

➤ Focus: Anti-Bullying Day 2011

Welcome

We're excited to present another action-packed quarterly issue of the **cupe connector**.

Help make future issues of the **cupe connector** better by making suggestions for improvement and submitting content!



Comox Recreation staff were part of the proud pink movement on February 23rd. Left to right, Town of Comox Recreation Centre. Left to right are: Sue Tompkins, Trina DunsmoreSuper, Roger Smith, Mandy Johns, Krystal Stevens

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Along with many others across the province, CUPE Local 556 observed anti-bullying day on February 23rd. Thanks to the Insurance Centres, the majority of us donned our pink t-shirts declaring that we respected the right to be different. The last Wednesday of February is known Anti-Bullying Day in Canada. It's also known as "Pink Shirt Day". Originally started as a protest against a bullying incident at a Nova Scotia high school. On this day participants are asked to wear pink to symbolize a stand against bullying. The original event was organized by David Shepherd and Travis Price. They bought and distributed 50 pink shirts after a student was bullied for wearing a pink shirt on the first day of school. ■

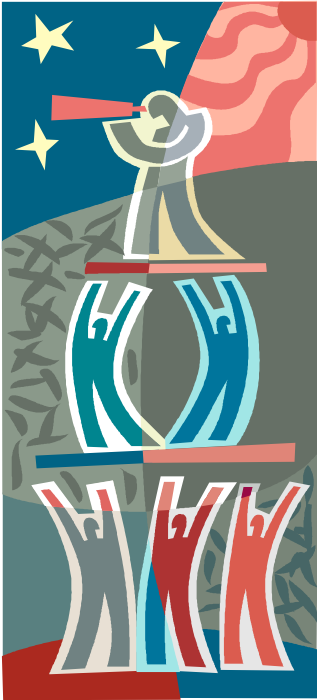


CVRD Gord Hodge, Heather Follis, Joanne Gunderson. Gord had his hand at making anti-bullying posters around the office, Heather & Joanne, made some matching pink cupcakes and treats which didn't last long.

DID YOU KNOW?



CUPE 556 puts goodwill to work



Did you know that our local arranges for flowers, gift baskets for members that have been absent from work due to illness or injury in excess of 14 days, upon the birth of a child, or upon the death of a member, their partner, or their child. Each unit has a goodwill committee that makes these arrangements on behalf of the local. If you are aware of a member that should be receiving something, let your goodwill committee know. Members can opt to have a donation of \$50 made to a charity instead. We have received a thank you note from YANA for a recent donation made at the request of Gary Usher. Thanks Gary, for thinking of others. ■



Your committee members are:

- Comox Valley Regional District — Colleen Robson, Ralda Leroux
- Village of Cumberland – Jessica Baird, Kyle Jorgenson
- Town of Comox – Sue Tompkins, Sharon Armella,
- City of Courtenay – Lisa Zervakis

Educational bursaries

Did you know that our local provides educational bursaries for our members children? Educational bursaries are awarded on an annual basis as follows:



- the applicant must be a dependant child of a CUPE Local 556 member at the time of graduation;
- the applicant must be continuing their education full-time at a recognized post-secondary institution no later than January the following graduating year;
- applications must be written by the graduating student and received by the Executive Board no later than March 31st of their graduating year;
- a copy of the acceptance letter from the admitting institution must be supplied by August 15th;
- an amount of \$500 per applicant will be awarded to each successful applicant;
- in the event that an applicant does not attend the institution, the bursary should be repaid to CUPE Local 556.

Applications may be mailed, forwarded to the executive through your shop steward or unit vice president, or may be emailed to cupe556@members@cupe.ca. Notices have been posted, but if you missed them, the deadline for applications is March 31st.

The CVRD unit provides an additional bursary of \$500 for their members. Contact Ralda Leroux or Colleen Robson for information. ■

Meet a member



Darby Arsenault
(Village of Cumberland)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Place of work: | <i>Animal Control Officer for Village of Cumberland</i> |
| Years in the Comox Valley: | <i>27</i> |
| Originally from: | <i>Royston</i> |
| Union/Community Involvement: | <i>labour management committee 2010-2011 El committee 2011</i> |
| Interest:s | <i>camping, fishing, quadding</i> |
| Family: | <i>married, 2 kids:Jon 8, Bailey 6</i> |



Just Bouquets

Multitudes of spring blossoms to Deb Andrews for her years of service as the Comox Unit Vice President.

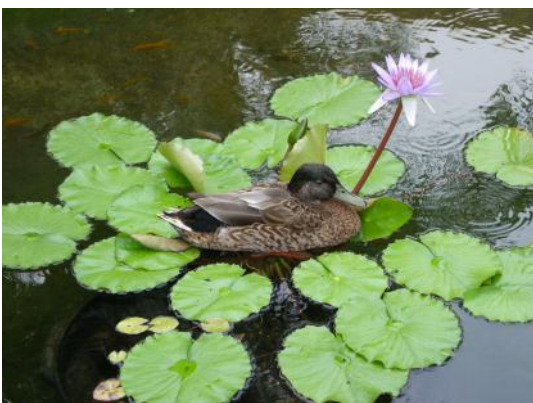
Thanks to Heather & Joanne at the CVRD for the scrumptious Anti-bullying day treats!

