

Message from the Minister

The Taxicab Board lost a very knowledgeable and dedicated member this past year. Lou Harries was the chairperson of the Taxicab Board from March 2000 until his passing on October 21, 2007. We will all miss the numerous contributions Lou Harries made over the course of the years. Recently Bruce Buckley has been tasked with the responsibilities of chairperson of the Manitoba Taxicab Board. I'm sure you will join me in welcoming Bruce as he brings a wealth of experience to this position. New board members bring new views and perspectives to the Taxicab Board to ensure that citizens get the best taxicab and limousine services. It is also important to recognize the efforts of those who have served on the board. I would like to express my thanks to Mr. George Gershman and

Mr. Kaur Singh Sidhu for their many years of participation in the work of the Taxicab Board. I look forward to learning of the new ways the taxicab industry continues to lead the way towards a greener environment and serving the people of Manitoba to their best abilities. For example, I am glad to note that the taxicab driver training programs have been updated to ensure that driver safety and customer service are key elements of the driver's knowledge and skill set. I wish continued success and cooperation as we continue to make decisions that ensure a sustainable industry.

Ron Lemieux, Minister of Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation

A tribute to Lou Harries

Lou Harries passed away on October 21, 2007 after a period of illness.

Lou was appointed to the Taxicab Board as Chairperson by Order in Council of the Government of Manitoba on March 27, 2000.

Lou had worked in or with the taxicab industry for over 35 years.

Lou was well respected by government, taxicab owners and drivers. Lou always found time to listen to an owner's or driver's concerns. Lou will certainly be missed by Taxicab Board members, staff and the taxicab industry.

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Member changes on Taxicab Board

There have been changes made in the membership of the Taxicab Board effective January 30, 2008. Mr. Bruce Buckley was appointed as Chairperson of the Taxicab Board. Bruce has many years of experience working with senior levels of government and labour. Mr. Navjit Singh Sidhu was appointed as a Member of the Taxicab Board. Mr. Sidhu is a professional engineer and had previously driven taxicabs in Winnipeg.

Mr. George Gershman and Mr. Kaur Singh Sidhu have left the Taxicab Board after many years of public service. Mr. Gershman was first appointed to the Taxicab Board in 1993 as a representative for the Mayor of the City of Winnipeg. In 1997 he was appointed by the Province of Manitoba as a member to the Taxicab Board. Mr. Kaur S. Sidhu was appointed to the Taxicab Board in 2000. Both Board Members were honoured by their colleagues on the Taxicab Board at a luncheon that was held on March 12, 2008.

What's New...

Applicants for new taxicab business licences

On June 4, 2008 the Taxicab Board met to discuss the current situation with respect to applications for new taxicab business licences. The Taxicab Board has heard three large applications for 200 standard and 50 premium taxicabs. In addition, there are several applications for SUV stretch limousines, a classic limousine, standard taxis and one accessible taxicab. On May 28, 2008 the Taxicab Board announced it was requesting a study be done of the taxicab and limousine industry to determine how many taxicabs and limousines would be required to serve the public in Winnipeg. The study started in July and a report is expected in October 2008. All applications will be held in abeyance until the study report is presented to the Board. These applicants may apply for temporary limousine licences if they have bookings to support the use of the additional vehicles. New applications may be submitted to the Board, but there will not be any hearings scheduled until the Board has an opportunity to review the study report.

Taxicab Driver Training Program

New taxi cab drivers wrote their examinations in 2008 at Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate, after completing their taxicab training program. Part A of the exam covers the written material from the course; Part B requires the students to demonstrate their knowledge of direct routes in the City of Winnipeg. Students are often surprised by the amount of material covered during the course, and by how intensive the class is. The 40-hour course is based on material developed by the Taxicab Board and a Taxicab Driver Training Program Ad Hoc Advisory Committee. Homework and extra assignments are the norm, and must be completed outside of the regularly scheduled class time. One of the assignments requires each student to visit 36 locations in the city, including hospitals, museums, bars and tourist attractions, and to have their photograph taken in front of each location. This provides them with the opportunity to learn the

location of many places in Winnipeg, before they begin driving a taxi cab.

The students commented on the emphasis placed on their role as "professionals" in the taxicab industry. As the first person that many visitors see, they are really Ambassadors for Winnipeg, and they are proud of that role! (For class schedules see page 4...)

Taxicab Board study taxicab and limousine industry.

