



---

For release: April 30, 2009

## NEWS RELEASE

### **Specialized Transit Services Expanded**

Picton, ON – The County of Prince Edward is pleased to announce that effective May 1, 2009 the current Specialized Transit Service will be extended to four days of operation weekly. The days of operation will now be Tuesdays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Specialized Transit Service commenced in June 2007 with a three day per week program. It provided 926 trips for the 293 registered clients in the first season of operation. Currently, it provides over 2,600 trips with a registration nearing 500.

“Since the inception of Specialized Transit in the County, the program has steadily grown and current demands on the service warrants the expansion to a four day service,” said Mayor Leo P. Finnegan. “With ridership now in the thousands, and growing, it is clear that we have identified the need for Specialized Transit and the future growth is part of that evolution. Quinte Access, our contracted service provider, continues to provide the excellent service that our citizens have grown to depend on.”

The Specialized Transit Service is available to any resident with a physical disability, and for seniors 65 and older and who meet the eligibility criteria. The door to door service will operate 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. daily four days per week, namely Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Eligibility for service is based upon assessed need. A fully completed application form must be submitted by all persons requesting service, prior to the first trip being granted. Applicants will be accepted and rides will be prioritized based upon the eligibility criteria.

There are two levels of eligibility:

- Service priority will be granted to eligible PEC residents, regardless of age, that use mobility devices and do not have access to existing transportation services.
- Secondary priority will be granted to PEC residents 65 years of age or older that do not use mobility devices and do not have access to existing transportation services.

The toll free number to reserve trip times is 1-866-992-9640 and office staff is currently available five days per week. Requested trips for eligible residents must be booked at least 24 hours in advance. Transportation to medical appointments is considered a priority.

Together with annual funding provided by the Prince Edward District Women’s Institute, the Municipality has applied and qualified for provincial gas tax funding. Aside from user fees, the balance is raised through the tax base.

For additional information and to access our application form, please go to our website – [www.pecounty.on.ca](http://www.pecounty.on.ca) or call 613-476-2148 and ask for the Recreation, Parks and Culture Department. Application forms are also available at Shire Hall, RPC Dept. offices at 72 King Street in Picton, and at all public library branches.