



Season's Greetings

We'd like to take this opportunity to wish all of our members a wonderful holiday season. Thank you to everyone who contributed content and provided suggestions for improvements for the **cupe connector**. We look forward to bringing you next year's issues!

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➤ Focus: peace on earth



Eric Jernslet, a shop steward with the City of Courtenay, has been looking for volunteer opportunities for several years, and came across CADIP while doing internet research. The Canadian Alliance for Development Initiatives and Projects is an umbrella organization that facilitates volunteer operations for non-profit non-government organizations all over the world. The Comox Valley's own Child Development Association has an autistic/

Asperger's summer camp for children that is staffed by international volunteers whom apply through CADIP.

The project Eric is participating in is co-ordinated by a group called FSL India, an Indian based NGO that promotes global understanding and inter-cultural exchange. He will be located in a small suburb of Kannur, a coastal city in the south western state of Kerala. There are several aspects to the project: the main focus being the repair and renovation of a building to be used as a school. He will also be involved in teaching basic English & math, as well as hygiene awareness and environmental stewardship.

As part of the cultural exchange, he will be instructed daily in traditional yoga and Ayurvedic theory. Ayurveda translates from Sanskrit as "science of life", and is the traditional Indian system of medicine that focuses on treating the body and mind as a whole, rather than using a symptomatic approach to treatment, as western medicine does. It relies on holistic and homeopathic remedies, as well as diet (vegetarian), mental balance (meditation) and physical stimulation (yoga & massage) to correct the imbalances in one's body.

He left for India the first week of December and will be returning at the end of January. The project is slated to last four weeks, and if his stay there is not extended he will be heading to Northern India to help out a friend that operates an ashram.

Eric says he is really looking forward to the experience, and we're looking forward to hearing all about it on his return. What an adventure! ■

Find out more

Interested in learning more about Kannur or the CADIP? Visit:

<http://www.indiasite.com/kerala/kannur/index.html>

<http://www.cadip.org>

January elections

Don't
forget to
vote!

Elections will be held for the position of President, Recording Secretary and Sergeant at Arms at the general membership meeting on **Wednesday, January 26, 2011**. This will take place at the CUPE 556 office on 10th Street.

The Comox unit will be holding their election for Unit Vice and other unit positions in January, time and date to be announced.

The Courtenay unit will be holding their election for Unit Vice and other unit positions on **January 5, 2011**, the location to be announced.

For information on the positions, click or visit the following link: <http://www.556.cupe.ca/updir/556/2011electionpositions.pdf>

President

Recording Secretary

Sergeant at Arms

Unit Vice

Be sure to come to the meeting and vote for the members that will be representing you. ■



Social Committee – Casino night

Fun was had by all at the Casino night held on November 20th. Thanks to the social committee Tyler Johns, Eric Jernslet and Lisa McPherson for all their efforts in organizing the event. Over 70 people attended. If you have any suggestions for future events, forward them Lisa McPherson either directly or via your shop steward or any member of the executive, or email cupe556@members.cupe.ca ■



Meet a member



Tyler Johns (City of Courtenay)



Place of work	<i>Full time gardener, City of Courtenay, 5 years</i>
Years in the Comox Valley	<i>7</i>
Originally from	<i>Yonder parts of the island</i>
Hobbies/interests	<i>hiking, photography, camping, eating straight from the garden without wiping the dirt off</i>
Book on your bedside table	<i>Trauma Farm, Salt Spring Island</i>
Favourite place	<i>Tofino</i>
Family	<i>Beautiful bride Kim and two Boxers with bad breath</i>
Community involvement	<i>Gardening workshops, bicycling advocacy, field hockey</i>
Union service	<i>Assist with social events</i>
Other things about me	<i>Sometimes wake up at 4 in the morning to bake cookies, aspiring nudist, recovering Sagittarius</i>



Just Bouquets

Hats off to the Town of Comox Cupe 556 Parks Department! The downtown area with all the amazing lights looks beautiful!!

Many thanks to CUPE members that have adopted families for Christmas in the "Hamper Programs" There are many work sites doing this and one member alone is providing for 5 families in need. "Now that's the Spirit of Christmas".

Thank you to Joanne Gunderson for arranging for a health nurse to come in and provide 20 minute confidential appointments for a Blood pressure and blood sugar testing and general health questions for CVRD staff.

What bouquets would you like to give in our next issue?

cupe556@members.cupe.ca

Happy Retirement to Peter and Craig!



We said farewell to **Peter Van Dinter**, our treatment plant operator who has been with the CVRD for 26 years.

Craig Greenfield spent 18 years at the CV Waste Management centre as a landfill operator. Unit Vice, Mike Murphy presented them with their \$150 retirement gifts from the local and \$300 long term service awards from the CVRD unit. We'll miss them both and wish them all the best. ■

We're on the web!

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



CUPE 556 Remembers

Each year our local lays wreaths in Comox, Courtenay and Cumberland to show that we have not forgotten the members of our armed forces who have died on duty since World War I. ■



Lisa McPherson laying wreath at Cumberland ceremony.



Child Development Telethon

This year's Comox Valley Child Development Telethon on November 7th, raised over \$111,000. Courtenay Unit Vice, Rod Armstrong volunteered his time to answer telephones and was pleased to present the association with the annual donation from our local of \$1,000. ■

Salvation Army Christmas Hamper Program

Local 556 is sponsoring two families this year. Cheryl Sellers volunteered to do the shopping for the family of five and the family of four. We hope it will make their Christmases just a little bit brighter. ■





Are you a car fanatic?

