

## Easter Weekend Services

**West Coast Express will not operate on Good Friday, March 26**

It will operate reduced service on Monday, March 28

Trains W1, W3 and W5 leaving Mission in the morning. Trains E2, E4, E5 leaving Waterfront in the afternoon.

The **TrainBus** will run at its regular times in the morning and afternoon.

**SkyTrain, SeaBus and buses** will operate Sunday/Holiday service on Good Friday. On Easter Monday, a regular weekday schedule with regular fares. and SkyTrain will run with reduced rush-hour frequency.

### **Fares Please**

For faster service, please have your fares ready when boarding your transit service.

### **On the buses**

Please have your fare ready when you board. If you are paying cash for more than one person, or more than one zone, or are upgrading a FareSaver or transfer, please let the operator know in advance. Monthly FareCards don't go in the farebox, so please present your pass so the operator can see it easily without having to ask.

### **The 2005 SuperCities WALK/Run for MS is coming Sunday, April 10**

Become a participant in taking Multiple Sclerosis a step closer to a cure. The 2005 Super Cities WALK/RUN will take place in 8 communities across the Lower Mainland. On Sunday April 10, you can Walk/Run in Vancouver, the North Shore, the Tri Cities, Richmond, Langley, Surrey, White Rock or Ridge Meadows. Join more than 5000 participants in raising \$1 million. To register for the WALK/Run call... 604-602-3221 or visit [www.supercitieswalk.com](http://www.supercitieswalk.com)

### **Fares Please**

#### **SkyTrain and SeaBus**

These services operate on a proof of payment basis, similar to rail systems in many other Canadian and U.S. cities (Calgary, Edmonton, Portland, San Diego, to name a few). Please ensure you have a valid fare before entering the Fare Paid Zone of stations or terminals, and have it readily available for inspection. Remember that:

- FareSavers must be validated in a bus farebox or blue station validator before entering.
- Zone fares apply weekdays from start of service until 6:30 pm. You may upgrade a limited zone ticket, pass or transfer at a ticket or vending machine.
- Scratch-Ride type Day/Passes are valid for an entire day, but must have the correct date (single month and date only) scratched off before entering.

You may be checked at any point by our operating and customer service staff (SkyTrain or SeaBus attendants on their respective systems), or by TransLink Special Provincial Constables who have authority throughout the transit system. Under existing provincial law, Constables may issue a #46 Provincial Violation Ticket, an Appearance Notice, or pursue other charges if warranted. We thank the vast majority of our patrons who comply, and help us deliver a safe, reliable, effective service.

### **Don't be scammed**

Please return or dispose of your ticket when your trip is complete. Don't be scammed by fraud artists who will try to resell your ticket.

### **Vancouver's 25th Annual Fool's Day Parade**

Gather at High Noon, Sunday, April 3rd, Rain or Shine at the Aquatic Centre (1050 Beach) under the big tree and follow the West End Seawall with the Carnival Band. You'll enjoy the foolishness as the new King or Queen of Fools is crowned.

Transit Schedules are now on line anytime: [www.translink.bc.ca](http://www.translink.bc.ca)

