

## Contest Corner: Win a FareCard!

**LAST ISSUE'S FARECARD WINNER** We had 638 correct entries in our last contest and Wei Tong won the FareCard! The answer? The winter service changes started on December 15!

**WIN A FREE FARECARD!** Email [thebuzzer@translink.ca](mailto:thebuzzer@translink.ca) with the subject line "Contest" and tell us your answer to the question below, your full name, your phone number and where you got the Buzzer (include your bus route number). Make sure to include everything — **entries missing required info are not entered to win!** One entry per person please. You must be 19 years of age to enter. Employees of TransLink, its subsidiaries and contractors are not eligible.



**On what date does the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival start?**  
(Hint: It's in this issue!)

Enter by **March 19, 2015 at 9 am Pacific Standard Time**. We'll randomly draw a name from all correct entries. Chances of winning depend on the number of correct entries received. The winner will be notified by phone shortly after the draw. Winner must correctly answer a skill-testing question. See [buzzer.translink.ca/contest](http://buzzer.translink.ca/contest) for full contest terms and conditions.

**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: The personal information collected, used and disclosed is necessary for the administration of the Contest and is in accordance with provisions of Part 3 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (British Columbia). Please refer to [translink.ca/privacy-policy](http://translink.ca/privacy-policy) or contact the TransLink Privacy Officer at [privacy@translink.ca](mailto:privacy@translink.ca) for further information.

## BACK ISSUES

The Buzzer will be 99 years old this year! In this section, we mine old issues for some historical tidbits and fun stuff. Enjoy!

**1950** In the November 10, 1950 edition, staff were tickled to get the mail each day.

For our people, whether they're helping to run the service or whether they're operating one of our buses or trolley coaches, the morning mail is always a

high point in the day. Because it's sure to contain a letter or two complimenting one of our drivers on a kind or courteous act. Sometimes the person himself writes in; often, another passenger who saw the act will take the trouble to let us know about it. Either way we get a kick out of it... and the operator involved is promptly called in, commended by his division superintendent and the letter entered into his personal record with the company.

Though the method has changed over the years, we still love hearing about great operators and attendants on the TransLink system and giving them commendations. Nowadays, you can head to [feedback.translink.ca](http://feedback.translink.ca) to let us know about your positive experiences with TransLink staff.



## EVERYTHING'S COMING UP CHERRY BLOSSOMS!

Photo courtesy of Boris Mann



The annual Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival blooms on April 2, 2015 kicking off with the Cherry Jam Downtown concert and celebration at Burrard Station. Ken Hsieh will be conducting a Vancouver Metropolitan Orchestra trio ensemble. The taiko and electric guitar duo LOUD, Langley Ukulele Ensemble and national yo-yo champion, Harrison Lee, will also be there. Throughout the festival there will be many events including Bike the Blossoms Bike tours, Walk the Blossoms walking tours and the Cherry Blossom photo contest with a grand prize of a round trip to Japan!

Be sure to check out the Buzzer blog in the weeks leading up to the festival for more information and coverage of the events.

## Pink Shirt Day 2015

You may see some of our operators sporting some rosy colours on February 25th. Why? Because it is Pink Shirt Day aka Anti-Bullying Day and wearing pink means you are standing up for respect and supporting the cause.

Come on out to the Pink Shirt Day event on February 25 at London Drugs Plaza (Granville & Georgia Street) and meet our Transit Police Chief who will be there to spread the word and show their support for anti-bullying efforts across the TransLink system and in our communities.

Looking for more ways to support Pink Shirt Day? Check out [pinkshirtday.ca](http://pinkshirtday.ca) for a list of locations selling buttons (including some transit depots) and businesses holding fundraisers with proceeds going straight to Pink Shirt Day. Also, on Twitter, follow @pinkshirtday and #PinkShirtDay.

## CONNECT WITH TRANSLINK

Web	<a href="http://www.translink.ca">www.translink.ca</a>
Info line	604.953.3333
Twitter updates	@translink
Instagram	@translinkbc
Next Bus SMS	Text your stop number to 33333 for bus times
Buzzer blog	<a href="http://buzzer.translink.ca">buzzer.translink.ca</a>
Buzzer email	<a href="mailto:thebuzzer@translink.ca">thebuzzer@translink.ca</a>

Questions  
about  
Compass



[askcompass.ca](http://askcompass.ca)

