

Winter Festival Handi Service

By, Walter Gibbons, Committee Member

The Lieutenant Governor's Winter Festival was held February 1-3, 07. It was a smashing success. Attendance was up about 4% over the previous year.

This winter was also the first time that Handi Transit trips were offered at no charge for the entire three days. A total of twenty seven trips were made which is extraordinary due to the extreme cold weather that weekend .



Walter Gibbons receiving cheque from Allan Cruise Of CKX.

Our first year offering the service, proved to be very successful. Several committee volunteers stepped up to dispatch the trip requests on a demand basis. The Handi Service could not have happened but for the generous sponsorship of CKX.

Our committee is hopeful that this free service for Handi Transit users will continue each year resulting in increasing ridership.

729- 2437

MEMORIZE ONLY 1 NUMBER!!!

For after dispatch hours calls, an emergency number is on the outgoing message. For immediate, urgent assistance, please call this number.

NOTE: This emergency number is not to be used for bookings and routine cancellations.

Trip Priority System

In our November news- letter, we encouraged customers to book trips whenever possible avoiding the peak times. Peak times are from 8:00am to 10:00am and 3:00pm to 6:00pm. When making any booking, you are asked by our dispatch the nature of

your trip. This helps us better manage all of our trip requests and try to accommodate as many bookings as possible. There are times when we are unable to accommodate certain types of bookings. Our highest priority trip purposes include Medical,

Employment and Education bookings. Recreation, social and personal trips (including shopping) are what we call 2nd priority bookings and are recommended to be booked outside of peak hours to avoid disappointment.

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Booking a Trip is as easy as 1 - 2 - 3!!

- Call 729-2437 (Mon to Fri 7am to 5pm)
- Give your name, destination and requested trip time to the dispatcher. Don't forget to book a return trip at this time as well!
- Confirm and write down the times given by the Dispatcher

REMEMBER!!

Please be ready at least 15 minutes prior to your requested pick up time at the correct location!



Why do I need to wear a seat belt?

Over the past several years, improvements continue to be made to ensure transportation for Handi Transit as safe as possible. The most recent standards include front-facing positions, four point occupant restraint system and lap and shoulder belts for all passengers. You may have already noticed a difference in the way that your mobility device is being secured upon our new

buses. Our drivers ensure that all devices are secured with 2 restraints on the front and 2 on the back, tight with tension. In addition, all passengers are required to wear a lap and shoulder belt to ensure they will safely stay in place in case of impact. Even if you have a seatbelt on your chair, it is primarily for posture and is not strong enough should an accident occur.



Call Back Trips!

Call backs are trips that are kept in our system without a specific time specified. Call backs are used primarily for return trips from a medical appointment where the exact pick up time is unknown. Call backs are taken in addition to our regularly scheduled trips and integrated into our system when there is an opening. There will be times where an extended waiting period may be necessary until we can find an opening within our schedule to fit the call in.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CITY OF BRANDON TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB AT WWW.BRANDON.CA OR CALL 729-2279.

IF YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER (FALL EDITION), PLEASE CONTACT US!

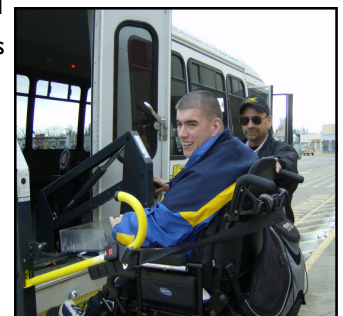


Brandon Transit Operator Randy Dowd with several members of our Handi Advisory Committee strapped in and ready to go home after our April meeting.!

Members left to right: John Sadler, Theresa Machibroda (partially hidden), Don Butler and Melissa Engbrecht.

SUNDAY SERVICE COMING SOON!

As you may have seen, Brandon City Council recently approved service additions for Handi Transit. Within the next few months (upon receiving funding) we hope to see trip hours extended until midnight from Monday to Saturday. As well, we are pleased to begin providing Sunday Handi Transit Service between the hours of 9:00am and 5:00pm. While the official start date is still unconfirmed, we are hopeful that we can begin the service extension by the summer!



Transit Operator Gord Smith lifts Chris Austin up into the bus

ATTENDANT or COMPANION?

Attendants are required for health & safety reasons to travel with a registered Handi client and therefore do not have to pay a fare.

Companions are required to pay the regular fare, as they are not required for client, rather they ride for convenience and/or enjoyment purposes.

For booking purposes, there is a maximum of one attendant/companion per client and please indicate if someone is accompanying you at time of booking.

