks? Consider checking out the BMO Vancouver Marathon on May 2 or Sun Run on May 9. We've added extra service to get you there.

BMO Vancouver Marathon Service

Expo/Millennium SkyTrain lines will start 90 minutes early.

Sun Run Service

Expo/Millennium SkyTrain lines will start 30 minutes early, (first train from King George at 6:38 a.m.) with rush-hour service for the large crowds. SeaBus starts one hour early (7:01 a.m. from Lonsdale Quay) with 15 min. service until mid afternoon. West Coast Express will operate a 'Sun Run' train departing Mission at 7 a.m. and returning from Waterfront at 1 p.m.

Canada Line will operate from 5 a.m. everyday, serving both events. If you're heading to either event, visit www.translink.ca to plan your trip.

SkyTrain's expanded fleet means better service

The Olympics are over, but Expo/Millennium Line commuters will continue to benefit from the recent 48-car fleet expansion.

The last of the new blue and grey cars went into service in January, meeting our commitment of a 30 per cent capacity increase in time for the Olympics. Funded by TransLink and the federal and provincial governments, these cars are a part of TransLink's strategy to respond to the ridership growth and crowding experienced by daily commuters, and to further encourage transit ridership through the future.

SkyTrain now delivers close to 15,000 passenger spaces per hour in each direction over the main section of line between Waterfront and Columbia. The use of longer trains provide more space mid-day and evenings as well.



The Buzzer updates its look!

You may have noticed that the Buzzer has a different logo and new swoosh!

It's all to help the Buzzer match the new look and feel of our other publications, as seen on our ads or our website.

The updated logo also adds a touch more fun to the Buzzer that we thought you would enjoy.

If you didn't know already, The Buzzer's logo has been changed many times in its history, and it felt about time to move it forward again—the old logo has been in place since 1992, if you can imagine!

The Buzzer blog's appearance will eventually be updated to reflect the new look too. Visit the blog at buzzer.translink.ca.

Past Buzzer logos, from top to bottom: circa 1916, 1936, 1937, 1968, 1977, 1992.

