

# Nanaimo Votes Public Transit

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## Plebiscite Also Approves Sunday Entertainment, Sports

Sun Staff Reporter

NANAIMO—Public ownership of Nanaimo Transit Ltd., operators of the civic bus system, was approved Wednesday in a poll in Nanaimo and four adjacent rural areas.

Voters in Nanaimo also approved a plebiscite to permit paid Sunday entertainment and sports.

The vote authorizes Nanaimo regional district to acquire the transit company assets from Dave Swithin, owner-operator, who had announced he would drop the service by Oct. 1 had there not been a two-thirds majority vote.

A 60-per-cent vote was required in each area to sanction an outlay of \$67,000 for assets of the company, \$75,000 for new equipment, and a union wage scale for drivers.

A yearly deficit of \$37,102 is anticipated, and with debt retirement, will be met by a .66 mill levy on specific areas using the transit service.

The turnout was 22 per cent of those eligible to vote, said returning officer Ruth Thorpe.

Swithin said he would have had to find \$2,000 for fleet insurance next month. He said that under regional district control bus users can look for an expanded, better service.

The Nanaimo city tally of 927 for and 521 against on the bus plebiscite contrasted with 1,220

votes in favor of Sunday entertainment and 271 against. The latter vote was helped along by tenant-electors.

The final transit vote count gave Nanaimo 64 per cent in favor, whereas a solid rural vote showed: Harewood, 347 for 135 against (71.9 per cent); Departure Bay, 302 for 65 against (82 per cent); Northfield, 179 for 48 against (78.8 per cent), and Wellington, 225 for 80 against (73.7 per cent).