

Ottawa

Almost everyone in the Ottawa-Carleton region takes a bus. The area has sixty-three regular routes and forty-four limited stop and rush hour ones serving some 500,000 people.

Seventy per cent of the residents take a bus when they go downtown in the morning and the average man, woman or child takes 150 bus rides a year.

Early bird service is from 4 a.m. till 6:30 a.m. Ottawa was one of the first cities to have a service where mini-buses pick up passengers at their doors and take them to a centre of fixed route buses. It provides yearly passes for senior citizens.

Vancouver

Vancouver has buses on land and sea.

The Seabus is an aluminum, double-ended catamaran with two propulsion/steering units at each end. Since it is double-ended it need not turn around. People enter on one side and leave by the other. The buses were developed by Case Existological Laboratories, Ltd. and a single one can carry 400 passengers a trip, two miles across Burrard Inlet between North Vancouver and the city. One leaves either dock every ten minutes.

The city will also have a computer-driven system of elevated light transit cars, developed by Ontario's Urban Transportation Development Corporation. The system, which will cost \$710 million, will run between downtown Vancouver

and New Westminster in the suburbs. It will be called Advanced Light Rapid Transit and will be in place in time for the city's Expo '86.

Edmonton

Edmonton was the first city in North America with less than a million people to have a light rail subway/surface line. It opened in April, 1978, with fourteen articulated, or hinged, cars with rubberized steel wheels. It was 4.5 miles long, cost \$66 million and was soon carrying 20,000 riders a day. It is mostly surface—a one-mile section of downtown tunnel connects with old CNR tracks going to the northeast suburbs. It was extended at both ends in 1981 and another extension is under construction. The system now has seventeen cars, six stations and almost six miles of track, and carries 25,000 riders daily.

Calgary

Calgary opened a \$167 million, 7.9-mile light rail line in May, 1981, the first of five lines planned for the city. Less than a mile of it is underground. It carries over 40,000 riders a day, through residential, business and industrial areas. The city has a fleet of twenty-seven cars with fifty-six more on order. It has begun construction of the second line and by 1985 plans to have 17.5 miles of track.

Passengers who get on and off within the eleven-block downtown section ride free.



Light rail in Calgary.