The newspaper of Teamsters Local 31 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

31 News

Fall, 2009 www.teamsters31.ca Delta, B.C., Canada

Teamsters launch cross-Canada organizing drive of Fedex workers

During the organizing drive, the Teamsters' presence at the FedEx worksite was felt daily, especially with the appearance of the Teamster truck. (photos A. Kirk)

On September 14, 2009 Teamsters Canada launched a full-scale campaign to organize FedEx Canada after receiving numerous phone calls and emails from their workers wanting to enjoy the same working conditions and fair treatment enjoyed by Teamster members at Purolator and UPS.

In comparison, they've made a good decision as FedEx Canada workers continue to fall further and further behind their union counterparts.

Based on the last Purolator negotiations, where employees won a 12.25% wage increase, improved benefits and a 20% increase in pension contributions over four years, the average FedEx Canada worker recently received only a 1-1.5% increase in wages, a 30% reduction in pension and issues with the co-pay system to the benefits and pensions. UPS has similar increases to that of Purolator in their contract.

With corporations apparently getting greedier the need to unionize has never been so great!

Special thanks go to Teamsters Local 31 members who were working on the organizing campaign: Bros. John Lam, Mark Bethel, Chico Staruiala, Ahmnon Shabacon, Mike Skerry and Bryan Mudge; please acknowledge their efforts in helping FedEx workers achieve better wages, pensions and working conditions.

Further information on this campaign can be accessed at:

www.FedExWorkers.org (English)
www.CampagneFedex.org (French)

Pictured left to right: President Stan Hennessy, Purolator Shop Steward Bryan Mudge, Teamsters Canada Organizer Grant Coleman, Business Agents Larry Sargeant and Richard Van Grol

From: Teamsters Local Union No. 31, #1 Grosvenor Square, Delta, B.C. V3M 5S1
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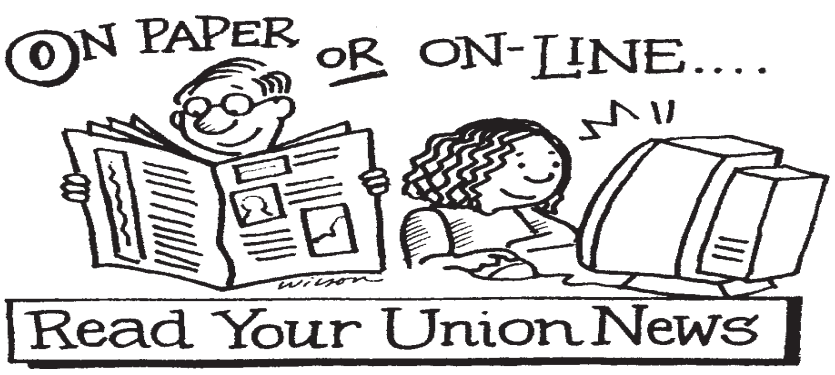


President's Report

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Where has the time gone? As summer has just ended, it is my hope that all members had an enjoyable summer and enjoyed some time off during the warmer months.

While the year 2009 has proven to be a challenge to your Local, especially in the transportation and manufacturing sectors, the Local remains confident that with the steps we are taking to help safeguard our members, we shall be able to weather the storm and be ready for a brighter future.

While it is true a downturned economy does traditionally affect some sectors more than others, the effects of the recession has impacted all areas. Whether you are in freight (trucking), courier, warehousing, manufacturing, or the public sector, we have all witnessed either the lay off of a junior member or the freeze on hiring of new employees.

While some economists predict an end to the recession heading into 2010 and some much needed economic (job) growth, the Local however remains cautious in this regard.

As a Local, our representation needs to remain strong and ever present. Our commitment to organizing needs to remain a top priority, thereby helping the futures of new members and safeguarding the security of our current members.

The Local is currently involved in a nationwide organizing drive at FedEx Couriers. The Teamster Locals across Canada have united under the leadership of Teamsters Canada President Bob Bouvier and his staff led by Teamsters Canada Director of Organzing, Mike Crawford, to take on this notorious non-union courier company.

Earlier in the year, Teamsters Canada held a training seminar primarily for our members from UPS and Purolator Courier. Our members were taught the fundamentals of organizing. Those members have now been taken off their jobs and are working on the FedEx organizing campaign with their wages being paid by Teamsters Canada.

While the FedEx organizing drive is ongoing, the Local is also involved in many other organizing activities.

The Local remains heavily involved in community events throughout the Lower Mainland. I truly believe that our involvement in the community with the use of our tractor trailer unit pays huge dividends to the Local. While attending these events is personally gratifying, the general public in attendance leaves these events with a much more positive view of unions (Teamsters). The events are listed on our website: www.teamsters31.ca. You should all take a few minutes to view the site as it has been newly constructed.

Fraternally,
Stan Hennessy, President

Take your pick of courses and apply now for CLC Winter School

In early November the Local Union faxed CLC Winter School course information to all worksites.

If you wish to attend the CLC Winter school and request funding from Local 31's Union/Industry Advancement Fund, please choose your first and second choice of courses. Write a letter addressed to:

Executive Board
c/o Stan Hennessy, President
Teamsters Local Union No. 31
1 Grosvenor Square
Delta BC V3M 5S1

Fax: 604-540-6073

For course schedules, descriptions and further information, please visit our website at www.teamsters31.ca or phone Bernadette Bajo at 604-527-2714. Please respond as soon as possible as space is limited. **The deadline is Friday, December 4, 2009.**

An honour at Teamsters Canada Convention

President Stan Hennessy and nine other local union officers from across Canada were nominated and elected to serve as members of the Teamsters Canada Executive Board at the Teamsters Canada Convention held in Ottawa the week of June 6, 2009. Pictured being sworn in by Teamsters Canada President, Robert Bouvier (not shown) are (l-r) Alain DeGrandpre, President, Teamsters Joint Council 91 (Quebec), Stan Hennessy, President, Teamsters Local 31, and Larry McDonald, President, Teamsters Local 938, Mississauga, Ont. Also sworn in but not shown were: Rick Ashdown; Local 979 Winnipeg, Serge Berube, President, Teamsters Local 1999, Quebec; Rick Eichel, Sec-Treas., Teamsters Local 362 Calgary; David Pearce, President, Teamsters Local 855, St. John's Nfl.

Teamsters Youth Committee builds on the future of Union

In June, 2009 I attended my first Teamsters Canada convention in Ottawa. At the Convention, delegates passed a motion to create the first-ever Teamsters Canada Youth Committee. In September, I was appointed by Joint Council 36 to represent Local 31 on this new Youth Committee.

The Youth Committee is comprised of 15 Teamster members age 35 and under from across Canada. The Committee was formed to determine what the youth are thinking, why they are not involved in the union movement, and how to get them more actively involved with the Union. At our first meeting, conducted in Montreal, the members of the Committee were introduced to Brigitte Sottile, Teamsters Canada's Director of Education, who facilitated the meeting.

Young Teamster members from across Canada attended. They came from the trucking, construction, courier, retail distribution, office and railway industries.

If you are a young union member and have any questions about the Youth Committee or have any ideas on how to get youth involved in the union movement, please contact me.

Mike Hennessy, Trustee
Teamsters Local 31
1 Grosvenor Square
Delta BC V3M 5S1
mhennessy@teamsters31.ca

We're going green!

In an effort to become more environmentally responsible, 31NEWS and Teamsters Local 31 have made some changes – beginning with this latest edition of the newsletter.

We are now printing 31NEWS on post-consumer waste stock that is made without the use of chlorine bleach. This is also certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. Printing is done using soy-based inks.

We are also posting 31NEWS on our website www.teamsters31.ca so you can read it online. If you would rather read the newsletter online and not receive a paper copy at your home, go to our website and fill out a webform. This could cut down on the number of copies we order from our printer.

We hope that these changes will help encourage everyone to think of ways to impact their environment in a positive way!