The Taxicab Board has contracted with Tennessee Transportation & Logistics Foundation to conduct a study of the taxicab and limousine industry in Winnipeg. The lead researcher is Dr. Ray Mundy, who is regarded as an international expert in the area of taxicab and limousine transportation. The study was being conducted during July, August and September with a final report and recommendations to be presented to the Taxicab Board in early October.

Tariff increase for Specialty Vehicle Limousines July 2008

On July 23, 2008 the Taxicab Board held a public hearing with respect to an application for an increase in rates for stretch SUV limousines that carry 11 to 24 passengers. The Taxicab Board approved the following increases to Schedule F of the Taxicab Regulations effective August 15, 2008.

A. Time charges:

No changes to the existing categories and tariffs, for standard limousine, executive car, classic limousine and specialty vehicle limousine 1 to 10 passengers.

A new sub-category called "Specialty Vehicle Limousine 11 to

24 passengers" was created.

First hour or portion:

Maximum rate \$170.00

Minimum rate \$76.00

Each additional half hour or portion:

Maximum rate \$85.00

Minimum rate \$38.00

B. Direct trip charges:

Direct trips between any two points in Winnipeg via the most direct route, no waiting time, service ends on arrival:

Maximum rate \$170.00

Minimum rate \$76.00

Airport shared ride service, between Winnipeg International Airport and

downtown hotels and places of business, Specialty Vehicle limousine with capacity of 11 to 24 passengers only,

Prescribed rate/person \$11.70

Maximum per load \$76.00

Application for taxicab tariff increase

is currently before the Taxicab Board. A public hearing will be held on September 10, 2008 to hear the application. Unicity and Duffy's Taxi are asking for a 15 per cent increase in metered rates due to the increasing fuel costs.

What's Happening...

Greener taxicabs in Winnipeg

Hybrid taxicabs were first introduced to the Winnipeg taxicab fleet by Duffy's Taxi in July 2005 when one owner bought two used Toyota Prius vehicles. By December 2005 there were five Prius taxicabs with Duffy's Taxi. The total fleet of Winnipeg taxicabs was 409 standard taxicabs (metered four door sedans). By July 2006 there were 41 hybrid taxicabs including a few Ford Escape models. This represented 10% of Winnipeg taxicab fleet.

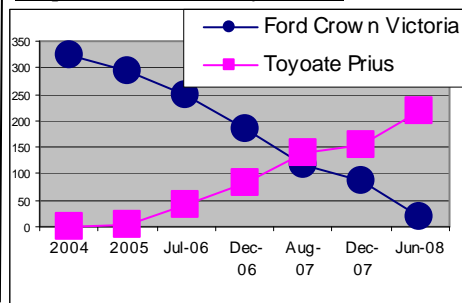
By July 2007 there were 148 hybrid taxicabs. This represented 35% of the Winnipeg taxicab fleet of 409 vehicles.

On December 31, 2007 there were 160 hybrid taxicabs. This represents 39 % of the Winnipeg taxicab fleet. In addition there were 114 mid-size model vehicles used as taxicabs.

By July 2008, there were 219 Toyota Prius models and five Ford Escape model vehicles. This represents 55% of the Winnipeg taxi fleet. In addition there were 109 mid size model vehicles as taxicabs. Mid size vehicles now represent 27% of the Winnipeg taxicab fleet.

Combination of hybrid taxicabs (224) and mid-size taxicabs (109) now represents 81% of the metered standard taxicab fleet in Winnipeg. There has been a dramatic decrease in the number of full size vehicles such as the Ford Crown Victoria, Lincoln and Cadillac that were used as standard taxicabs. The larger vehicles generally had large V-8 engines and were bought at auction as used vehicles. In addition to the higher fuel consumption, they required more maintenance as they were often high mileage vehicles. On December 2003 there were 323 Ford Crown Victoria vehicles used as taxicabs. This represented 79 % of the taxicab fleet at that time. In addition there were 26 vehicles that were made in 1989 or earlier that were operating as taxicabs. In 2008 the oldest taxicab is a 1992 Mercury Grand Marquis.

Graph 1: Ford C/V vs. Toyota Prius



The average age of taxicabs was nine model years in 2003, and in 2008 the average age has come down to four model years.

Renewing your taxicab driver licence

Since 2004, the Taxicab Board has required a Criminal Record Check (CRC) from the Winnipeg Police Department for drivers that are renewing their licences. Every **four years**, a taxicab driver must obtain a Criminal Record Search Certificate (Vulnerable Sector Search) from the Winnipeg Police Service. The Taxicab Board will notify all drivers needing a CRC in advance, to have time to complete and submit the forms to the Winnipeg Police Service located on 151 Princess Street.

