



# New Flyer doing OC Transpo warranty work in Arnprior

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BY THERESA FRITZ

EMC News - Arnprior residents may be wondering why they are regularly seeing OC Transpo buses on some local roadways. The familiar red and white buses, which form the heart of the City of Ottawa's public transportation system, have been venturing in and out of town since February.

That's when New Flyer Industries Canada ULC set up its Ottawa Service Centre in the Sullivan Industrial Park.

"We started doing warranty repairs for the City of Ottawa. Our main purpose is warranty work," explained service centre manager Bill Kelford. "We are working with a 60 foot fleet right now."

Kelford noted the work done on the buses includes repairing any problem that has been discovered, similar to warranty work done on automobiles.

"All our work is generated based on what we get from the city," he explained. "We try to keep a good steady workload going."

He said the industrial building at 480 Hartney St. was the perfect choice for New Flyer because it was cost effective to be in Arnprior and located on a direct transportation line (Highway 417) not far from Ottawa.

According to its website, New Flyer is the leading manufacturer of heavy-duty transit buses in the United States and Canada. The company, which started in 1930, has three main facilities - in Winnipeg, Manitoba, St. Cloud, Minnesota and Crookston, Minnesota - and has a skilled workforce of more than 2,000.

The company had been privately owned until five or six years ago, before becoming a publicly traded operation. New Flyer's income deposit securities are traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol NFI.UN.

Kelford, himself a former OC Transpo mechanic, heads up a staff of eight in Arnprior at present but he is hopeful there will be more growth.

"We will be expanding because our workload will be expanding," he said, adding that the current contract New Flyer has with OC Transpo for warranty work is for two years.

But with Ottawa city council's recent decision to buy 306 (exercising 80 options plus an additional 226) new articulated clean diesel busses at a cost of \$190 million from New Flyer, and the fact that the city can trade in a fleet of older buses that have experienced some defects as part of the deal, there appears to be no shortage of future work at the Arnprior facility.

"We will have to pre-issue and safety the new buses," Kelford explained. "With the new buses coming, we will be expanding."

According to New Flyer, the first new Ottawa buses are expected to enter production in July with delivery of the new fleet anticipated to start in August, and completed delivery to occur within approximately one year. According to its website, once the older buses are refurbished in Arnprior, New Flyer "will market the buses for re-sale in both domestic and international markets."

Not only do buses come in and out of Arnprior to have work done on them, they also hit local streets,

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Theresa Fritz, Arnprior EMC  
Warranty work for Ottawa's OC Transpo buses takes place at the New Flyer service centre in Arnprior.

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Theresa Fritz, Arnprior EMC  
The centre, which has been up and running since February, is managed by Bill Kelford (inset).

as they are being road tested.

As well, Kelford said he has a few employees who are from the local area and he tries to deal with local companies as much as possible.

"We leave what we can (in terms of business) in the local region," he stated.

Anyone interested in knowing more about New Flyer or applying for a potential job with the company should visit the website at [www.newflyer.com](http://www.newflyer.com).

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