Colin Packham, plant operator at the CVRD is. He is a member of the Comox Valley Classic Cruisers. The local car club is selling calendars featuring their classic cars with the proceeds going to several worthwhile charities including St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation, Make a Wish Foundation, Secret Santa, as well as organizations such as CYMC, Strathcona Symphony Orchestra and Comox Valley Search & Rescue.

Colin's car was chosen to be in the 2011 calendar and is featured for the month of May. All the cars featured are local and the pictures are taken here in the valley. The calendars can be purchased for \$10 and are on sale through the sponsors, A&W, Comox Valley Dodge, First Insurance, Mid Island Drywall, Husky or you can contact Colin at colinrp@shaw.ca.

If you're interested in finding out more about the car club, check out their website at <http://www.cvclassiccruisers.com> ■



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.





Photo Contest

We've added a new section to our newsletter for a photo contest. Members are invited to submit their favorite photos and our favorite will be featured in the current newsletter. We will develop a photo gallery on our website to collect all the photos that have been submitted. At

the end of next year, an overall favorite will be determined (perhaps by voting). The winning photographer will win \$100.

Here is the photo that has been selected for this issue, submitted by Heather Follis (CVRD) and the runner up by Kerry Bird. ■



*November Sunrise by
Heather Follis, CVRD*

*Runner up, Sweetie watching
his reflection, by Kerry Bird*



Humour mill

Quote for the Day

*"Do not go where the path
may lead. Go instead where
there is no path and leave a
trail." Emerson*

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



Featured video: Mr. Bean's Christmas Carols

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xzkmkxbx2T4&feature=related>



General Meeting highlights



General meeting highlights Sep 29

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

Issues moved to Arbitration

The membership approved that the following grievances proceed to arbitration:

- City of Courtenay regarding 20.09 Family Responsibility Leave
- CVRD Vacation Entitlement for Casuals who have become Permanent

Shop Stewards Appreciation Dinner

The date for the 2nd Annual Shop Stewards appreciation dinner was set for Wednesday, November 10th.

Good of the Union

The winners of the three \$50 draws were:

- Harsh Uttam
- Bill Berndt
- Lisa McPherson ■

General meeting highlights Nov 24

Social Committee

The casino night on November 20th was a great success. The committee would like suggestions for future events to be forwarded to Lisa McPherson either directly or via your shop steward or any member of the executive.

Bargaining

Bargaining committees have been meeting regularly preparing for bargaining. Some of the dates for meeting with the employers have been set.

Shop Stewards Appreciation Dinner

Shop stewards appreciation dinner was well attended. In keeping with the 'buy local' theme, the shop stewards were presented with a \$50 gift certificates for Locals Restaurant.

Election Committee

Pursuant to the local's bylaws, Ralda Leroux and Dianna Gaulder were appointed Returning Officer and assistant (respectively) for the upcoming elections in January. The positions of president, recording secretary and sergeant-at-arms will be elected at the general meeting in January. Comox and Courtenay will elect their unit vice prior to this meeting.

Good of the Union

The winners of the three \$50 draws were:

- Mark Salter
- Dennis Mirabelli

- Rod Armstrong

The winner of the \$500 end of the year draw was:

- Claudette Pavan

CUPE 556

Upcoming meetings

Next General Meeting:

Check the website calendar for scheduled meetings.

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

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Seasons Greetings from your Executive

We would like to wish you and your families a Wonderful Holiday Season, filled with good food, good laughs and a well deserved rest over the break. May the New Year bring you all good health and prosperity!

cupe connector classifieds

FOR SALE

Antique Piano

1913 Marshall & Wendell upright, refinished a couple of years ago. Beautiful mahogany. Asking \$1900.

250-338-1575



FOR SALE

29' Travel Trailer

Queen walk around bed, lots of cupboard room, and storage room. Separate bathroom & vanity. Sofa and table make down into beds for guests. 2 doors - kitchen is at the front of the trailer with excellent access to the great outdoors. Comes with DC Converter, Propane Tank, Air Conditioner(Central-Ducted), Ceiling Fans/Vents, Stabilizer Jacks, Spare Tire, Exterior Shower, Shower, Toilet, Queen Bed, Sofa Bed/Daveno, LPG/CO2 Detectors, TV, Stereo, CD, Cable Hookup, TV Antenna, Microwave, Stove, Oven, Range Hood, Furnace, Awning, Water Heater, DVD Player, DSI Water Heater

Sage/brown. Excellent Condition. \$18,500

250-338-1575



FOR SALE

89 Toyota Pickup

Great shape '89 Toyota pickup with extra cab, 2 wheel drive, 22 r 4 cylinder engine with 175,000



miles, automatic, runs excellent. New Michelin tires, new brakes, starter and calipers. Very clean, no rust. \$2,900.00 obo call Gord @ **250-218-7881**

FOR SALE

94 Oldsmobile Achieva

Very reliable and great car. Only 76000 original km!!! Air bags,-4 doors,- new tires (also 2 spares),air conditioner (works great),electric locks and windows, cruise control, large trunk.-Excellent on gas!



It uses only \$25 to go from Comox to Victoria and back. Must Sell! \$2700. Call Marie at 250-650-6969 or email

mariemajor8@hotmail.com

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Suggestion or submission?

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