



Monday, June 14, 2010

For Immediate Release

## **YRT/Viva Bus Roadeo Champion moves on to international finals**

*Roadeo champion will represent York Region at the 2011 APTA Bus Roadeo*

**NEWMARKET** – The Regional Municipality of York held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual York Region Transit (YRT)/Viva Bus Roadeo yesterday, highlighting the skills of our highly-trained bus operators. Placing first in a series of skills competitions is Teresa Giasson from contracted operator Veolia Transportation. As Bus Roadeo Champion, Teresa will move on to represent York Region at the 2011 American Public Transit Association (APTA) Bus Roadeo in Memphis, Tennessee.

Two additional operators earned honours for their performance at the Bus Roadeo:

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Allan Jones, Veolia Transportation

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Ronnie Wu, Tokmakjian Inc.

YRT/Viva operators are trained professionals who bring safe, friendly and reliable transit service to York Region streets and communities. The annual Bus Roadeo provides a fun, interactive opportunity for operators to showcase their abilities and receive recognition for their hard work.

YRT/Viva service is provided by more than 700 operators employed by four York Region contracted service providers:

- First Canada ULC
- Miller Transit Ltd.
- Tokmakjian Inc.
- Veolia Transportation Inc.

YRT/Viva's bus fleet is large and growing, including over 440 YRT, Viva and Mobility Plus vehicles. More than 120 YRT/Viva routes keep residents connected within York Region, as well as with connecting services in the City of Toronto and the Region of Peel. Over 18 million riders used YRT/Viva services in 2009.

YRT/Viva experienced significant ridership gains in each of the first three months of 2010, with February and March posting the highest ridership in the history of YRT/Viva for those respective months. Year-over-year growth from 2009 to 2010 shows an average gain of 7.5 per cent from January to March.

For more information about YRT/Viva, please visit the YRT/Viva website at [www.yrt.ca](http://www.yrt.ca) or call the Customer Service Centre at 1-866-MOVE-YRT (668-3978).



**YRT Operations Manager Ann Marie Carroll with Bus Roadeo Champion Teresa Giasson.**

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