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

My first year as Secretary-Treasurer has been both interesting and challenging. I am pleased to enclose in this issue the audited financial statements showing that we are in a positive position again this year. This was achieved through careful planning and President Hennessy's steady leadership.

Having the surplus was fortunate as we were able to replace the local's aging 50-year-old boiler, almost guaranteed to break down on the coldest night of the year. Furthermore, we were also able to upgrade our telephone system to bring us in line with the 21st century. These improvements will enable us to continue to safeguard the members' assets in these increasingly uncertain times.

In my role as business agent for Metro Vancouver, F&G Delivery and Chep Pallet I am able to see first-hand the strength and dignity of our members as they deal with the current downturn in the economy. I am ever hopeful that the recovery will be strong and swift in restoring stability to our already complex modern lives.

Fraternally,

Rod Blackburn, Secretary-Treasurer

No mandatory retirement at 65

Dear Richard:

On July 15, 2009, I and my fellow workers celebrated my return to work at my employer Canadian Freightways Ltd.

I anticipated this moment each and every day I was absent from November 28, 2008 to July 15, 2009. It has allowed me to celebrate an occasion that I feel will benefit not only myself, but also the employees and employers of the trucking industry in my province for setting the record straight about mandatory retirement at age 65. I do not feel one bit shy about strutting the progress we've made.

Your efforts were tireless on everyone's behalf to settle the terms of agreement of the mandatory retirement policy between the company and myself.

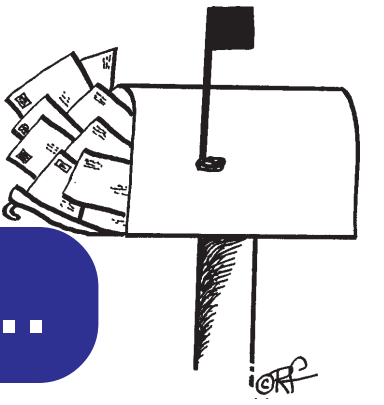
I applaud you for settling the issue constructively, securely and with the utmost effectiveness.

So this is a thank-you note – for standing by me when the tough were stating and grinding their position; promoting our position not only on my behalf, but on behalf of all employees union or not, today and in the future.

I want to acknowledge your contribution to this settlement agreement on behalf of myself and the parties.

Brian Manson
Driver, Canadian Freightways, Vancouver

Editor's Note: On November 13, 2008 the Union filed a grievance and policy grievance over Canadian Freightway's mandatory retirement at age 65 policy. After numerous letters and meetings between the Company and the Union, the Union applied to the Canada Industrial Relations Board on May 11, 2009. Prior to the hearings, President Hennessy attended a meeting with C.F. President Darshan Kailly and they were able to reach an agreement. As a result, Bro. Manson was reinstated to his position at CF on July 15, 2009 with full reimbursement of wages and pension amounting to more than $27,000. Bro. Manson is seen in the above photo accepting his settlement cheque from Business Representative Richard Van Grol.



We get Letters . . .

Dear Bro. Hennessy:

I would like to thank you for the wonderful opportunity I received from you to attend the CLC Winter School this February.

It was an incredible experience all around, and I learned an invaluable amount of steward education, which I couldn't have gotten anywhere else. The importance of the opportunity and the level of achievement the school offers is second to none, so again I thank you for that opportunity and I hope in the future I may be considered to again attend the CLC Winter School to further my education.

I was also wondering if it would be possible to be able to sit in on an arbitration hearing in any capacity so I could see how the process works from start to finish. After I complete the steward training, I plan to then take the CLC Arbitration course and would really like to get a first-hand look at an actual case or two. Any information on how I may be able to do this would be greatly appreciated.

Dave Cole
Shop Steward, Canada Drayage

Dear Bro. Hennessy:

I would like to thank Local 31 members and staff for the opportunity to attend the CLC Winter School for the week of January 26-30, 2009. I was proud to represent Local 31 while taking the United Steel Workers and NDP Building Political Power course. I was made aware that this is the first year for this course at the CLC, and I found that it was one of the most interesting and informative classes that I have ever taken. I learned a lot about the impact that the labour movement can and does have on politics, past history of unions and politics, and how much of an impact one person or a group of people can have. I would highly recommend this course to anyone who is interested in getting involved in politics from a union perspective.

Thanks again to everyone who was involved in giving me this great experience.

Lance Matricardi
Shop Steward, Coast 2000 Terminals

Dear Bro. Hennessy:

Thank you and Teamsters Local 31 for the privilege of attending the 2009 CLC Winter School at Harrison Hot Springs. The Collective Bargaining (Basic) Course I attended was very informative, and combined with the class interaction, gave me a greater understanding of the group dynamics and processes involved in collective bargaining. I am confident that my newfound knowledge and understanding will aid my brothers and sisters in obtaining the best possible contract during our upcoming collective bargaining with our employer, Canadian Freightways Ltd.

John Van Berkel
Shop Steward, Canadian Freightways

Dear Bro. Tyler:

This letter is to demonstrate my appreciation and regard for your efforts in negotiating a valuable reparation from the union grievance concerning the contracting out of work at Ryder Transpacific Container Terminals.

The promotion of three employees from the second tier wage and benefits package to the first tier is without a doubt the most valuable and important reparation that could be attained through this negotiation.

Please accept my sincere thanks for the successful outcome of negotiations in this regard.

Frank Mazzone
Ryder Transpacific Container Terminals

Teamsters Benefit Plans: Keeping you updated

Dear Benefit Plan Members:

We are once again pleased to provide you with updates and information regarding your coverage under the Teamsters' National Benefit Plan. We would like to extend our welcome to new members of the Plan and those returning after a break in coverage.

Your Plan booklet is a good source of information regarding the Plan. However, should you have questions regarding your coverage, please call us directly at 604-552-2650. Our office takes pride in the personalized assistance we are able to offer to our members.

Gail Johnson, Administrator

2009 Plan Improvements

As you know, the Trustees of the Teamsters' National Benefit Plan meet regularly to discuss the Plan's benefits and finances. As a result of input from the membership, a review of the Plan's finances and changes in the benefits industry generally, the Trustees approved the following Plan improvements:

* Effective January 1, 2009, the Weekly Indemnity rate for Plans A and B increased from $435.00 per week to $455.00 per week. The increased rate is limited to disabilities incurred on or after January 1, 2009.

* Effective January 1, 2009, the maximum benefit payable for any eligible person for Basic and Major services performed in any calendar year increased to a combined limit of $3,000.00 for Plans A and D. The increased rate is limited to Basic and Major Dental services performed on or after January 1, 2009.

In addition, effective January 1, 2009, the lifetime benefit payable for orthodontic services for any eligible person was increased to $3000.00 per lifetime. This includes only services performed on or after January 1, 2009.

* Effective June 1, 2009, the accepted per visit fee is increased from $30.00 to $40.00 for chiropractor, physiotherapist, massage therapist, podiatrist, naturopath, speech therapist and acupuncturist.

Benefit Plan Abuse Impacts All Members

While most members of the Teamsters' National Benefit Plan have valid claims and continue to abide by the rules of the Plan, we are sometimes faced with the issue of Plan abuse.

These problems take various forms:

* The Plan not being advised when a spouse has coverage under another benefit plan

* The Plan not being advised of a marital break-up or other situations where dependents are no longer eligible for coverage

* The disability claimant who attempts to deceive physicians and in turn claims adjudicators in order to access benefits

* The disability claimant who returns to work without notifying the Plan and continues to cash disability cheques

* The member who ignores their agreement with the Plan to repay benefits on receipt of ICBC or WCB settlement, leaving the Plan with legal costs to pursue recovery of the money

* Altered receipts or other documents.

Those of us at the Plan's office do our utmost to prevent abuse of your Plan, nevertheless it does occur. Recovering the resulting overpayments is costly and impacts all members. The continuing financial stability of the Plan is critical to future Plan improvements and to the provision of benefits to those members who have legitimate claims and truly need the coverage.

