

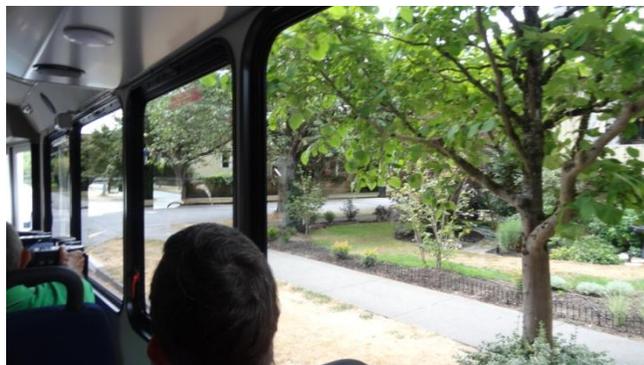
Time for a Joyride! Thank you for our new bus!

On July 21st, Dania's donors to the bus campaign were invited to take a "Joy Ride" to celebrate the purchase of the bus, and thank them for their generous support. The residents had been enjoying the bus for several months so a ride for our donors was overdue.



After enjoying some refreshments in the multipurpose room in the new Dania Home, it was time to go. Luckily some much needed rain started to fall AFTER everyone was inside the comfort of the bus. Kiel (our driver) asked where we were going, and everyone decided on Vegas! After some discussion, it was agreed that a tour of Queens Park in New Westminster might be more appropriate within the time allotted.

As we rolled onto the streets of New Westminster, Kiel explained that many of the heritage houses in the area are often used for filming of movies and TV shows. As we entered beautiful Queens Park we went past the Rose Garden and petting zoo. Along the way Kiel was persuaded to sing for us, although only for a moment.



This was a wonderful opportunity for our donors to see the impact that their generosity has on the lives of both the residents of Dania & Normanna, as well as the community. Residents of Dania and Normanna can enjoy a new sense of freedom without the restrictions of public transit. Through our Outreach Program we can support seniors living in our neighbourhood who may be 'home-bound'. They can be

brought to our facilities to enjoy a nutritious meal, participate in social events and enjoy camaraderie. Whether or not you were able to attend the Joy Ride; THANK YOU to everyone that donated towards our bus. We appreciate your generosity. **You make a difference!!**

Burnaby care homes get ticket to freedom

Ethan Reyes
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Donors who contributed to the purchase of a care home's private shuttle were invited to its maiden voyage

this past Wednesday.

Since fundraising began in 2010, the Normanna care home and its sister facility, the Dania home, were both able to raise the \$130,000 needed to pur-

chase the bus, named The Spirit of Freedom.

"The donors from both houses are very loyal (and give very generously," said Myrna Latval, president of the board of directors,

about the fundraising.

The idea for a private shuttle arose from a need that exceeded what services like HandyDART provide, according to Latval.

The new transport can carry up to 16 passengers and includes facilities to safely secure numerous wheelchairs.

The bus is also a key element of the two homes' Outreach program, where home-bound seniors "can be brought to our facilities to enjoy a nutritional meal, participate in social events and enjoy camaraderie," according to a press release.

The goal of the outreach program is to prevent isolation in seniors who may be unable to reach either the Normanna or the Dania on their own.

Piloting the newly christened shuttle on a tour to New Westminister's Queen's Park last week was driver-by-day and singer-by-night, Kiel Magis.

With his Mohawk stylishly coiffed, the 25-year-old livened the ride with his dry wit and even broke out in

song on occasion.

"Your grandson's name is Kyle?" Magis said, overhearing a passenger who had said as much to her seatmate. "That's good, that's a good name."

The warm timbre of Magis' voice sounded regularly throughout the cabin as he

treated his passengers to a guided tour of the Queen's Park grounds.

"And to your left is the petting zoo. I take my niece and nephew here when I want a vacation from real life," said Magis, much to the amusement of the passengers.



Freedom: Donors enjoy a tour aboard the Normanna and Dania care homes' new bus. The care homes raised the \$130,000 needed to buy the bus thanks to supporters' donations. PHOTO ETHAN REYES



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