

Contest corner: win a FareCard!

LAST ISSUE'S FARECARD WINNER We had 1,128 correct entries in our last contest, and **S. Wong** won the FareCard. The answer? The electronic fare card system will be in place in 2013.

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.



Approximately, how many passengers currently ride the West Coast Express commuter train per day? (Hint: it's in this issue!)

Enter by **Oct. 29 at 9am**; we'll draw a name from all correct entries! The winner will be notified by phone shortly after the draw.

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!

1996 The September 6, 1996 *Buzzer* announced the newest member of BC Transit's fleet, a new Orion II Community Shuttle. To mark its introduction, the new shuttle was given a special name and logo — the CUB (short for your CommUnity Bus).

The CUB could transport 22 seated passengers, and had low-floor design for easy accessibility. It provided service on routes #353, 354, 355 and 356 in Surrey and White Rock; #502, 506, 507 and 511 in Langley; #705, 709, 712, 721, 722 in Maple Ridge; and routes #102, 103, and 108 in New Westminster.



CUTA Fall Conference and Trans-Expo 2010

Following on the heels of successful conferences in 1996 and 2005, Vancouver will again be host for the Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA) annual Fall Conference November 13-17. The conference follows the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Rail Conference and Rodeo held in June 2010.



Hundreds of delegates from across Canada and around the world are expected to attend. The theme for the conference is "Moving Experiences", providing a look at how the industry is changing the "transit experience" and how it can better respond to customers in the future. The conference will include presenters from TransLink and its operating companies on a number of innovative projects that have been undertaken to further develop our transportation system. The conference will conclude with a workshop, hosted by TransLink, on social media applications.

The Fall Conference will provide the unique opportunity for delegates to see firsthand many of the projects in Metro Vancouver that were only on the drawing boards in 2005. In the past five years the system in Metro Vancouver has seen a host of changes, from a new governance structure, replacement of the entire trolley fleet, introduction of hybrid buses, SkyTrain and West Coast Express expansion, the creation of a 100 percent accessible fleet, social media innovations and the new Canada Line to name a few.

In addition to the conference, CUTA will host Trans-Expo the largest transit industry tradeshow in Canada. The trade show, held at the Vancouver Convention Centre, will feature products, vehicles and services from manufacturers across North America and abroad. If you'd like to attend, or want more information visit cutaactu.ca.

COMING EVENTS

- ✓ **Conversation on Crime:** Canadian Crime Writers' Association authors, Robin Spano, Debra Purdy Kong and Elizabeth Elwood discuss the art of writing murder mysteries. Saturday, Nov. 6, 1pm - 3pm. Black Bond Books, 5251 Ladner Trunk Road, Delta.
- ✓ **BC Youth Choir & Vancouver Renfrew Lions Fundraising Fair.** Featuring original handcrafted arts & crafts, gourmet foods, wellness products and more. Nov. 7, 9am - 3pm. Operating Engineers Hall, 4333 Ledger Ave, Burnaby. Admission: \$2 (Kids 12 & under free with adult). Table rentals \$20 (marion@mcbweb.com).
- ✓ **Marpole Museum and Historical Society Pre-Christmas Sale,** Saturday, Nov. 13, 10am - 3pm. St. Augustine's Parish Hall, 8680 Hudson Street (at 71st).
- ✓ **City budget consultation on priorities for people with disabilities.** Wednesday, Nov. 17, 7 - 9pm, Media Room, Vancouver City Hall, 453 West 12 Ave. Co-sponsored by the City of Vancouver Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee and the BC Coalition of People with Disabilities. Info: (604) 614-4423 or (604) 876-0188.
- ✓ **Duke Ellington Sacred Music Concert.** Featuring Dee Daniels, Marcus Mosely and the Fred Stride Orchestra. Friday, Nov. 19, 8pm. St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church, 1022 Nelson Street, Vancouver. Info: (604) 681-8365 or nmatthews@firstunited.ca.
- ✓ **Sing Out!** Sing dynamic gospel arrangements of your favourite Christmas songs, Nov. 20 & 21 at Zion Lutheran Church, 5950 179 St. Cloverdale. For all levels of musical abilities. Concert Nov 21 at 3pm. Info: 604-876-6624 or singoutproductions@hotmail.com.
- ✓ **Silver Harbour Seniors' Activity Centre Annual Christmas Bazaar.** Sale features unique hand-crafted items at reasonable prices. Saturday, Nov. 27, 10am - 3pm. 144 East 22nd St., North Vancouver.
- ✓ **Vancouver Christmas Market:** an authentic outdoor German Christmas market, featuring shopping, seasonal music, entertainment, and delicious traditional food & drink. Nov 24 - Dec 24. The Plaza at Queen Elizabeth Theatre. Info: vancouverchristmasmarket.com.
- ✓ **International Day of Persons with Disabilities Annual Celebration:** art, craft fair, music, performers, food, door prizes! Celebrate the achievements of people with disabilities. Friday, Dec. 3, 5:30 - 9pm, Roundhouse Community Centre. Info: vancouverdisabilitiesday.ca.

Send your community events to thebuzzer@translink.ca



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THE BUZZER

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Hit the road with Bike to Work Week!

Also in this issue...

- » West Coast Express turns 15!
- » Need a Car? Try car sharing.

Visit the Buzzer blog at buzzer.translink.ca

Hit the road with Bike to Work Week!

Bike to Work Week takes place from November 1 to 7, and it's a great way to give cycling to work a try.