## COMING EVENTS

Seniors, Celebrate your birthday with us at Confederation Community Centre, 4585 Albert St, Burnaby. Bring a guest and join us for light refreshment, cake and entertainment. Sunday, April 3, 1:30-3 pm. Birthday person \$3. Others \$3.50. Even if it isn't your birthday, come and enjoy the fun anyway. ✓ The Old Hastings Mill Store, 1575 Alma at Point Grey Road in Vancouver, is now open for the season. Saturdays, Sundays, 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Take the #4 or #7 bus to 4th & Alma, then walk north 4 blocks ✓ Mini-Trains begin offering rides at Easter, March 25-28, and subsequent weekends, 11 am to 5 pm. on a 2-mile track at 120 North Willingdon Ave. Rides \$2.50 each. Station phone 604-291-0922 ✓ Giant Thrift Sale - 2 Days -2 Buildings. Fri, Apr 22, 6-9 pm. Sat, Apr 23, 9:30-noon, Ryerson United Church, 2195 West 45th Ave, Vancouver, ✓ The West Coast Society for the Protection and Conservation of Reptiles will be at the Richmond Nature Park with a hands-on show of exotic reptiles, Sat. & Sun. March 26/27, 11 am to 4 pm. If you've ever wondered what it feels like to touch a snake's skin or look a snake in the eye, this is your chance to get up close and personal with snakes and other reptiles. For more information phone 604-718-6188 ✓ I Say, Rejoice! The Gallery Singers will be joined by some of Vancouver's finest string players for an afternoon of Baroque masterworks, including Henry Purcell's "Rejoice in the Lord Alway", Domenico Scarlatti's "Te Deum" and Handel's "O praise the Lord with one Consent". Sunday, April 3, 3 pm at Holy Trinity, 1440 W 12th Ave (at Hemlock). Vancouver ✓ Spirituality through Creativity. An evening of art, Monday, April 4, 6-9 pm. Renfrew United Church, 2855 East 1st Ave at Renfrew, Vancouver. All artists are welcome to display and sell their work. Free event. Phone Robin at 604-734-3632 or Leanne at 604-439-3397 ✓ 21st Century Flea Market, March 20, 10 am to 3 pm at the Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive at 16th Ave, near Broadway Station. Adm \$2 at door, Children under 13 free with adult. Free parking/On-site Cafe & Snack Bar. Participating charity groups: Union Gospel Mission/Developmental Disabilities Assoc ✓ April is approaching fast and with it the 10th Annual International Noise Awareness Day, April 20. The Right to Quiet Society invites you to join the Quiet-Diet, by observing a minute of silence at 2:15. Watch for their Spring Noise Letter [www.quiet.org](http://www.quiet.org) ✓ One Night Castle Projects (ONCP) and Presentation House Theatre present a co-production of Canadian author, actor and playwright Ann-Marie MacDonald's award-winning play Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet) at Presentation House Theatre March 24 through April 9. (Preview March 23. Saturday matinees) Box office 604-990-3474 ✓ Seniors Housing Information Program (SHIP) is a non-profit organization which provides information on housing and services for seniors. They also provide a home sharing service for seniors and people under 55 looking for a place to stay or wanting to share their homes. For Homeshare requirements or other housing information, please contact (604) 520-6621. Mon-Fri, 8:30 am-4:30 pm or visit their website at [www.seniorshousing.bc.ca](http://www.seniorshousing.bc.ca)



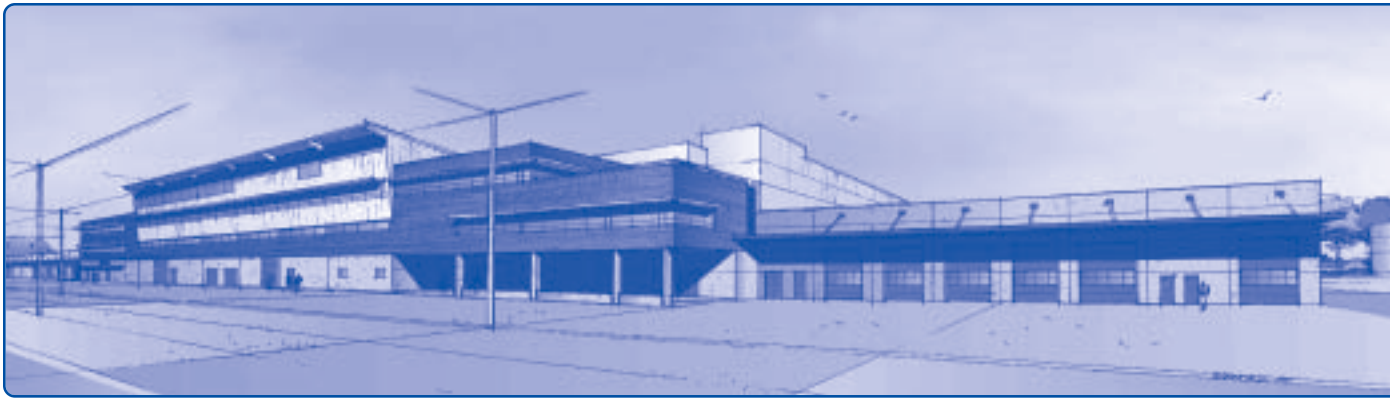
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# Relax

we'll do the driving

## Enjoy the Easter Weekend by Transit

Easter service information on pages 6 and 7



## New Vancouver Transit Centre (VTC) to open 2006

- A spacious new transit centre, with storage and maintenance capacity for 400 buses, including 172 diesels, 188 standard trolleys and 40 articulated trolleys (60 feet). The facility will have approximately 350 buses on opening day.
- Approximately 1,000 people (administration training, operation and management will work at VTC
- Environmental features will include:
  - LEED (Leadership in Energy, and Environmental Design) building design
  - On-site wastewater treatment plant
  - Recycled water bus wash
  - Environmentally friendly electric trolleys
- The \$37.3 million, 205,000 square foot facility will have a publicly accessible cafeteria
- A waterfront walkway will be open to the public.

