CHEBEAGUE TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

FEBRUARY 2011

What's New at CTC?

Evening Trip Added to Ferry Schedule!

At the January 20th Board of Directors meeting, the CTC Board voted to add an 8PM ferry from Chebeague (8:15 PM from Cousins) Monday through Thursday effective 1/31/2011. The bus will not be available for this trip.

The schedule change was adopted because of the comments we received on our customer survey and from residents over the last few months. The need comes primarily from our school children who need (or desire) to attend school activities in the evenings. Parents told us that having children wait until a nine or ten o'clock boat significantly impacted their homework and rest time during the week. Commuters also told us that the new trip would give them more flexibility in work schedules.

We looked at the additional costs of adding mid-evening trips to our schedule. Since the trips would fall within existing work schedules for our boat crew, impact would be in the cost of running the boat (fuel, maintenance, etc). The Board of Directors felt that the benefit to the community more than offset the additional costs of adding the trips. Furthermore, since school activities occur on all school nights, the Board felt that the boats should be added each night Monday through Thursday.

The full boat schedule will be evaluated over the next few months and the community will be given ample opportunity for input into schedule changes. The value of continuing the 8PM boat beyond the current school year will be evaluated at that time.

About that Commuter Parking area…

We have received a number of comments from our customers regarding the assigned parking spaces for weekday commuters. We understand that this was a somewhat controversial decision and want to address some of the questions and concerns raised.

Why was the decision made? Primarily, the decision was made to aid in snow removal on Cousins. By having a full section of the lot emptied during the day, we are able to more effectively remove snow in the lot.

Is this a year-round change? This has not been determined. The pros and cons of a permanent vs. seasonal change must be evaluated.

What if there is a threat of flooding by the fence? Of course, we do not want customers to park in an area where there is a chance of damage to vehicles. In the rare cases where this is a possibility, please park where you feel it is safe or park your car at Route One .

Policy for Ferry or Bus Cancellation

When adverse weather conditions force CTC to consider cancelling a ferry and/or bus trip, the following policy applies:

◇ As soon as the decision is made, the information will be posted to the CTC website and the voice message on the main number 846-3700. CTC intends to make the decision and post it at least 60 minutes before the scheduled trip whenever possible.
◇ Route One parking customers should park on Cousins Island if the bus has been cancelled but the ferry is still running. Vehicle should be returned to Route One as soon as possible.
◇ If the weather takes a sudden turn for the worse, CTC may be unable to observe the 60 minute rule when passenger or employee safety is a concern.
◇ Customers wishing to receive a cancellation update via email or text should email the information to the CTC Business Office to be added to the Cancellation Notice group.

Welcome to Larry Wadsworth!

Larry is our new bus driver, replacing Bonnie Twomey who retired. Larry lives in Wales and has been a bus driver for 20 years, currently working for Cumberland and Yarmouth schools.

CTC Staff in the Spotlight

Ralph Hill

Ralph has been a bus driver for CTC for 5 years. He resides in Yarmouth with his wife, Mary. He and Mary have two children and three grandchildren in the area. Ralph was born in Fort Fairfield Maine (Aroostook County). He was raised on a potato farm and spent his youth growing potatoes. Ralph then became a trailer truck driver and moved to southern Maine. He spent 30 years driving trucks and estimates that he drove well over 2 million miles in that time! Ralph says he really enjoys his job at CTC and his favorite thing about the job is the customers! He loves meeting and helping people. Thanks, Ralph, for your friendly and helpful service to our customers!

Business Office:
(207) 846-5227
123 Roy Hill Rd,
PO Box 27
ctc@chebeague.net
General Manager:
Carol Sabasteanski
(207) 319-3061
csabasteanski@gmail.com