Participating workplaces can win prizes based on staff participation and kilometres travelled—just register your workplace at biketoworkmetrovan.ca, which will keep track of your stats (and your competitors' stats) throughout the week.

And watch for commuter stations around the Lower Mainland, with free coffee, snacks, and more prizes, plus mechanics to tune up your bike if needed.

If you've never biked to work before, don't panic. The Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition—the group behind Bike to Work Week—offers one or two-hour workplace workshops to teach safety skills and address other bike-related concerns.

The workshops cost a small fee, which your company could purchase for your staff. Bike skills courses are also offered throughout the year at various locations in Metro Vancouver. For more info, check out the Resources section at biketoworkmetrovan.ca

So give it a try: you'll rediscover your commute, meet other cyclists, and reduce your impact on the environment and your waistline. What are you waiting for?

Bikes win the Share the Road Challenge!

A Share the Road Challenge was held on Oct 25 to promote Bike to Work Week! Six organizations raced from their offices to the downtown Vancouver library by bike, car and transit. The bike was the fastest mode for four of the six teams!

For example, Giant Bicycles took their whole office from North Vancouver for the challenge: the cyclists won, taking 23 minutes, and car and transit riders weren't too far behind, at 27 and 33 minutes each. The Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition sent a team from Richmond, and their cyclist tied with their car driver at 30 minutes. Not too bad!



"It's Your Move" board game wins award!

TransLink's "It's Your Move" board game has won the 2010 Core Value Award by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2)!

Created to engage the public on the challenges of regional transportation planning, the board game presented "players" with the real-life challenges faced by TransLink: meeting the regional transportation needs and reconciling those with available funding. Cards representing various transportation options were assigned point values, as were cards representing funding levels and revenue streams. The object was to make the points totals balance.

"It's Your Move" was used throughout the intense public consultation sessions in spring of 2009, as TransLink developed its 2010 10-Year Plan. Games results and comments from players were integrated into the development of the plan.

"Engaging the people we serve is a vital part of our planning process," says TransLink CEO Ian Jarvis, "and after playing 'It's Your Move', people would come up to us and say, 'I had no idea of the amount of issues and tradeoff that are required to plan and fund the transportation system.' The game helped bridge the gap."

Electronic fare card contest closes November 8.

TransLink's contest to name the region's future electronic fare card ends at midnight on November 8. To date we've received over 25,000 entries! Get your names in before the contest closes! The big prize is an iPad—and in 2013, you'll also get a new electronic fare card loaded with a year of free transit!

How to enter:

- online at translink.ca/contest
- by SMS text (text "CONTEST", your name, and your idea to 77777. Data rates apply.)
- by mail (write to TransLink, 1600-4720 Kingway, Burnaby, BC, V5H 4N2. Entries must be postmarked between Oct. 12 and Nov. 8)



Need access to a car? Consider car sharing

Gain access to a vehicle without the hassle and ongoing costs of owning and maintaining a car. Car sharing allows you to take transit, walk or cycle for

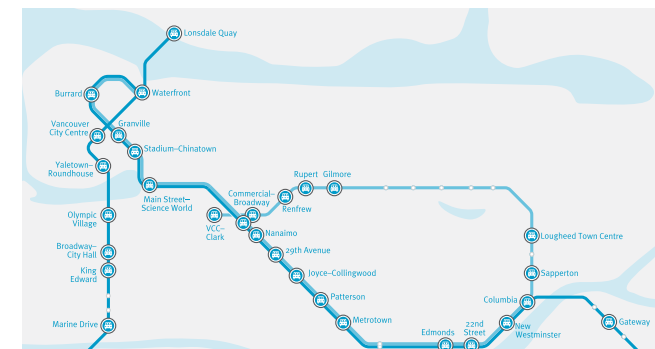
most of your trips, but is a great option for when you really need a car. Two companies that offer car sharing are Zip Car (zipcar.com) and the Co-operative Auto Network (car.coop).

By not owning a car, and using a vehicle only when you need one, you save money on car insurance and maintenance costs. Plus, by not driving regularly, you're also helping to reduce the number of vehicles on the road and greenhouse gas emissions.

There are many car share vehicles located within walking distance of SeaBus and SkyTrain stations in Metro Vancouver. So if you regularly use public transit, you can easily access a car share vehicle.

The map below shows stations that have a car share vehicle location within a 10 minute walk. You can also check out an interactive map online at translink.ca.

For a complete list of car share vehicle locations visit zipcar.com and car.coop.



Stations marked with a car icon have a car share location within walking distance.

West Coast Express celebrates 15 years in service

West Coast Express celebrated its 15th anniversary in service on November 1. To mark the occasion an event was held at Waterfront Station, at which the 30 millionth rider was announced!

Passengers were encouraged to dress in West Coast Express colours — blue and yellow or purple and yellow— and wear their wackiest hats on the train. While throughout the day, prizes were given out to lucky commuters!

The commuter rail service opened on Nov. 3, 1995, connecting Mission with downtown Vancouver, 69 kilometres away. Average daily ridership has doubled, from 5,000 people a day in the first few years to approximately 10,500 people per day today.

Seven new modern, railcars delivered this year will add room for 2,000 more people. They will first replace "older" cars that will be refurbished, with all cars returned to service over the coming year.

Check out all the anniversary activities, including poetry and photos at westcoastexpress.com.



Remembrance Day transit service

All transit service will run on a Sunday/Holiday schedule for Remembrance Day, Thursday, November 11.

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 five children or one adult and four children on transit with them for free.