### Why a new transit centre is needed

The existing Oakridge Transit Centre, built in 1948, is too old and overcrowded to operate efficiently. It is also not up to current earthquake standards.

**The site is very suitable for transit use** because it is located within the City of Vancouver and is close to existing overhead trolley lines (Granville and Oak).  
 • 9149 Hudson Street was the site of the old Eburne Sawmill from 1910 to 1999 and is zoned for heavy industrial use, which allows for transportation and storage uses.

- The 17.6 acre site is large enough to store 400 buses, including the new articulated ones.
- Constructing a new facility was preferred over the Oakridge site due to a shorter schedule, lower project cost, lower operational impact during construction, lower service delivery risk during construction and the ability to accommodate future growth.

**Community consultation** will be ongoing through a volunteer community group • Construction update Open House meetings will be held regularly • TransLink continues to meet with the community to consult on the design of the waterfront walkway.

**Waterfront Access.** • A Riverside Walkway will be accessible from the foot of Hudson St. • The walkway area is approximately 0.9 acres and varies in width from 15 to 65 feet for the full length (1000 feet) of the TransLink property.

**Off-site improvements** - To facilitate and improve access to the facility, TransLink will signalize and make improvements to the Hudson & Marine intersection, and re-grade 77 Avenue so it can be used as an alternate route in and out of the facility.

**Contact information** - Carol Evans, Community Relations Coordinator, phone 604-453-4548 or fax 604-453-4632. carol\_evans@translink.bc.ca  
 Transit Information: 604-953-3333 or www.translink.bc.ca

## Faster implementation and tax exemption would maximize impact

...CUTA Chair Robert Oliver

The Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA) is pleased that the recent budget confirms the federal government's commitment to transferring a portion of the federal gasoline tax to municipalities in a program within which urban transit is a high priority.

"The gas tax transfer with transit as a key beneficiary is critical to sustainable investment for public transit in Canada's cities and communities," says CUTA President and CEO Michael Roschlau. "The further strengthening of federal infrastructure programs is also much appreciated, as these funds have contributed significantly to federal transit investment in recent years."

"Unfortunately, the gradual pace at which the gas tax is to be implemented and the lack of a guaranteed minimum for transit will make it difficult to make a significant impact until later in the five-year phase-in period," says CUTA Chair Robert Olivier. "And the government's tax policy still does not offer an exemption for employers who offer transit benefits instead of parking spaces for their employees." With public transit's capital infrastructure needs for the period 2004-2008 set at \$21-billion, today's budget is another step towards meeting these requirements, but remains a long way from a sustainable and long-term solution.

"CUTA looks forward to continuing to work with the government in developing a meaningful transit investment program to meet the growing needs of Canada's cities," concluded Roschlau. "In doing so, we hope to establish a partnership with all levels of government that will ensure long term sustainable federal funding solutions for all transit systems across the country." CUTA is the national association representing public transit systems, suppliers to the industry, government agencies, individuals and related organizations in Canada.

*"I'm a deeply superficial person" Andy Warhol*

## Savings by FareCard

		Cost of 20 Reg. Adult Cash Fare	On your monthly commute
Adult FareCard	Return Trips		Save
1-Zone	\$69	\$90	<b>\$21</b>
2-Zone	\$95	\$130	<b>\$35</b>
3-Zone	\$130	\$180	<b>\$50</b>

## #152 temporary route change

Since March 10, because of construction work on Rochester Avenue, expected to last 6 weeks, all **#152 Louheed Station/Coquitlam Station** buses are being detoured via Austin Ave in both directions, between Guilby and Blue Mountain. Temporary bus stops have been installed on Austin Ave at Guilby, Walker and Blue Mountain. We regret any inconvenience this detour may be causing.

## Would boarding be easier if you could use the lift?

The lifts on our accessible buses are not only for wheelchair and scooter passengers: you can also take advantage of them if you are a pedestrian with a disability or have difficulty climbing steps. Simply suggest that the driver deploy the lift. It's necessary, however, that you make sure you are at an accessible stop on an accessible route. Accessible buses and stops carry a white decal showing the international wheelchair symbol. If you are on a route served by our New Flyer low-floor buses, you may not need to have the driver lower the ramp. The floor is only one step up and, if necessary, the bus can kneel to within a few inches of the sidewalk.