

➤ New Office — Open House

Welcome

We're excited to present the first quarterly issue of the **cupe connector**.

We hope you find it informative, useful and maybe even entertaining. If you have suggestions or submissions for the next issue e-mail us!

The open house was a success. Congratulations to Local 439 for all of their hard work to purchase and ready the building. We are pleased to share the office space with them. Thank you to our members that donated items for the Comox Valley Food Bank and Too Good to be Threw, and to those that attended the event. Special thanks to Odie Morin for pitching in and barbecuing hamburgers.

Buying Local Campaign

Thanks to Tyler Johns from the City of Courtenay parks department for stepping up to participate in the organization of the Comox Valley Local First Pilot Project. The goal of the project is to support the local economy, increase support and appreciation for CUPE work and to increase awareness of the economic importance of CUPE workers. The strategy involves developing a booklet listing supportive, local, independent businesses, which will be used in a buy "Local First" month campaign. CUPE members will receive a card with boxes denoting \$20. The sum of

the boxes will be around \$200. Each time a member spends \$20 at a participating business during October 2010 the merchant will sign off one of the boxes. Completed cards will be entered into a draw for prizes. If you're interested in participating, it's not too late. Just email us at cupe556@members.cupe.ca Stay tuned for more details as the project develops.



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CUPE Education Bursaries 2010

Krista Wilkie, the daughter of Shane Wilkie (CVRD), was the recipient of the \$500 bursary from the Local and \$500 from the CVRD unit (EI Bursary fund). Congratulations to Krista and we wish her success in her future endeavors. Krista will be entering the university studies program at North Island College this fall.

Each year the Local provides bursaries to the dependent children of members. They must be graduating from grade 12 and continuing their education that year. The CVRD through their EI Premium rebates, provides an additional bursary for their members children.



CVRD Unit Vice President Mike Murphy presenting the 2010 Education Bursaries to Krista Wilkie.

Year of the Steward

At a local level, we would like to extend our thanks to our stewards for all that they do for us.

Well wishes sent to Trish Mack

We'd all like to extend our well wishes to Trish Mack, our representative from CUPE National. For those who are unaware, Trish has been providing support to our Local for several years. She plays a very important role in our organization. Amongst other things, the national representative assists Unit Vice Presidents with day to day issues and participates in the bargaining process. Alistair MacKenzie will be filling in for Trish while she is undergoing treatment for breast cancer over the next year.

Stew•ard (stoo' erd, styoo' erd)
n. keeper, guardian, advocate, activist
v. to protect - bedrock of the union -

At the CUPE national convention in Montreal, convention delegates chose 2010 to shine the light on stewards. As part of the *Year of the Steward*, CUPE's Union Development Department has embarked on a new approach to steward education; one that both acknowledges the important role stewards play and provides them with a wide range of education opportunities to help them do their jobs

and build activism in the union.

At a local level, we would like to extend our thanks to our stewards for all that they do for us.



Our hats off to the following individuals

Village of Cumberland - Darryl Barker

Comox Valley Regional District - Brian Allaert, Jeri-Lynn Davies, Gord Murduff, Chris Hounsell, Dianna Gaulder

City of Courtenay - Eric Jernslett, Juergen Kellinghausen, Lisa McPherson

Town of Comox - Keith Haydon, Cindy Major, Brian Russell, Bill Smith

CUPE Education

CUPE Education programs have a spring and fall session. The calendar for the fall sessions will be determined soon and will be posted on your bulletin boards. If you are interested in any courses, please contact your shop steward and they will provide you with an

application form. The Local will (with employer approval) reimburse wages and travel expenses for approved CUPE education courses.



For further information

<http://www.cupe.bc.ca/resources/union-education>

Quote for the day

"Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs are people who have come alive!" **Howard Thurman**

Do you have a favourite quote? Send it in for the next newsletter issue.