## COMING EVENTS

- ✓ **Cambridge House Heritage Day.** Head out to Tsawwassen at Boundary Bay Regional Park on Feb 22 from 1 pm to 4 pm to enjoy an afternoon of fun and learning. Volunteers in period costume will teach you about early farming in the area while you enjoy some tea and baked goodies. For more information, call 604.432.6359 or email [programs.info@metrovancover.org](mailto:programs.info@metrovancover.org).
- ✓ **After Hours at the Vancouver Aquarium.** Tour the aquarium at night with during this adult only event on Feb 26 from 6 pm to 10 pm. Cost is \$25 for non-members or \$18 for members. This is a 19+ event and ID is required for entry. Wine, beer and a tropical cocktail special will also be available for purchase. For more information, visit [www.vanaqua.org/afterhours](http://www.vanaqua.org/afterhours).
- ✓ **Vancouver Pet Lover Show.** The Abbotsford Tradex is hosting this furry festival on Feb 27 from 3 pm to 8 pm, Feb 28 10 am to 6 pm and Mar 1 10 am to 5 pm. Pet owners and enthusiasts can attend informative seminars and view exhibits by top professionals, enjoy dog, cat and rabbit shows, attend horse clinics and much more! For more information, call 604.535.7584 or visit [www.petlovershow.ca](http://www.petlovershow.ca) for event vendors and tickets.
- ✓ **Vancouver Symphony Orchestra.** The VSO presents their Pacific Rim Celebration from Feb 28 to Mar 1. Two magnificent concerts at the Orpheum Theatre will whisk you away to the East by celebrating the Chinese New Year and focusing on music and artists from Japan. Call 604.876.3434 or visit [www.vanouvversymphony.ca](http://www.vanouvversymphony.ca) for tickets and showtimes.
- ✓ **21st Century Flea Market.** Welcome to the bargain hunter's heaven! The Croatian Cultural Centre hosts this one day event on Mar 22 from 10 am to 3 pm. Dig through wares from over 175 vendors to find that hidden gem or get your own treasure appraised for \$10 an item. Find out all the information at [www.21cpromotions.com/flea\\_market](http://www.21cpromotions.com/flea_market).
- ✓ **Easter Carnival.** Spring has sprung! On March 28 from 10 am to 12 pm join the Easter Bunny at Coal Harbour Community Centre for an Easter egg hunt, arts and crafts and lots more fun! For all the details, visit [www.westendcc.ca/coal-harbour](http://www.westendcc.ca/coal-harbour).
- ✓ **Night Quest.** Explore lantern-lit trails while learning about owls, bats, coyotes and more on this exciting adventure at Pacific Spirit Park on Mar 28 from 7 pm to 10 pm. Remember to bring a flashlight or headlamp and allow one hour to complete this nature quest. This event is free but requires registration. Visit [www.eventbrite.ca](http://www.eventbrite.ca) to register or call 604.224.5739 for more information.
- ✓ **CelticFest Vancouver 2015.** (See other side for more details).

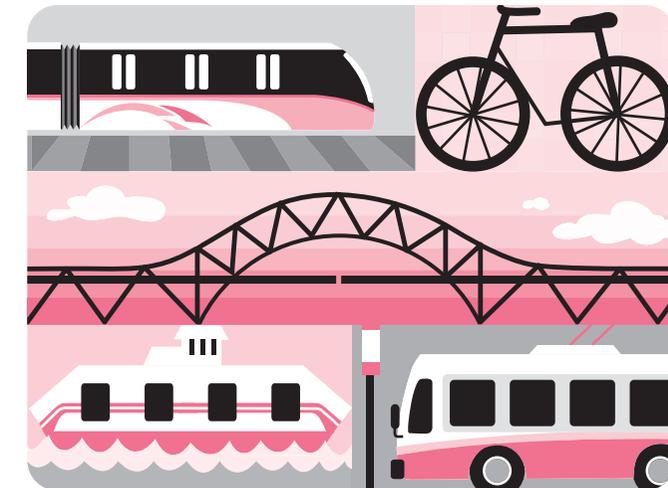
Send your community events in at [translink.ca/buzzerevents](http://translink.ca/buzzerevents)



Win a free FareCard!

# THE BUZZER

Published by TransLink • February 20, 2015



© Christel Chan

## Transit in Your Region

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE...

- » Transportation and Transit Plebiscite news
- » CelticFest is back!
- » An update from Transit Police
- » SkyTrain attendants get a new look... and more!

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



Printed on recycled paper. Vol. 98 No. 12, ISSN 0714-1688.

# Transportation and Transit Plebiscite: March 16 – May 29, 2015

With one million new residents arriving in Metro Vancouver over the next 30 years, we need to get our transportation system ready for growth — and lots of it.

The region's mayors developed a transportation and transit plan to meet this growth. The proposed funding source for the plan is being put to a vote in a plebiscite this spring.



## What's in the Mayors' Transportation and Transit Plan?

- » A 25% increase in bus service, including 11 new B-Line rapid bus routes across the region
- » Increased service on SkyTrain, Canada Line, SeaBus and West Coast Express
- » Maintaining and upgrading the region's major roads
- » A new Pattullo Bridge
- » Light rail transit connecting Surrey Centre, Guildford, Newton and Langley
- » An extension of the Millennium Line, tunneled below Broadway in Vancouver, from VCC-Clark station to Arbutus Street
- » Investments to improve safety and access for cyclists and pedestrians

Learn more about the plan and its benefits at [mayorscouncil.ca](http://mayorscouncil.ca)

## The vote

To fund the improvements in the plan, registered Metro Vancouver voters will be asked if they support a 0.5% Metro Vancouver Congestion Improvement Tax. The tax would be collected with the provincial sales tax.