Let's all work together to end misuse and exploitation of your benefit plan!

Improvement to Claim Processing for Prescription Drug Coverage

As you are aware, the Plan provides coverage for drugs approved for sale in Canada for the treatment of illness or disease which are available only by prescription and when prescribed by a physician. Drugs determined to be "Lifestyle" drugs such as those for weight loss and those for cosmetic purposes are excluded.

Your prescription drug card when presented at the pharmacy provides direct payment for those drugs covered under the B.C. Pharmacare formulary. Until recently, for payment of non-formulary drugs, the Plan required confirmation that a member's physician requested Special Authority from Pharmacare. Once the Plan received confirmation of Pharmacare's response, whether approval or denial, the Plan would provide coverage for the drug.

The Plan's Trustees have recently agreed to address members' concerns over the difficulty of the Special Authority process. As such, effective March 1, 2009, having ones' physician request Special Authority from Pharmacare will no longer be required for coverage of non-formulary drugs. However, direct payment through your Drug Card will not work unless a reply to a Special Authority request has been received.

If members do not wish to request Special Authority, the Plan will provide coverage once a member pays for the drug and submits the receipt to our office on an Extended Health claim form. Please contact our office if you require forms for this reimbursement process or, if more convenient, forms can be downloaded from the Benefits link at www.teamsters31.ca

If you do not wish to request Special Authority from Pharmacare (as noted above) expenses for those drugs will not go toward your Pharmacare deductible.

Pension Quick Facts

* The Teamsters' National Pension Plan is a Defined Benefit Plan which means that contributions are received from employers only. Employees do not contribute or "pay into" the Teamsters' National Pension Plan. Contribution rates are based on what has been negotiated in your collective agreement.

* Under the Income Tax Act, persons who are self employed including dependent contractors (Owner/Operators) are not permitted to participate in Registered Pension Plans.

* Have you remembered to verify who your designated beneficiary is on the Teamsters' National Pension Plan? Pursuant to Pension Legislation, if you have a spouse at the time of your death, your spouse is deemed to be your beneficiary unless he or she waives that right. If you do not have a spouse, then your designated beneficiary shall be entitled to a death benefit. If no beneficiary is named, the benefit shall be paid to your Estate.

* Pension statements are mailed to active members annually. As such, it is very important that the Plan has your current address on file. This will ensure that updated Pension Statements are distributed in an efficient and timely fashion.

* In the event that you terminate your employment, you may elect to become a Terminated Member of the Plan. You will automatically become a Terminated Member if a period of two years has passed during which we have not received pension contributions on your behalf. The other way to become a Terminated Member would be by applying for a Voluntary Termination prior to the two year period previously mentioned. Becoming a Terminated Member allows you to move the commuted value or lump sum value of your pension. Please note that pursuant to the Plan's rules, portability (or moving the lump sum) would not apply to someone who has reached normal retirement age (65) unless their monthly pension is less than 4% of the YMPE (Yearly Maximum Pensionable Earnings) as established by the Canada Pension Plan. The Plan rules stipulate that any monthly pension under the prescribed limit will not be administered and will be paid out in a lump sum.

Contact Teamsters Benefits Plans

1610 Kebet Way
Port Coquitlam BC
V3C 5W9

Phone:
604-552-2650
Toll-free:
1-888-478-8111

Web:
www.teamsters31.ca

2009 International Teamster Women's Conference

Raising the stakes for women workers

I will start by encouraging my fellow Teamster sisters to apply for the opportunity to attend future conferences. Wow! What an incredible opportunity to be a part of the biggest women's conference to date. When I walked into the room on the first morning I could feel the vibe and energy coming from all the women. It gave me goose bumps.

On day one of the conference I attended my first rally as a Teamster….what an empowering experience. While rallying we held our signs high, and yelled, Dignity…Justice….Sisters!! It proves that no matter what size of a group you are, big or small, the Teamster Union support is there.

Not only was I able to meet three great ladies who joined me as the Local 31 delegates, we were also joined by President Stan Hennessey and Vice-President Catherine Gastaldello. And, of course the chance to hear and see in person, our General President, Mr. James Hoffa! Let me tell you, if anyone can get you all fired up it's Mr. Hoffa. I would like to thank Local 31 for this great experience and opportunity.

Sis. Pamela Manuel, Stream Vancouver Warehouse

A Canadian workshop "Teamster Women and Leadership" was hosted by Brigitte Sottile, Director of Education, Teamsters Canada. Many stories were told of struggles but also of victories in the workplace. Such things as integrity, leading by example, building relationships, and understanding cultural aspects were all part of this dynamic and motivational session.

The theme of the Conference was "Raising the Stakes", and challenged members to be active in organizing, enthusiastic in firing up members in their workplaces and government and to hold employers accountable to the Collective Agreements they signed.

I would like to thank my Sisters & Brothers at Local 31 for allowing me to attend such an incredible Conference and I wholeheartedly encourage others to attend next year.

Sis.Angela Allen, Steward, Abbotsford Police Dept.

Dear President Hennessy:

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to attend this year's Women's Conference. Your support did not go unnoticed, and not only did you attend the conference, you also participated in all the opening sessions and workshops. You must agree Mr. Hennessy that Teamster Women are making sure their voices are being heard and we know how to put on one hell of a conference.

This year we had 981 Teamsters in attendance. We had some of the best speakers that left us with a much broader understanding of why unions are the solution to the problems that we are all facing due to the economic meltdown. As you are well aware, it is important for each and every one of us to help organize the unorganized if we want to keep our middle class and leave this world a better place for the next generations to come.

Again, Mr. Hennessy, we thank you for your endless support.

Sis. Barb Adam
ITWC, Local 879

Majority of union members are women

Statistics Canada/CALM

The majority of union members in Canada are now women, which has been the case since 2006. 2.15 million women and 2.07 million men are union members. Women's unionization rate (30 per cent) also exceeds men's (28.7 per cent).

Unionized women are closer to achieving pay equity than non-unionized women. Women in unionized full time jobs average 94 per cent of union full-time men's average ($23.36 versus $24.83).

The wage gap is much bigger for non-unionized full-time women who earn only 81 per cent of non-union full-time men's average ($18.16 versus $22.50).

The average unionized worker is paid $23.58 an hour while the average non-union worker is paid $18.98. Full-time union workers' average wage is $24.15. Full-time non-union workers average only $20.55.

Part-time union workers' average wage is $19.99. Part-time non-union workers earn dramatically lower pay of $12.56.

Unionization has risen slightly among young workers aged 15 to 24 rose to 13.5 per cent. It fell for all other age groups.

Conference attendees Shalyn Przada (Purolator Nanaimo), Angela Allen (APD), and Pam Manuel (Stream Vancouver Warehouse) attend one of the sessions during the ITWC

Equipping effective stewards

On Saturday June 13, 2009 the Local held a Shop Steward Training course at the Union Hall in Delta. The purpose of the course was to provide Shop Stewards with skills and knowledge and to assist them in being more effective and comfortable in dealing with their employers and co-workers. Topics included:

* the roles and responsibilities of a Shop Steward;
* identifying a grievance;
* the grievance procedure; and
* investigating, drafting, presenting and settling a grievance.

A Shop Steward Seminar was held at the Union Hall on Sunday, June 14, 2009 and included discussions on Workers Compensation Appeals and the duty to accommodate. The Local also welcomed Dr. Gary Namie of the Workplace Bullying Institute in Bellingham, Washington for an informative and valuable session on bullying in the workplace. Dr. Namie discussed many issues, including what bullying is, why it happens, its effects and how to deal with it.