Meet a member



Brian Allaert (CVRD)



Place of work:	<i>Park operations and maintenance with CVRD for 11 years.</i>
Years in the Comox Valley:	<i>20</i>
Originally from:	<i>Dresden, Ontario – stopped in BC on way home from New Zealand biking holiday in 1989 – never made it back to Ontario</i>
Also lived & work in:	<i>Calgary (during Winter Olympics), Australia (Cairns, Brisbane and Grafton) including the Canadian Pavilion at Expo 88 in Brisbane</i>
Status:	<i>Married 18 years To Dee (the girl next door) – no kids or pets</i>
Hobbies/interests:	<i>Dirt biking, skinny dipping, bungee jumping, open mic standup comedy, kite surfing</i>
Favourite sports team:	<i>Maple Leafs</i>
Pet peeve:	<i>Cats, they kill songbirds</i>
Favourite treat:	<i>Rocky Mtn. Café Nanaimo bars</i>
Comments:	<i>If I did not work at the CVRD, I would likely work as a baker</i>



Just Bouquets

Thanks to all those people that volunteered their time and backs and worked so hard on the Broom Bash this year. Next year let's all get out and help them remove that nasty scotch broom from our community.

Fields of daffodils to the 412 participants in the 2010 Relay for Life for raising more than \$100,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society at this year's event. Simply amazing!

Kudos to Councillor Patti Fletcher for requesting the provincial and federal governments to provide mapping of aquifers that could be affected by the proposed Raven Underground Coal Project.

What bouquets would you like to give in our next issue?
cupe556@members.cupe.ca

Birth announcement



Sierra Brooke Hounsell, born on May 31 at 9:15pm
 Congratulations to Craig and Trisha Hounsell.
 Welcome Sierra, a sister for Brodie. Craig is a GIS mapping technician at the CVRD.

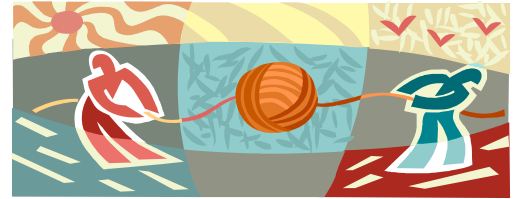


Social Committee is looking for your input

Our next function is a family event and we would like feedback on what the members would like to attend. Union functions are subsidized by the union so the cost is very low if there is cost at all and we would like to encourage getting to know your other members and their families that might be outside of your immediate departments or units.

Summer events could include a beach day, pool day or sports day. Winter events could include ozone tubing or snowshoeing. What are members' preferences? Feel free to make other suggestions. Does Saturday or Sunday work better for most families?

Is there a reason why members would not attend a union function? Time constraints, not liking the event, not knowing other members, cost, other?



Would you prefer to attend a summer or winter event?

Help them to plan our next event – send your feedback to cupe556@members.cupe.ca

We're on the web!

Visit us at
www.556.cupe.ca
 for the latest
 news
 resources
 documents
 photos
 and more!

Humour mill

Thought to Ponders

Why don't you ever see the headline "Psychic Wins Lottery"?

Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?

Featured video (content may not be suitable for all viewers)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=184NTV2CE_c



And you thought
 there was stress
 in your life !

May general meeting highlights



Aside from the regular business which includes financial, unit and education reports, there were a few items of interest.

Newsletter

The plan for a new quarterly newsletter was announced, with the intent of connecting the four units of our local. You are now reading our first issue. The participation of all units is essential to its success. If you are interested, let us know, we really need a coordinator from each unit. Special thanks to Cheryl Sellers (CVRD) and Greg Beebe (CVRD) for putting it all together for us.

Education Coordinator

Lisa McPherson, Vice President (City of Courtenay) is now the education co-ordinator for the local. Lisa recently attended a 'building strong unions' course on our behalf and would like to develop a database with all local members email addresses to assist with communications.

CUPE Wear Clothing

As we have new members and some members were missed last round, we are looking at purchasing more CUPE Wear. We will be compiling a list of the members, sizes etc. When we have a bit of a list, we will look at the costs and decide what may be appropriate and put forward any necessary budget amendments to the membership.

Communicating with Members

It is important that we are able to communicate with members via their home email addresses. Unit vices were asked to have their shop stewards compile lists of home email addresses for members in their area. The CVRD already has a list. If you're not on it let Claudette Pavan know.

Vancouver Island MusicFest - Living Green Program

We will be sponsoring the Vancouver Island MusicFest Living Green program again this year. This program eliminates plastic water bottles from MusicFest and promotes our local public water supply to the festival attendees and the community as a whole.

