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The Eco Friendly Way to Get Around

Three new hybrid diesel-electric buses rolled out June 26th on Shoreline Explorer routes: the Kennebunk Shuttle, Shore Road Shuttle and Sanford Ocean Shuttle (the only year-round route). "The introduction of the hybrid shuttle by the Shoreline Explorer is a fitting step into the green future of Maine," commented Kathryn Weare, Owner of Cliff House Resort & Spa and Shoreline Explorer Platinum sponsor for 5 years.

York County Community Action Corporation operates the 3 shuttles, along with 6 new gas powered trolleys manufactured locally by the Molly Corporation, as part of the Shoreline Explorer, a seasonal network of public and private trolleys and buses linking the communities of Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, Wells, Ogunquit, York and Sanford.

"This is an exciting time for us", said Connie Garber, YCCAC Transportation Director. "Bringing the hybrid vehicles online, along with the new gasoline powered trolleys, fulfills one of the original goals of the Shoreline Explorer system: to operate clean fueled vehicles."

The hybrids are the first in the State of Maine and are painted in the Shoreline Explorer colors, blue and tan. Built in Kansas and delivered to Maine the week of June 21st—just in time for the startup of the 2010 season, the hybrids operate primarily on electric power supplemented by diesel. Special training for the drivers was provided since the vehicle operation is new to all. The shuttle drivers report a very positive experience in the driving, maneuverability, and comfort of the new buses. YCCAC expects to see increased fuel economy along with lowered emissions, reduced brake and transmission wear, with resulting operating cost savings.

The shuttles were acquired with funding from Maine DOT and the Federal Transit Administration as part of the statewide Explorer initiative which includes the Island Explorer (Bar Harbor/Acadia), the Mountain Explorer (Bethel) and the Sugarloaf Explorer (Carrabassett Valley). In the off-season, the three new hybrids will be operated by YCCAC within its countywide transportation program.

For further information: www.shorelineexplorer.com or contact Connie Garber, YCCAC Transportation Director, 207-324-5762.