If you have had any criminal convictions in the past, a transcript of your offenses will be required. This will take additional time to obtain. Any delay in obtaining these documents could mean you will be without a taxicab driver's licence for a period of time.

Also, before renewing your Taxicab Driver's Licence be sure to renew your Manitoba class 4.0 driver's licence.

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Taxicab industry data for 2007/08

In 2007/2008 the Board issued 126 new taxicab business licences, 114 of which were temporary operating authorities and 12 new operating authorities (six handivans, five accessible taxis and one specialty vehicle limousine). The Board also renewed 542 business licences, which includes 408 standard taxicabs, 24 accessible taxicabs, 63 handicab vans, 30 limousines, and 15 executive cars. There were 2,372 taxicab driver licences issued: 258 new licences, 2,071 renewal and 43 replacement licences. Last year, MPI had changed their licencing policy. Therefore there was a much larger number in renewals for four months and then renewed for a year. There were 503 English Language Assessments administered: 321 passed, 114 failed and 68 did not appear.

There were 2,547 taxicab inspections performed during the year which are categorized as follows: 702 street patrol inspections and 1,845 inspections performed at the Taxicab Board office which included general inspections and meter inspections. The Board received a total of 181 public complaints, all of which received written responses compared to 164 public complaints in 2006 and 262 public complaints in 2005.

The Taxicab Board issued 35 seasonal taxicab licences which authorized the owner to operate a standard taxicab during the period November 29, 2007 to February 29, 2008 to meet the increased winter demand.

For Your Information...

Taxicab Driver Training Program

The taxicab driver training classes are scheduled to begin on the following dates:

Daytime classes:

October 2, 2008
December 5, 2008

Evening classes:

September 17, 2008
October 15, 2008

Please contact St. James Continuing Education at 832-9637 or visit 470 Hamilton (east door—top floor) for further information.

Nominations for Taxicab Driver of the Year

The Taxicab Board will be accepting nominations for the 2008 Taxicab Driver of the Year and Service Excellence Awards. Nominations should be submitted to the Taxicab Board office by October 30, 2008. Please include a written recommendation as to why the person or organization is being nominated. Details of the next taxicab industry awards ceremony will be announced at a later date.

The 2007 Taxicab Driver of the Year was Balwinder Singh Gill. There were 14 Service Excellence Awards presented to drivers and people who contributed to promoting service excellence in the taxicab and limousine industry.

Unicity & Children's Hospital Foundation

Thanks to the Unicity shareholders and drivers who donated \$1,000.00 to the Children's Hospital Foundation. Your generosity is much appreciated in the public sector.

Number of new authorities issued in 2008

Handicab Van Licences 1
SV Limousine Licences 6

Sale-transfer values 2008

Taxicabs:

High \$285,000
Low \$85,000
Average \$219,293

Limousines:

High \$158,000
Low \$127,000
Average \$145,000

Accessible Taxis:

High \$180,000

Transport Institute working to reduce fuel and carbon emissions

The University of Manitoba's Transport Institute is working with the transportation industry to reduce fossil fuel consumption and carbon emissions within Winnipeg. Some of the innovations being tested include pure nitrogen filled tires and an automated routing system. It has been shown that nitrogen filled tires reduce fuel consumption and improve tire life. Tests are being conducted using Persentech Ottolink units to test vehicle performance such as idle time, develop driver profiles to identify energy inefficient practices and use its GPS capability to analyze and improve routing. Additional information can be obtained by calling Mr. Clare Pieuk at 474-6299.

Grad Patrol 2008

The Taxicab Board Inspectors and staff took to the streets again this year for graduation limousine enforcement. The inspectors and staff worked late into the evening to monitor limousine activity. This year the Taxicab Board issued 11 provincial offense notices of which eight were for operating a vehicle as a taxi without proper licensing and three notices for operating with open liquor in the vehicle. If you have any concerns or want to confirm that a vehicle is properly licenced to provide for hire service in the city of Winnipeg, please contact the Taxicab Board office at 945-8919.

Taxicab Board Members for 2008

Chairperson:
Bruce Buckley

Members:
Lee Gaylene
Roland Headley
Navjit Sidhu
Councillor Harry Lazarenko
(City of Winnipeg Council)
Sgt. Barb Tobin
(Winnipeg Police Service)

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Office hours: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday

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