25th Annual Miners Memorial Weekend

The local has donated \$100 to the Cumberland Museum and Archives to support their labour history and mining exhibit development. Lisa McPherson, Vice President will be laying a bouquet on our behalf at the 25th Annual Miners Memorial at 2:30 on Saturday, June 19th.

Good of the Union

The winners of the three \$50 draws were Jeri-Lynn Davies (CVRD), Ed Gauthier (CVRD), and Greg Murphy (Comox).

It is important that we are able to communicate with members via their home e-mail addresses.

CUPE 556

Upcoming meetings

Next general Meeting:
Tuesday, July 27, 2010
at 7:00 p.m.

Location: 496-10th Street
(CUPE Local 556 office)

Your current executive officers

Cindy Major, President
(Comox Recreation)

Lisa McPherson, Vice President
(City of Courtenay)

Rod Armstrong, Unit Vice President
(City of Courtenay)

Debra Andrew, Unit Vice President
(Town of Comox)

Mike Murphy, Unit Vice President
(CVRD)

Joanne Pilson, Unit Vice President
(Village of Cumberland)

Claudette Pavan, Recording Secretary
(CVRD)

Cheryl Sellers, Secretary-Treasurer
(Comox Valley Regional District)

Dave Stewart, Sergeant at Arms
(Comox Valley Regional District)

Fred Ennis, Trustee
(City of Courtenay)

Mike Major, Trustee
(City of Courtenay)

Eric Jernslett, Trustee
(City of Courtenay)

Telephone
250-338-2447
(leave message)

Email
cupe556@members.cupe.ca

Address
496-10th Street
PO Box 3454
Courtenay, BC V9N 5N5

Website
www.556.cupe.ca

»» The cupe connector classifieds

dog house

Brand new quality wooden dog house. Purchased, assembled and is too small for our golden retriever. Suitable for mid size dog. Paid \$250 at Petland, will sell for \$100. **250-338-1575**



tv, van seats, lawn mower, grad dress

14" Colour TV \$25 works great. 20" Colour TV \$25 works great. 2 Grey Cargo Van Bench Seats \$20 each. Reel Lawn Mower (Commercial) great condition! Beautiful Burgundy Grad Dress size 13/14 (paid \$525. asking \$175.) 30 gallon aquarium \$25. **250-941-5502 Cindy**

classic TR6

1969 TR6 with matching trailer, manuals and tune-up tools, red with white top \$16,000. **250-336-8526**



26' sailboat

26' Grampian Sailboat, \$10,000. Very clean & ready to go! New Upholstery; New Head; Holding Tank; 2 New Deep-cycle Batteries; 2 Anchors; VHF; Depth Sounder; 3 Head Sails Older Main; Cabin Heater; Auto Pilot Tiller; BBQ; 20 gal Pressure Water; 9.9 Honda; 2 Fuel Tanks; Alcohol Stove; Spares; Well-insulated Icebox; Moorage Available at Pacific Playgrounds. Contact Ralda Leroux, at ralda@shaw.ca or phone **250-871-4747**



hp scanner

HP Scanjet G3010 – In mint condition – only 4-months old. Selling price: \$40.00 Contact Ralda Leroux at ralda@shaw.ca or phone **250-871-4747**

looking for a home to purchase

Purchase price: maximum \$300,000. While we are looking for a small home, we are not interested in a trailer. Preferably a rancher. Preferably a rural property or a small home on a large lot on the outskirts of Courtenay or Comox, with our preference being Courtenay. Not too close to the ocean, but on the in-land side of highway 19A, north of Courtenay. If a suitable home is located on the south side of Courtenay, we would not like going futhersouth than Royston. A fixer-upper would work for us. Contact Ralda Leroux at ralda@shaw.ca or phone **250-871-4747**

trailer wanted

Trillium or Boler 13' travel trailer in good condition. Contact Greg at kgbeebe@gmail.com or **250-218-7620**.



To receive our next quarterly issue, be sure we have your current e-mail address.

E-mail us at cupe556@members.cupe.ca with 'subscribe' in the subject line.

Suggestion or submission?

E-mail us at cupe556@members.cupe.ca

CUPE 556

Telephone

250-338-2447
(leave message)

Email

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Address

496-10th Street
PO Box 3454
Courtenay, BC V9N 5N5

Website

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