

LOWER MAINLAND HANDYDART OPERATOR WINS NEW WESTMINSTER ACCESSIBILITY AWARD

VANCOUVER, BC (October 15, 2007) - The Greater Vancouver Community Services Society (GVCSS), which began operating HandyDART buses in 1982 and today operates them in Burnaby, Coquitlam, New Westminister, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody, has won a Royal City Builders Award for its commitment to accessibility.

Presented by the New Westminister Chamber of Commerce and the City of New Westminister, the Annual Royal City Builders Awards recognize outstanding achievement in modern development, heritage preservation, accessibility improvements and energy efficiency.

The Universal Access award recognizes a business or institution that has contributed uniquely and significantly to improve access for all New Westminister residents and visitors. Other nominees included Queen's Park Sub Acute Rehabilitation Unit, Justice Institute Simulation Center, Urban Academy and Shoppers Drug Mart.

"We're especially proud to win this award because it was our clients that nominated us," said Ron McLeod, GVCSS Executive Director. "Along with wide hallways and specially designed workspaces and facilities, we try to incorporate as many design features as possible to ensure accessibility. We're very proud of our commitment to universal access for our clients as well as our employees in all our workplaces."

In addition to providing HandyDART service in the Lower Mainland since 1982, the non-profit Greater Vancouver Community Services Society also operates a comprehensive program of home support and community living services to the elderly, the physically and developmentally disabled, and other socially disadvantaged people in the community.