Over 40 Shop Stewards attended over the weekend. Attendees included individuals who had just become Stewards as well as Stewards with many years of experience. The Local's In-House Counsel, Karlene Bateman taught the course on Saturday and presented topics at the seminar on Sunday. Also present throughout the weekend were President Stan Hennessy, Secretary-Treasurer Rod Blackburn, Organizer Jure Kelava and Business Representatives Cheryl Popeniuk, Tom Brown, Anthony Kirk, Terry Tyler and Richard Van Grol.

The Local would like to thank all the Stewards who attended for their interest and dedication. The Local also requests that any suggestions you may have for future Shop Steward Seminar topics be passed on to your Business Representative.

First contract reached at ContainerWorld

by Terry Tyler
Business Representative

After several days of negotiations, beginning last year, ContainerWorld Forwarding and Teamsters Local 31 have finally signed a Memorandum of Agreement on March 3, which was voted on and ratified on March 8 by 71 members in attendance.

The 130 workers were previously represented by another union. They were not satisfied with the representation or the conditions in the collective agreement they had. As a result, they contacted Local 31 for help. We were pleased to be able to come to their aid. We now report that the members have over 65 changes to the old collective agreement, with improvements included, but not limited to

* enrolment in the Teamsters National Benefit Plan, which provides weekly indemnity – something new for the membership
* enrolment in the Teamsters Pension Plan
* wage increases
* posting language
* increase in banked overtime
* numerous changes to the language to improve working conditions

Containerworld serves primarily the beverage industry, unloading ocean containers and domestic trucks. It supplies the BC Liquor Distribution Branch, restaurants, bars and private liquor stores. The warehouse is Canada Customs-bonded and offers a full range of inventory storage and distribution. It occupies the largest warehouse in B.C. under one roof – more than one kilometer around the outside perimeter.

Local 31 looks forward to the future, attending to the concerns of our new members and improved conditions in the future.

Special thanks go to bargaining committee members John Lamb and Tyson McLaren for their assistance and to President Stan Hennessy who helped to finalize the agreement with the Company.

Teamsters Museum promoted via media and tours

Once again the Teamsters Union was well represented via our Teamsters Museum.

On November 6, 2008 Mike McCardell of Global Television and his cameraman paid us a visit and did a shoot that was aired on November 9th, 2008 on the 6 p.m.

newscast. What an excellent promotion for our Museum and the Teamsters Union as a whole.

We had many visitors throughout the long winter even though we had lots of snow. On March 7th we had the Stovebolt Chev Club for a well attended tour.

The next day we had the Vintage Car Club Vancouver Chapter visit. We had over 50 Vintage cars cover the Museum parking lot - the oldest a 1910 Ford. We had over 100 people attend, including our Local 31 President Stan Hennessy and his family. The kids really enjoyed themselves.

As usual we are busy with many projects. The biggest one right now is the 1935 Diamond T Lowbed C/W Winch. This one is a complete rebuild. We are hoping to find a sponsor for this project We also will be working on the 1929 International. We hope we can take it for its paint job next Fall.

We had many tours including Lions Gate Model A, Ford V8 and Kids World (open house). In May we participated in the Port Coquitlam May Day Parade.

We also would like to invite all

Local 31 Members and their families to come and pay us a visit at any of our open houses. You are all welcome.

Once again a big thank you to all our volunteers. Without them none of this would be possible.

Norm Lynch
President & Curator

Pactow owner jumps from bridge (bungee that is)

On March 7, 2009 Ron Ainey, owner of Pactow Transport Services, plunged 143 feet into the freezing depths of the Nanaimo River, after having been pushed.

In 1969, Pactow Transport was started by Ron Ainey's father and supplied trailer services to Seaspan International Ltd. Ron began his career as a driver alongside many men who are now the company's most senior drivers. When his father passed away, Ron took over the day-to-day operations of the family business. Today, with over 35 drivers and locations in Vancouver, Swartz Bay and Nanaimo, Ron is busy running the longtime Teamster company.

Ron shared how he was over the moon when his eldest son, Cody, began work at Pactow as a yard hostler. At age 24, Cody was a fun-loving kid and liked by all around him. His older co-workers, many of whom started off working for his grandfather, kept him in line and made sure he did his share of the workload. Cody was a damn good worker and a proud Teamster, who grew up around the trucks.

In December, 2008 Cody Ainey died unexpectedly. With over 300 friends, family and co-workers in attendance, it was standing room only at his celebration of life.

Father Ron Ainey confided that no parent should ever have to bury one of his children, and that it is the hardest thing a family would ever have to do.

"We really wanted to find something to keep the memory of Cody alive."

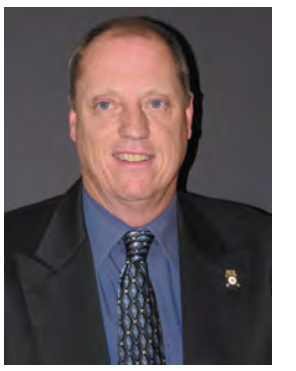
In memory of Cody Ainey, Ron raised $5,125 for B.C. Children's Hospital by bungee jumping off the Nanaimo River Bridge.

There was a large turnout of

co-workers, friends and family to witness the jump and cheer Ron on. While the spirit was willing, the body was not, and, in the end, Ron was actually pushed by the jumpmaster. He fell 143 feet at a speed of 50 kilometres per hour and plunged head first up to his waist into the freezing Nanaimo River.

I think Cody would have gotten a real kick out of the jump knowing that both Ron and he were absolutely terrified of heights. The jump was a huge success, but Ron vows never to do it again.

First year on the job a positive experience because of the people



by Tom Brown
Business Representative

I'm fast approaching my first year on the job and would like to take this opportunity to say thanks.

As the Teamster Local 31 Business Representative for the Abbotsford School District and the civilian staff at the Abbotsford Police Department, I have had an incredibly positive and rewarding time. The reason is, quite simply, the people. In no particular order it's the hard working shop stewards and other members, the support staff at our Annacis Island office, my fellow Business Representatives, and the senior officers and Executive Board of the Union. All have been especially gracious with their time and support in making me feel like an integral part of the Local 31 team.

There are a lot of issues the members have with their employers and we have been working diligently at getting some resolved. Our members have a tireless group of shop stewards who continually hold management accountable for their actions.

I have held regular meetings with our stewards to plan strategies and to brainstorm ideas that will help our members moving forward.

I had made a commitment to visit all SD34 schools and other facilities by the end of March so that I could introduce myself to the members and get a feel for where they worked. I also used these visits to hand out business cards and shop steward posters and to have them placed on the union bulletin boards at all these locations. We have a very diverse and dynamic employee group at both he School District and the Abbotsford Police Department and with that comes varying issues that require our shop stewards and me to delve into and look for resolutions. We have had some successes at both barns and will continue to work hard to achieve positive resolutions.

Brothers and Sisters, thanks again for all the continued support and I look forward to the challenges the coming months will produce.

