

Letter from Catherine Debo to Islanders:

June 25, 2009

Dear Islanders:

*After a great deal of thought, I have decided to resign my position effective December 31, 2009. Family commitments have led me to conclude that giving notice and resigning my position is the best course of action. I have thoroughly enjoyed my work with Casco Bay Island Transit District over the past two and half years, and have enjoyed getting to know you, working with you and for you. The Transit District is fortunate to serve customers who really appreciate our service, many of whom either serve or have served as members of the Board of Directors and Board Committees over the years - donating substantial time to participation in policy development, rate structure, service design, promotional activities, financial oversight, and so on.*

*I am proud of my accomplishments as General Manager, thankful to Board and Committee members for their selfless assistance during my tenure, and thankful for the wonderful Transit District employees who gave me so much support and assistance during this time. In the face of difficult budget times we have managed to improve our service – together.*

*Between now and the end of December I will continue to work with Staff on special projects in which I have been actively involved and will undertake such additional projects as may be requested by Interim General Manager Nick Mavodones - for the most part away from the office via phone and internet, but occasionally in the Transit District offices.*

*There are some things I'd like to say relative to these difficult budget times. Last summer's loss of peak season ridership and related seasonal revenue came as a result of high fuel prices and the beginning of a "down economy" which dramatically reduced the number of tourists (day trippers) in our area and seasonal island residents who traditionally use our service at the peak fare time of year, and as a result of one of the rainiest seasons ever recorded\*. These elements outside of our control made the difference between a great ridership season in the spring/summer/fall of 2007 (the best ever in recent times) and a poor peak season in 2008.*

*This year our budget is lean and mean, with the prospect of potential further reductions of ridership/revenues related to the impact of the "down economy" on day trippers and on the number of seasonal residents on the islands. The good news in that regard is that the budget was built on assumptions of a 5% loss of ridership and related revenues in scheduled and charter services. So we're prepared to take a further "hit" from these outside factors. I have every confidence that we will "weather" this storm and that the Transit District will come out of these times the stronger for having made tough decisions to meet these challenges.*

*I'd like you to know that I have been actively involved in seeking new revenue sources for the Transit District. Such efforts take time, and may not be completed this year, but I feel they will pay off in the medium term – taking the pressure off of service rate increases.*

*Please know that I wish you the best always. I do hope you will stop by to see me at a reception in my honor (date/time to be announced) in the Conference Room, or just stop by to see me in my office as I will be in the office until Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup>.*

Sincerely yours,



Catherine Debo, General Manager

*\* From May through September 2008, CBITD had 18,500 fewer seasonal and tourist passenger round-trips than the prior year. At Diamond Cove, seasonal rentals were reportedly down 60%, and to a lesser extent that appeared to be the case on other islands. Weather played havoc with the peak season as well. The national weather service reports that rainfall in August 2008 was more than twice the normal rainfall, and the 7<sup>th</sup> wettest August on record. September 2008 rainfall was the highest ever recorded for the month, beating the 1954 record by more than an inch.*

