

## **Media Release**

March 27, 2013

## For Immediate Release

## **Corridor 11 Bus Expands Schedule to Meet Rider Needs**

Muskoka Ontario – As promised, Hammond Transportation listened to feedback from riders and residents across Muskoka and expanded its Corridor 11 Bus schedule to meet local needs. The bus will continue to run Monday to Friday, from Huntsville to Barrie and back, making stops along the way in Bracebridge, Gravenhurst, Washago and Orillia. However, a new, improved schedule will begin at the beginning of April 2013.

"We heard that our original schedule didn't allow for late afternoon riders from Barrie or for riders who wanted to travel regularly between Gravenhurst and Bracebridge. Therefore, we expanded the schedule to ensure the best possible service for Muskokans," says Greg Hammond for Hammond Transportation.

Starting on Tuesday, April 2, 2013, the last Corridor 11 Bus will now leave from Barrie, heading north, at 4 pm and there will be an additional late afternoon run going south between Bracebridge and Gravenhurst. An additional stop has been added to take riders to the South Muskoka Memorial Hospital in Bracebridge and there is a new, more central, drop-off and pick-up point in Huntsville at 1 King William Street.

"We also added more time at each scheduled stop to allow for unexpected delays in traffic or bad weather. Going forward I think the schedule will be more reliable and accessible for riders," says Hammond.

Despite service interruptions in the fall and winter of 2012, the Corridor 11 Bus is back on the road permanently and ridership is steadily increasing.

"It was unfortunate that we had to interrupt service so soon after our launch last September. We worried that Muskokans would be discouraged. But we are welcoming new riders onto the bus each week," says Hammond.

Although the Corridor 11 Bus has been offering complimentary rides within Muskoka since it resumed service in late 2012, the regular fare schedule will be reinstated starting April 2, 2013.

"It was very generous of Hammond Transportation to offer complimentary Corridor 11 Bus service within Muskoka as long as they have. It has given people a chance to try out and get comfortable with the service. But even with at full fare, Muskoka now has a reliable, affordable transportation option that fills a historical gap for essential services such as medical appointments or to educational opportunities," says Rick Williams, Commissioner of Muskoka Community Services.

Seats on the Corridor 11 Bus can be booked by calling Hammond Transportation at 705-645-2583 or tickets can be purchased directly from the driver. For more information on prices, scheduling and pick-up and drop-off locations, and to find out who was involved in the Corridor 11 Bus project, go to <a href="https://www.corridor11bus.ca">www.corridor11bus.ca</a>.

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