Teamsters Local 31's 2008 Audited Financial Statements

TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION NO. 31
AND
481080 B.C. LTD.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2008

	2008	2007
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash savings	$ 1,075,743	$ 839,713
Term deposits	959,103	1,046,557
Loans receivable	300	1,200
	2,035,146	1,887,470
Capital Assets	1,688,881	1,609,638
	$ 3,724,027	$ 3,497,108
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Payroll deductions payable	$ 20,429	$ 27,862
Current portion of long-term debt	68,098	63,934
	88,527	91,796
Long-Term Debt - Mortgages Payable	440,575	508,673
	529,102	600,469
Fund Balances (Deficiency)		
Union Funds - Page 3	3,603,521	3,295,467
481080 B.C. Ltd. - Page 17	(408,596)	(398,828)
	3,194,925	2,896,639
	$ 3,724,027	$ 3,497,108

	General Fund	Strike Fund
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash savings	$ 747,725	$ 239,439
Term deposits	334,313	624,790
Loans receivable	300	-
	1,082,338	864,229
Capital Assets - Note 3	110,974	-
Advances Receivable - 481080 B.C. Ltd. - Note 4	1,274,160	-
	$ 2,467,472	$ 864,229
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Payroll deductions payable	$ 20,429	$ -
FUND BALANCES		
Balance at Beginning of Year	2,223,194	773,871
Excess of Receipts Over Disbursements	433,307	90,358
Interfund Transfers	(209,458)	-
Balance at End of Year	2,447,043	864,229
	$ 2,467,472	$ 864,229

Approved by the Executive Board :

Stan Hennessy Officer Rod Blackler Officer

TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION NO. 31

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008

Shop Steward Fund	Benevolent Fund	Advancement Fund	Building Fund	2008 Total	2007 Total
$ 52,944	$ 5,953	$ 18,254	$ 3,984	$ 1,068,299	$ 838,335
-	-	-	-	959,103	1,046,557
-	-	-	-	300	1,200
52,944	5,953	18,254	3,984	2,027,702	1,886,092
-	-	-	-	110,974	31,731
-	-	-	211,114	1,485,274	1,405,506
$ 52,944	$ 5,953	$ 18,254	$ 215,098	$ 3,623,950	$ 3,323,329
$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 20,429	$ 27,862
2,791	5,778	101,272	188,561	3,295,467	2,677,478
1,023	175	(157,956)	(58,853)	308,054	617,989
49,130	-	74,938	85,390	-	-
52,944	5,953	18,254	215,098	3,603,521	3,295,467
$ 52,944	$ 5,953	$ 18,254	$ 215,098	$ 3,623,950	$ 3,323,329

See Accompanying Auditors' Report and Notes to Financial Statements

TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION NO. 31

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
GENERAL FUND

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008

	2008	2007
Receipts		
Dues and assessments	$ 4,284,944	$ 4,057,413
Initiation and reinitiation fees	249,042	285,352
	4,533,986	4,342,765
Refunds	17,559	13,899
	4,551,545	4,356,664
Disbursements		
Arbitration fees	31,691	24,431
Building maintenance and utilities	25,408	85,483
Computer system maintenance	11,797	22,645
Contributions - charities	23,829	17,496
Dispatch expenses	4,404	2,688
Employee benefits	695,292	644,734
Expenses allowances	75,114	109,056
Legal department	17,493	24,302
Meeting and committee expenses	26,640	29,394
Per capita taxes	861,211	747,018
Photocopying	30,238	28,650
Postage	26,348	31,002
Professional fees - other	21,831	14,170
Professional fees - outside legal	115,090	88,196
Rent - office and meeting hall	36,769	33,441
Salaries and wages	1,447,926	1,535,145
Shop steward expenses - Page 7	77,662	67,317
Supplies, printing and office administration	64,223	71,985
Teamsters Canada Strike Fund contributions	155,432	154,958
Telephone, facsimile, e-mail	72,388	73,573
Travel, auto expenses and allowances	246,974	229,453
	4,067,760	4,035,137
Excess of Members' Receipts Over Disbursements Before Other Receipts	483,785	321,527
Other Receipts		
Interest	68,994	41,624
Teamsters Canada - out of work benefits	-	7,200
Administration fees	7,816	10,158
Transfers and reimbursements from other funds	(111,647)	88,264
	(34,837)	147,246
Excess of Receipts Over Disbursements	448,948	468,773
Amortization of Capital Assets	(15,641)	(14,083)
Excess of Receipts Over Disbursements	$ 433,307	$ 454,690

See Accompanying Auditors' Report and Notes to Financial Statements

Teamster truck an added attraction at Purolator Open House

(l-r) John Lam, Purolator Burnaby shop steward, Stan Hennessy, President, Lynda Field, Trustee, Anthony Kirk, Business Representative

Dear Stan:

It is with much appreciation and thanks to you and Teamsters Local 31 for providing the Teamsters' new truck and trailer for our Annual Family Picnic.

The Teamsters' truck was an added attraction for the employees and many of them used the truck as a backdrop for picture taking. There were many comments made about how eye-catching the truck was. Good positive feedback on the colour and design.

The picnic and subsequent open house tour of our newly-expanded and renovated facility at Purolator Courier in Richmond was an outstanding success. Over the course of four-and-a-half hours, we had almost 300 people come and go. Although months of preparation goes into this event we still managed to be somewhat disorganized in regards to the kids races, thankfully no one seemed to mind though. All in all it was a fun time for everyone, especially the kids, and that is the main purpose for doing it.

We certainly hope you enjoyed the part of your day that you spent with us. It was nice that the Union had some representatives there.

Once again, thank you for making our picnic that much more memorable.

From the TEAM 99 members:

Lynda Field, Chris MacKay, Christene Walser, Fiona Guererro, Sandra Jewitt, Christine Leigh, Trish Wells, Pat Symons, Spero Moukas

Helping B.C.'s special kids

The Teamsters in B.C. have had a very long relationship with Variety the Children's Charity Show of Hearts Telethon. Teamster members volunteer their time to provide late night and early morning security for the event at the Red Robinson Show Theatre in Coquitlam. The 2009 Telethon raised $8,304,513 to help B.C. children with special needs.

Thanks also go out to those volunteers not pictured - Cal Chan, Ryan Payette, Ken Kinghorn and all the other Teamster volunteers!

If you would like to help out at next year's telethon (January 30 & 31, 2010) please email Larry Sargeant at lsargeant@teamsters31.ca.

Night Owls: *Teamsters night shift Telethon security (l-r) Rob Ordinal, Paul Mior, Richard Van Grol, Bleu Dumont, John Lam, Larry Sargeant, Russ Stackhouse, Kevin Lowe, Ben Hennessy, Mike Hennessy, Tom Brown, Pat Loftus, Stuart Ireland, Terry Wheats*

Early Risers*: Teamsters morning shift Telethon security (l-r) Ed Pike, Stephanie Pike, Rod Blackburn, Jim Kidd, Doug Pett, Dianne Pett, Larry Sargeant, Tom Brown, Karlene Bateman, Angela Martin, Rob Ordinal, Terry Wheats, John Lam, John Carroll, Russ Stackhouse, Stan Hennessy, Pat Loftus, Mike Hennessy, Kevin Lowe, Ben Hennessy, Mathias Marquez, Anthony Kirk*

Congratulations!

Congratulations to all the Teamsters Local 31 members who placed in this year's **B.C. Professional Truck Driving Championships** held this summer.

Team Award: 1st - Canadian Freightways – MaryAnne Black, Evan Hirst, Robert Mullen, Monty Watson, Hans Wettstein

Step-Van
1st - Robert Mullen, Canadian Freightways
2nd - Tony Gomez, Canadian Freightways
3rd - John Carroll, Van-Kam Freightways

Straight Truck
1st - Hans Wettstein, Canadian Freightways

Single-Single
1st - Jack Newton, Canadian Freightways
2nd - Evan Hirst, Canadian Freightways
3rd - Jose Lecinana, Canadian Freightways

Single Tandem
1st - Edward Rolson, Van-Kam Freightways
2nd - Michael Myles, Van-Kam Freightways
3rd - Brian Vanzetta, Canadian Freightways

Tandem-Tandem
2nd - Rob Balan, Canadian Freightways
3rd - John Broker, Martin-Brower of Canada

B-Train
2nd - Adam Besse, Canadian Freightways

Local 31 General Membership Meetings Schedule

Vancouver
2nd Wednesday of the Month
623 Derwent Way, Annacis Isld
7:00 p.m.

Abbotsford
1st Thursday of the Month
ADTA Hall
2570 Cyril St., Abbotsford
Custodial @ 1 p.m.
General @ 6:30 p.m.

Nanaimo
2nd Tuesday of the Month
3 – 2480 Kenworth Road
7:00 p.m.

Victoria
2nd Thursday of the Month
Pro Patria Legion,
411 Gorge Rd. East
7:00 p.m.