All registered Metro Vancouver voters will vote by mail-in ballot between **March 16 and May 29, 2015**. To register, or update your information, contact Elections BC at [elections.bc.ca](http://elections.bc.ca) or (800) 661-8683.



## SPOT THE BUS BARRIERS – THE NEXT STEP IN THE PILOT HAS BEGUN

Coast Mountain Bus Company is working with BC Transit, Unifor 111 and 333 and WorkSafeBC to determine the best design for a safety barrier that will be most effective in preventing assaults on CMBC Transit operators.

The prototype safety barrier entered into service at the end of January and will be on the system for about six months on various routes out of the Burnaby Transit Centre. The pilot program will help inform the partners about the effectiveness of the tool and how it may be applied in the workplace.

More details can be found on the Buzzer blog. Feedback on the safety barriers can be shared through Customer Relations at [feedback.translink.ca](http://feedback.translink.ca) or 604-953-3040.

## TravelSmart: Make a change for good!

Are you looking to save some money this year? Maybe you want to reduce your environmental impact? Would you like to adopt a healthier lifestyle? The TravelSmart program is here to help you do all three of these things by choosing active and sustainable transportation more often. Visit our blog at [www.TravelSmart.ca](http://www.TravelSmart.ca) and discover tips, resources, and ideas for making walking, cycling and transit part of your routine. This year we'll be out at community events, in schools, and at workplaces across Metro Vancouver helping people like you take small steps towards happier, healthier and greener transportation. Sign up for our e-newsletter to join the TravelSmart community today!



## CelticFest Vancouver and St. Patrick's Day Parade

The 11th Anniversary CelticFest Vancouver lights up Vancouver with eleven days of great Celtic entertainment and culture from **March 6 to 17!** The festival features over 80 free and ticketed events, including the spectacular St. Patrick's Day Parade on **Sunday, March 15** starting at 11 am.

The Parade route starts at Howe & Davie Streets, runs north along Howe and ends at Georgia and Granville.

For more info, pick up a CelticFest program guide at selected lower mainland Starbucks Coffee locations. For reroute info, please check [translink.ca/alerts](http://translink.ca/alerts).

Full info and tickets at [www.celticfestvancouver.com](http://www.celticfestvancouver.com)



## SKYTRAIN EMPLOYEES GET A NEW LOOK

Check out the new threads! SkyTrain Attendants, Supervisors and Duty Managers on the Expo and Millennium lines are wearing new, high-visibility vests!

These vests will help ensure our customers can immediately identify front-line SkyTrain staff if they require assistance or help during an emergency.

Making our front-line staff more visible was one of the recommendations in the independent review of SkyTrain service.

Sky Train Attendants' vests are a yellow/royal blue combination and made of Gore-Tex. They're light and versatile, and most importantly, help them stand out amidst a sea of commuters. They say, "SkyTrain Customer Service" across the back and over the chest pocket.

## Transit Police: Changing the Way they Patrol the System



Transit customers have indicated through surveys and community engagement initiatives that they feel safer when Transit Police are more visible on the system in the evening. Transit Police have been listening.

Customers can expect to see more Transit Police officers at major stations including Waterfront, Commercial/Broadway, Lougheed, Metrotown, Surrey Central and Bridgeport, all the time. Transit Police will base their patrols from these busier stations and nearby bus loops.

Transit Police officers are continuing to work in partnership with a variety of organizations and agencies to address root causes of crime in and around transit to make the system even safer.

If you see something, say something. Watch for Transit Police officers and please share your concerns or comments. Call 604.515.8300 or text 87.77.77. Follow us on Twitter or Facebook. Remember, in an emergency always call 9-1-1.

## METROTOWN ELEVATOR SERVICE

The elevator at Metrotown Station will be out of service from Feb. 26, 2015 until early 2016 while we upgrade the station and build three new elevators. For customers who require the use of an elevator, a HandyDART shuttle will operate between the Metrotown and Patterson Station. The shuttle will run every 20 minutes from both stops.

## SHUTTLE TIMETABLE

- » Monday to Friday: 6 am to 10 pm
- » Saturday: 9 am to 10 pm
- » Sundays & holidays: 9 am to 8 pm

Thank you for your patience while we upgrade Metrotown Station.

## Compass Update – We're Moving

Our Metrotown FareDealer office is moving on March 2! It'll be located at Stadium-Chinatown Station and renamed the Compass Customer Service Centre. The new centre will serve as a walk-in location for our 600,000 plus transit customers. It'll also support our 85,000 plus customers currently using their Compass Card. The new location will sell Monthly Passes, FareSavers, DayPasses, TaxiSavers, and process Fare Infraction payments. Don't worry, you can still purchase FareSavers and passes from our regular vendor outlets. A complete list of locations can be found on [translink.ca](http://translink.ca).