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

cupe556@members.cupe.ca

Photo Contest

Our photo contest continues. We've had a number of submissions for this issue of the **cupe connector**. Our first place pick is Claudette Pavin's (CVRD) terrific duck photo. This beautiful flower photo is our runner up, submitted by Mike Malanich (City of Courtenay). Keep submitting those photos — a lucky winner will receive \$100 at the end of the year! ■



➤ Election news

Social Committee Update

Claudette Pavan was successful in recruiting members for the Social committee. Kathy Dojack (Courtenay), Krystal Stevens & Sue Tompkins (Comox), Joanne Pilson (Cumberland) have all stepped up to the plate. Catherine Gesinghaus and Cammy Dallamore from Courtenay have volunteered to pitch in and help. They will be meeting soon to start planning the next social function. If you have any suggestions or are interested in helping, get in touch with them. The more the merrier!

Unit and Local elections were held in January. Cindy Major was re-elected as president of the local. The new City of Courtenay Unit Vice President is Lisa McPherson. Lisa stepped down as Vice President to take on the duties which had been looked after by Rod Armstrong for a number of years. Rod has stayed active as a shop steward, and hopefully will get some rest after all the work he has done for his unit. Claudette Pavan (CVRD) has filled the position of Vice President, Brian Allaert (CVRD) is now our recording secretary. Debra Andrew also decided to take a break from her many years of service as the Comox Unit Vice President, Bill Smith has taken over her responsibilities. ■

We welcome our new executive members and extend our heartfelt thanks to Rod and Deb for all of their hard work. We will miss them around the table.

Humour mill



Featured video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eScDfYzMEew>

George Carlin on Saving the Planet

Advisory: mature language used extensively

Classic Steven Wright

I installed a skylight in my apartment... the people who live above me are furious!

I hooked up my accelerator pedal in my car to my brake lights. I hit the gas, people behind me stop, and I'm gone.

Quote for the Day

“Be fearful of mediocrity.”

Jonathan Ellery

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



General Meeting highlights



January 26, 2011

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

National Representative
Melissa Moroz will become our service representative effective Monday, January 31, 2011, to replace Alistair Mackenzie who will be moving to a permanent position in another province.

Meeting times

The President advised that the days and times of the general meetings will change from Wednesdays to Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. and may have alternate start times.

Budget & Elections

The annual budget was adopted, and elections took place for president, vice-president and recording secretary, the results can be found in the elections article in the newsletter.

Good of the Union

The winners of the three \$50 draws were:
Alicia Snowdon-Thompson
Cindy Major
Dianna Gaulder

March 15, 2011

Annual Trustees Report

The trustees reported on the completion of the 2010 audit.

Bargaining update

Melissa Moroz reported that they had completed three days of bargaining for the CVRD, she has been working with Cumberland on their proposals, and they were still working on the next dates for Courtenay.

Courtenay Grievance moving to arbitration

Local approved moving a City of Courtenay grievance to arbitration.

Social Committee – new members.

Dawn to Dawn presentation

Richard Wilburn of the Dawn to Dawn organization gave a presentation to the membership. He updated the membership on the current statistics for the number of homeless in the Comox Valley, and those people that were at immediate risk of being homeless. He outlined the many services Dawn to Dawn provides, from their residential program to their Care-a-van. Those in attendance expressed their thanks to Dawn to Dawn for the work they do for our community. A notice of motion was given to provide an annual donation to the organization and will be voted on at the next general meeting.

Good of the union.

The winners of the three \$50 draws were:
Cammy Dallamore
Denise Madeiros
David Stewart

If we haven't got your email address, let your unit vice know or email us at:

cupe556@members.cupe.ca

CUPE 556

Upcoming meetings

Next General Meeting:
Wed, May 24, 2011
at 6:30 p.m.

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

Your current executive officers

Cindy Major, President
(Comox Recreation)

Claudette Pavin, Vice President
(CVRD)

Lisa McPherson, Unit Vice President
(City of Courtenay)

Bill Smith, Unit Vice President
(Town of Comox)

Mike Murphy, Unit Vice President
(CVRD)

Joanne Pilson, Unit Vice President
(Village of Cumberland)

Brian Allaert, 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

➤➤➤ Dawn to Dawn — action on homelessness society



For those that missed the presentation Richard Wilburn gave at our last general meeting, here is just a couple of highlights of services they provide.

Their CARE-A-VAN program has 16 health-care practitioners volunteering to staff the mobile clinic, comprised of 12 nurses, 3 physicians, an optometrist and a dentist. The volunteer drivers are skilled outreach workers in the field of mental health and addictions. This mobile health-care clinic operates in the evening hours and one afternoon per week at various locations throughout the community. It often represents the first and sometimes the only health-care provision that a homeless individual may receive.

They also have a residential housing project, in which they assist individuals in obtaining housing and to

Vision statement

That each individual in the Comox Valley has barrier-free access to a comprehensive array of coordinated housing and supportive service options that maximize self-sufficiency and quality of life."

access other services to help them get established. They have housed 26 individuals to date.

Check out their website to get a better feel for what this group does for our community.

www.dawntodawn.org ■



Comox Valley Foodbank donation made

Rod Armstrong presented the 2010 \$500 donation to the Comox Valley Food Bank. Our local makes an annual donation to support the food bank. Can you spot Rod in the picture? ■

Suggestion or submission?

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



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