Prince George and Northern B.C.
Please call 250-563-5346 or 1-877-562-2531 for times and locations

Union member by day, title-shot boxer by night

***Editor's Note**: Teamsters Local 31 is proud to feature some of our members and their accomplishments away from the job. Darren Darby is a Purolator Courier driver and was featured in The Province sports section on June 14th this year, and we were given permission to reprint his story in 31NEWS.*

Story by Steve Ewen, The Province
Photos by Gerry Kahrmann, The Province

Darren Darby has so many people in his corner that it might not be long before they get a mailbox and a stoplight there.

The Surrey boxer, a Purolator truck driver by day, is so upbeat that you start to wonder if he can be beat. He's got an ever-growing entourage — tag them Team Darby — lending whatever hand they can as he chases down his dream of winning a Canadian title.The support group is led by his understanding wife, Denise, and four young sons, but there's also a kick boxer, a mixed martial artist, a power lifter, a naturopath doctor and a host of others. Throw in a partridge and a pear tree and there might be a song.

Darby does have a 5-11-3 career record. That can't be ignored.

But he has a plan and, for the past year or so, a whole lot of backing, and that together can be a powerful thing.

"When I win that belt one day, I'm going to hold it up for a second and then I'm going to pass it into my corner and make sure everybody gets to touch it, like they do with the Stanley Cup," said Darby, 32, who has six rounds scheduled with Calgary's Steve Claggett on the undercard of Rumble at the Rock VI next Friday.

"And then I'm going to run around in the stands and make sure everybody there gets to touch it, too. When I win that belt one day, I'm going to ask them to make me a bigger belt, one that can fit a bunch of people. There's a lot of people involved in this."

Darby gets much of the expertise, merchandise and gym time for free or at a dramatically discounted rate. People have bought in. It's easy to do.

He's usually out the door before 2:30 a.m. every morning to drive a truck for Purolator.

He finishes up by early afternoon. He trains for a couple of hours. He goes home for an hour or two to be with his family. He goes back and trains some more. He's usually home and in bed by 9 p.m.

Darby vehemently contends that the whole thing doesn't happen without Denise, who carries much of the responsibility of running herd over Ethan, 2; Maximus, 3; and Kaden, 5. Darby's son from another relationship, Jahkai, 10, lives in Toronto but is coming here for a chunk of the summer, adding yet another dimension.

Did we mention Denise also makes Darren's boxing shorts? People really are chipping in wherever they can.

"Darren is a great friend and his group of family and friends really care about him and how he does," said Jody Cranston, a noted power lifter who is Darby's strength trainer.

Darren Darby (centre) has a huge support network. From left, Jody Cranston (power lifter and personal trainer), Jason Fenton (kick boxer), Paul Forde (MMA fighter), Barbara Barley (runs Sports Central Gym, where Darby does much of training), wife Denise Darby with children Kaden, Ethan, and Max, and Dr. Kris Bentz (naturopath).

"Darren is a guy who is always there for you, so we are there for him. Boxing is an extremely dangerous sport so we want to give him all the support we can."

Darby insists that he's "100 times better than his record," and, with this group backing him now, he swears he could win the lightweight (135-pound) Canadian Boxing Federation title if given a shot. The championship currently sits vacant.

Manny Sobral, the promoter behind the Rumble at the Rock series, backs up Darby, insisting that he's hung tough with solid competition, guys like Aris Ambriz, a 10-0-0 Californian who beat Darby with a fifth-round technical knockout last November in Oregon.

Sobral says that a win over 4-0-0 Claggett would help the make Darby's case for a title try.

Sobral might be a tad biased. He's coached Darby some. Then again, it's difficult to find somebody he's met who hasn't wanted to help him.

"I think Darren is a throwback to the old-time fighters who would travel the country and box just about anyone in their backyards," said Sobral, the former Canadian Olympic welterweight.

"Most of his bouts have been against undefeated, up-and-coming prospects, and he's held more than his own.

"This match gives Darren a chance to box an undeafeated fighter in his backyard.

"Darren has a world-class punch that gives him a shot against just about anyone he steps into the ring with."

Teamster member skis for Team Canada at Special Olympics

***Editor's Note:** Bro. David Boudreau is another member from Purolator Courier who has achieved much in the sporting world. Thank you to Local 31 Trustee Lynda Field and the Purolator newsletter for submitting this article.*

David Boudreau was shy as a child. To help him overcome his shyness, Bro. Boudreau's father enrolled him in the alpine skiing program at Special Olympics BC (SOBC), a registered charitable organization dedicated to providing individuals with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to celebrate personal achievement through positive sports experiences.

"Skiing was a huge challenge for me," Bro. Boudreau recalled, "but I soon discovered that everyone in the program had a hard time learning."

"My coaches gave me a chance. They were patient and helped me learn. Skiing opened up my world and my dreams."

Bro. Boudreau began training for the Special Olympics three years ago, dedicating three to four evenings a week to his intense training regimen. In December 2007, he began his career with Purolator as an AM sorter and skillfully managed to continue training while working full-time at Purolator's Port Kells terminal.

"My job comes first, then sports," said Bro. Boudreau. "A lot of athletes find it difficult to get a full-time job. It's particularly tough to keep a full-time job that pays well. And Purolator is a great place to work. Everyone's nice. If I need help, I get it."

The 25-year-old athlete left for the Special Olympics National Winter Games on Feb. 24, 2008 hoping to realize his dreams, and came home with an impressive four-medal win. David captured Olympic gold in the men's super-G, silver in the men's downhill and two bronze medals in the men's slalom and giant slalom.

Never forgetting the way skiing changed his life, he now chooses to give back to the community in which he lives and works. "Now I teach children with Down's syndrome how to ski. I want to give back. I want to see the children smile and have a good time."

Bro. Boudreau will ski for Team Canada in Idaho from Feb. 2 to 13 at the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games. He now works in the Air Ops Division at the Richmond Hub.

COURAGE is resistance to fear, mastery of fear - not absence of fear.
~Mark Twain

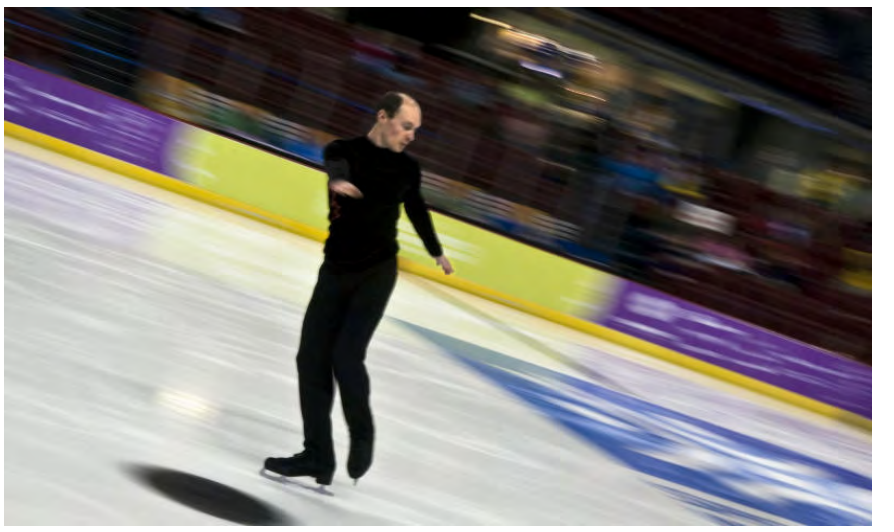
HBC Teamster member sets record for Special Olympians

Bro. Marc Thériault of Delta has been involved in Special Olympics for the past 14 years. Marc is the first athlete in Special Olympics British Columbia history

to win gold medals at five World Games in three different sports.

Marc currently participates in figure skating, curling, softball and soccer. Some of Marc's most memorable moments in Special Olympics happened at the 1999 World Summer Games in Raleigh, North Carolina where he hit the game winning inside-the-park homerun to win Gold for Canada along with his teammates from the Kelowna Grizzlies Softball Team. This was followed by a Gold Medal in Figure Skating (Level 5 -Singles) at the 2001 World Winter Games in Anchorage, Alaska – where Marc successfully landed the first-ever double-jump in Special Olympics International Competition. The results of this competition changed the structure of Special Olympics figure skating in the singles category as we see it today. This led up to his next world appearance at the 2005 World Winter Games in Nagano, Japan where he competed again in figure skating – this time in two categories (paired up with his fiancé, Alexandra Magee – where they won Gold at Level 2) and Marc also won a Silver Medal in Level 6 Men's Singles.

Marc's next appearance was at the 2007 World Summer Games in Shanghai, China. Together with his teammates from the Surrey Vipers Soccer team, where they battled on to win Gold in a shootout



– Marc scored the game winning goal against Team Peru. Marc's last appearance at a World Games happened in 2009 at the World Winter Games in Boise, Idaho – where he regained his world title in Figure Skating (Level 6 Singles) by winning Gold for Special Olympics Canada.

Since 1997 Marc has been employed as a Material Handler for The Hudson's Bay Company in Richmond, BC. Marc very much appreciates the support he has been given by The Hudson's Bay Company – who have allowed him time off for training and competition when necessary.

In his down time Marc also enjoys spending time with the friends he has made through Special Olympics. Marc also assists both Special Olympics Surrey and Special Olympics BC in many charity events to help raise funds and awareness of Special Olympics in various communities throughout British Columbia.

On July 28, 2009 – Marc was chosen as a Torch Bearer for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games. He was nominated by The Hudson's Bay Company as their first choice to represent the company in the torch run.

While competing and winning in the highest levels of Special Olympics Figure Skating, in all disciplines, Marc is now working towards his Senior Silver Free Skate and Senior Silver Dance levels in the Skate Canada test system. To top off all of his successes, Marc was inducted into the BC Special Olympics Hall of Fame in 2008.

Marc lives with his parents, Karen and Gérard, who support him in all of his efforts. Marc is engaged to his skating partner and fellow Special Olympian, Alexandra Magee. Marc has a sister, Amy, brother-in-law, Doug and one niece, Sydney – whom he adores.

Marc's positive attitude is contagious to those who are around him. His friends and family credit his achievements to his drive and determination to succeed. Despite all of the recognition that Marc receives, he remains a modest and down to earth individual.

Braving the chill for a friend

When Purolator Burnaby shop steward John Lam learned that his friend and co-worker Ken Rombough had been diagnosed with colorectal cancer and an inoperable tumor in his hip, he knew he wanted to do something to help.

Bro. Rombough is 56 years old and has worked for Purolator/Gelco Express for 21 years, making many friends on the job. With this diagnosis he also learned he had only about two months to live.

Bro. Lam decided to raise funds to support Saint Joseph's Hospice in Comox which was taking care of Bro. Rombough. On April 11th, Bro. Lam had his head shaved after having received pledges from family, friends, co-workers and union brothers and sisters.

In total, Bro. Lam raised over $1,800 in donations, all of which go towards helping the Hospice take loving care of other cancer patients.

As of the printing of this newsletter, Bro. Lam reports that Bro. Rombough is "alive and well and living in Comox", defying his doctors' prognoses. Every two weeks he makes the trip to the mainland for chemotherapy treatments at Lions Gate Hospital.

Local 31 commends Bro. Lam for doing his part in helping a friend and union brother during this difficult time.

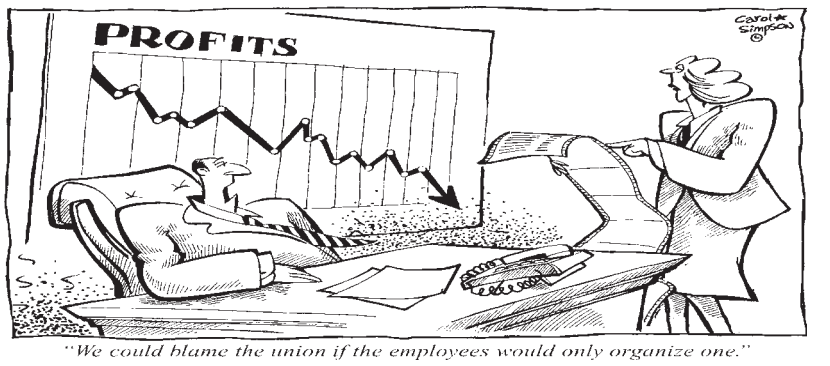
***Before**: Bro. John Lam in a stylized mohawk just before getting his head shaved for Saint Joseph's Hospice in Comox*

***After**: "It's a bit chilly!"*

Congratulations Yukon graduates!

Teamsters Local 31 provides scholarships to deserving graduates of the Yukon Individual Learning Centre. The ILC rents space in the Local's Black Street offices. Congratulations to the five graduates of the ILC who each merited a $200 scholarship from the Local:

Jessica Bien
Sylvia MacKenzie
Jason Johnson
Giselle Graf-Smith
Jennifer Wilson



"We could blame the union if the employees would only organize one."

Opening doors to learning

We have often heard the expression "education opens doors" but there is an old Chinese proverb that says, "Teachers open the door, but you must enter by yourself."

This year four of our members' children have stepped boldly over the threshold with some very big steps. The following students have been awarded this prestigious scholarship:

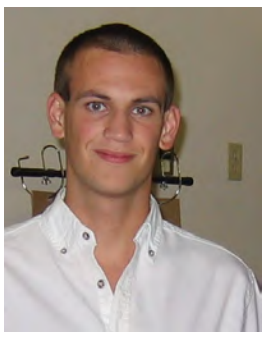
Wendy Lee –$1,000 James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship

Wendy is the daughter of Wayne Lee, a member working for Vancouver Police Department. She has been actively involved with Royal Canadian Air Cadets since 2004. She graduated from Johnston Heights Secondary School in the top 15% of her grade and received the Top Bandsman Award and a Major Service Award. She was an active member of the student council for five years and participated in many leadership activities. She is also involved in aquatics where she continues to show leadership as a lifeguard and swim instructor.

Her teachers say that a review of her accomplishments shows that she would be well-suited to many professions. Her work ethic is excellent and she consistently dedicated herself to the culture of her high school by helping to organize projects such as "Bully Beware" and the Arts Club, formed to beautify the school and the community. She is a serious and motivated student and hopes to continue her education at Simon Fraser University.

David Martinez –$10,000 James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship

David is the son of Carolyne J. Martinez, a member at SD#34 and the brother of Carlos who was awarded a scholarship last year. He is a straight A student and graduate of Rick Hansen Secondary School in Abbotsford. He participated in important academic contests: Skills Canada and Physics Olympics. He also excelled in the "Link Crew" Leadership and Mentoring program. David was a major contributor to his high school's culture and to the betterment of the community by being actively involved in the Global Awareness Club. As such he participated in shoreline cleanups, a 24hour famine, and recycling programs. He also volunteered his time to tutor other students, record the football games and keep time during basketball games.



He is a strong athlete specializing in defence on the football team; does cross country skiing and was an avid member of his high school's Frisbee team.

David's teachers say that he is an amazingly talented and well rounded individual and that his commitment to excellence and passion for success has always been evident. Furthermore, he is a leader who uses his skills and abilities to the maximum, has character, and makes those around him better. He currently attends the University of the Fraser Valley to pursue a degree in Science.

Krystal Samways –$1,000 James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship

Krystal, the grandchild of George Samways, a member with Van Kam Seaboard Cartage, graduated from Aldergrove Community Secondary School with straight 'A's. She has received several awards for her academic achievements in French, English, Social Studies, Life Sciences, and others. She is pictured receiving her scholarship award from Prince George Business Representative John Ellis, who is retiring January, 2010.

Her volunteer experience and extracurricular activities are varied and many: she is an accomplished musician and was a member of the high school jazz bands. She volunteers with the Valley Therapeutic Equestrian Association and shares her knowledge as a tutor and mentor with other students. She held the position of Vice-President of her student council. Krystal also teaches piano and is a cosmetician and cashier at Shoppers Drug Mart. She currently attends the University of Northern BC in Prince George and aspires to become a genetics researcher.

Kurtis Stewart –$1,000 James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship

Kurtis is the son of Randy Stewart, a member working at United Parcel Service (Coastal). He graduated from Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary School with a 4.0 grade point average ranking first in a class of 275. He received Top All-Round Student recognition in 2006 and 2008 and Top Academic Student in 2006 and 2007. Also recognized as a top athlete, Kurtis is involved in various sports including soccer, volleyball, golf, baseball, and track and field.

He has clocked in many hours of volunteer service from working at the food bank to peer tutoring. His most significant, he feels, has been spent working at children's camps where he learned how to be a positive role model for others, the importance of honesty, how to deal with responsibility and how to be a good influence in the community. Thus, he has discovered a passion to work with others in a way that will benefit them and their community. Kurtis is now enrolled at the University of BC to eventually become a psychologist. His goal is to use his education to help people, especially children.

We extend our best wishes and congratulations to all of you! The scholarship fund was established in 1999 in recognition of James R. Hoffa's tireless service to the Union and its members. Recipients are selected by an impartial committee of university admissions and financial aid directors based on academic achievement, SAT/ACT scores, character, potential and financial need. Guidelines may be obtained by contacting Local 31 union office or by visiting www.teamster.org.

Art Price Memorial Scholarship

Each year the Local selects a student to accept this award who best embraces the attributes of past member, Art Price—a highly respected member of Local 31 from August 1960 until his passing on April 22, 1993. In his long Teamster career, Brother Price served as chairman for the shop stewards; he served on several sets of freight negotiation committees; and rose to the rank of business representative and finally secretary-treasurer.

This year the Local is very pleased to award this scholarship, in the amount of $1,000.00, to Elizabeth Wenting - daughter of Lauri Wenting, member at SD # 34, also granddaughter of Margaret Wenting, a long time member. She is seen accepting her award from Abbotsford Business Agent Tom Brown and Secretary-Treasurer Rod Blackburn. Elizabeth, a graduate of Mission Secondary School, was in the top ten of her class in grades 10 through 12. She earned the Junior and Senior Music Leadership Award in grades 8,9,10 and 11 and was a member of the choir, school jazz & concert bands for five years

Elizabeth is very actively involved with Girl Guides of Canada. Now in her 10th year, she volunteers as a junior leader and acting secretary/communications person for her unit. She has been skating with the Mission Racers Speed Skating Club for six years and is now a coach for junior skaters.

Still, Elizabeth manages to find time to volunteer with Operation Red Nose in the Mission Candle Light parade, which she's done for the last seven years and works part-time at a fitness centre babysitting and cleaning.

Her teachers say that she is a great role model for the younger students; is friendly and courteous and always on-task—the kind of student that can be counted on to get things done.

Elizabeth is enrolled in the Bachelor of Science program at the University of the Fraser Valley. It is her goal to become a general practitioner one day. Congratulations, Elizabeth.

The Art Price Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually to the child of any Teamster member in good standing. Applications must be submitted to the Local no later than August 30.

Important Messages from your Dues Department

If you are absent from work for any reason

Members are responsible for keeping their dues current when they are absent from work.

If your dues lapse you could lose seniority with your company and become suspended. If you become suspended, you must pay a re-initiation fee.

Keep your dues current!

Call the Dues office to check your status.
604-527-2701 Angela
604-527-2702 Dianne

Death Benefit Cards

This is a reminder to all Local 31 members that it is very important to have a Death Benefit Card filled out and submitted to the Local 31 Dues Office.

Also, if your beneficiary needs to be changed or if you would like to check that your beneficiary information is current, please come to the Head office or phone Angela Martin at (604) 527-2701 or Dianne Pett at (604) 527-2702 and they will check their records.

How to Reach Your Union Representatives

Local 31 Toll Free 1-877-LOCAL31
Local 31 Reception (604) 540-6009
Local 31 Fax (604) 540-6073 or (604) 523-1897
www.teamsters31.ca

Lower Mainland Representatives

Terry Tyler	(604) 527-2711	ttyler@teamsters31.ca
Cheryl Popeniuk	(604) 527-2706	cpopeniuk@teamsters31.ca
Larry Sargeant	(604) 527-2718	lsargeant@teamsters31.ca
Richard Van Grol	(604) 527-2709	rvangrol@teamsters31.ca
Dave Cooper	(604) 527-2708	dcooper@teamsters31.ca

Abbotsford

Tom Brown 604-504-4520 tbrown@teamsters31.ca
1-877-562-2531

Vancouver Island

1-877-562-2531

Prince George

John Ellis (250) 563-5346
Anthony Kirk

Yukon

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Congratulations Local 31 retirees!

Name	Company	Years a Teamster
Ken Guthrie	Ryder Transpacific	37
Richard Hobday	Canadian Freightways	41
John Johnson	Canadian Freightways	
Douglas Jordan	Superior Propane	28
Peter King	Canadian Feightways	28
Pierre Le Gal	Superior Propane	20
Gregory Lenz		8
Khan Lodhi	Beachcomber Hot Tubs	19
George Lundy		35
George Mui	Metro Vancouver	13
Sidney Armbruster	YRC Reimer	37
Shirley Belansky		18
Josephine Berg	School District No. 59	17
Wayne Blackburn	Canadian Freightways	32
Robert Bruce	Columbia Containers	9
Susan Clarke	Metro Vancouver	13
Joseph Doucette	YRC Reimer	28
Sandy Ferris	Vancouver Police Dept.	5
Clarence Flynn		40
Ian Fraser	Pactow Transport	35
Ross Peterson	Teamsters Local 31	40
Louis Pratt	Lindsays Cartage	36
Rebecca Scherban	Metro Vancouver	13
Ramona Volmers	HBC Logistics	1
Larry Whelehan	North 60 Petro	18
Vicki Yip	Vancouver Police Dept.	12
Sandra Allen	Vancouver Police Dept.	20
Shirley Belansky		
Ken Bramham	Pt Coquitlam Transfer	22
John Carignan	Purolator Burnaby	
Terry Dearden	Canadian Freightways	23
Roger Donais	Clarke Transport	20
Maureen Dunster	Vancouver Police Dept.	32
Benny Durant	District Delivery	23
Stan Granda	Purolator Prince George	13
Linda Harris	School District No. 34	28
William Mack	YRC Reimer	39
Donald Maitland		
Melvin Morberg	YRC Reimer	1
Manfred Otter		
David Pike	Canadian Freightways	35
Roy Renouf	Mountain Pacific Transport	23
Susan Taylor	School District No. 59	16
Tage Thomsen	YRC Reimer	
Neil Tiernan	School District No. 59	38

In Memoriam

Local 31 extends its condolences to the families of the following members who have passed away.

Dev Revel	VPD	56
Martha Christensen	Diversified	46
Orville Ewing	Van-Kam	44
Cody Ainey	Pactow	24
Arthur Smith	Van-Kam	51
Donel Regnier	School District 34	64
Allen Taylor		57
Harminder Bains	Gulf Islands Cartage	52
Eric Chrona		62
Victoria Jones	School District 59	53
Eunice Krahenbil	School District 34	55
Louis Lo	Hudson's Bay Co.	59
Clifford Prato	Canadian Fwys.	57
Cecilia Shum	Hudson's Bay Co.	56
Scott Speirs	YRC Reimer	54
William Stratford	Van Kam Fwys	
Max Sauter	Motorways (retired)	
Gordon Hardman		