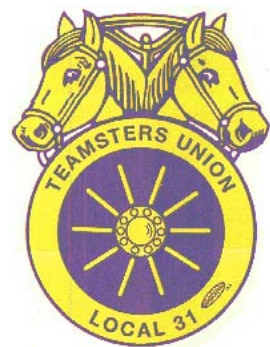


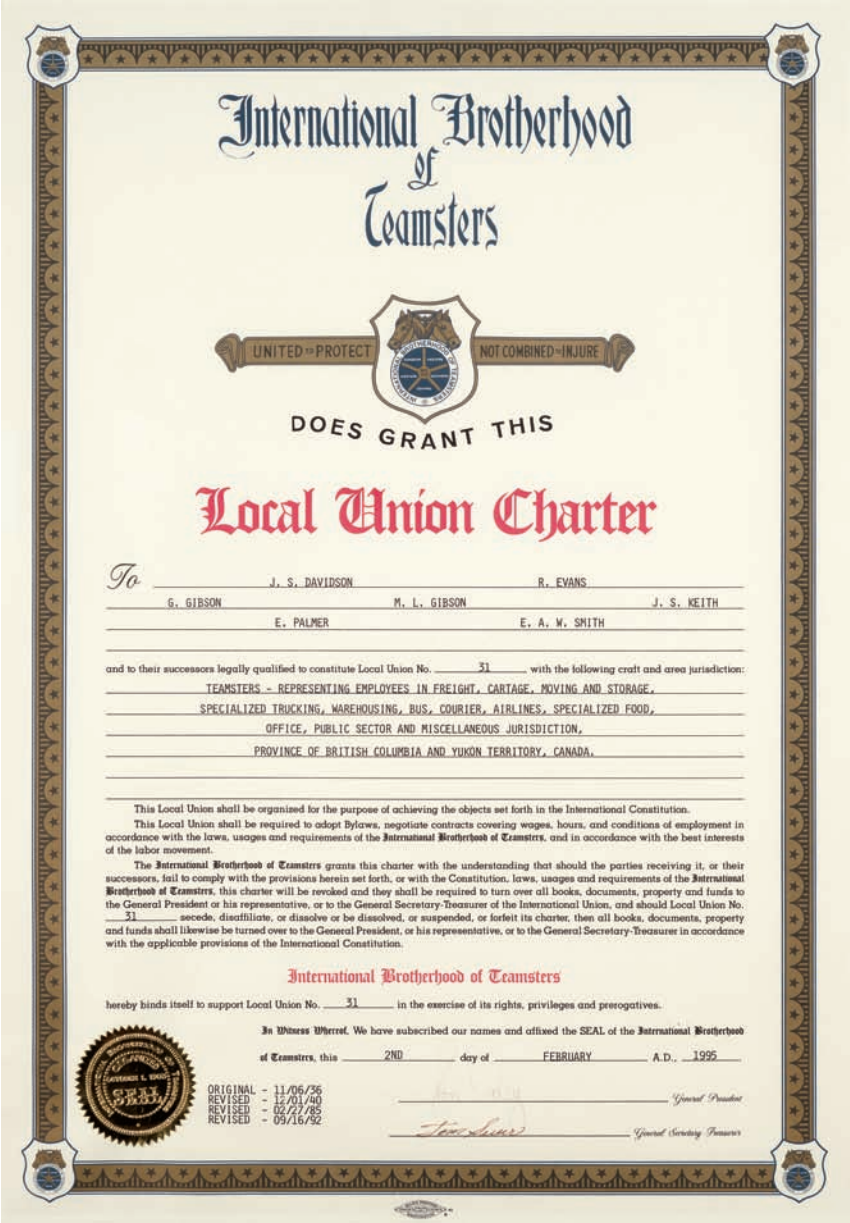
The newspaper of Teamsters Local 31 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

31 News



Spring, 2011 www.teamsters31.ca Delta, B.C., Canada

Local 31 celebrates its Diamond Anniversary



On November 6, 1936 the International Brotherhood of Teamsters chartered Local Union No. 31. Over the past 75 years the Local has represented thousands of hard working men and women in British Columbia and the Yukon. From the earliest days of horse and wagon drivers, the membership has run the gamut from truck drivers, warehouse workers, public sector workers, courier drivers, rail transportation workers and car parking lots. Today, the eternal fight for working families continues under the leadership of Local Union President and International Vice-President, Stan Hennessy. The Local's history is a powerful legacy of the last 75 years of empowerment, equality and strong representation.



Paul Rubak Collection

Then ...

Canadian Freightways unit in 1940's

A set of doubles at Crows Nest Pass in 1956. First ones to run from Vancouver to the Crow. CF split them there and ran to Calgary with single boxes as double trailers were not allowed in Alberta at the time.



Paul Rubak Collection



and Now ...

Trucks equipped with a lot of the modern comforts found in most homes, with a quiet ride and air conditioning - a vast improvement in working conditions for drivers! (photo by Terry Tyler)



Local 31's newly-designed logo to commemorate its 75th Anniversary. See our 75th Anniversary merchandise on page 3.

From: Teamsters Local Union No. 31, #1 Grosvenor Square, Delta, B.C. V3M 5S1
Publications Mail Agreement No. 40565532

President's Report



Teamsters Local 31 is celebrating its 75 years as a Local Union. As a member since 1973, I look back at our history with the greatest of pride.

I believe, as members, we have all witnessed our Union rise to the challenges we as a Local have faced throughout the years. Challenges such as eroding economics, recessions, collapsing markets, and, of course, job loss. We have always faced these challenges head on with determination and grit, and will always continue to do so. Together, with the help of our membership, shop stewards, and your staff and elected officials, we have not only endured but prospered. We have a lot to be grateful for.

Your Local, through constant organizing, currently sits at approximately 7000 members with a number of other organizing drives underway.

Once again this year, we will be active at a number of community events. I believe our involvement at these various functions allows us to not only give something back to the communities where we work, but also a chance to showcase Teamsters Local 31 with the use of our tractor-trailer. These events are a lot of fun for all family members, so take some time and come on out and see us. The events are listed in the magazine.

This year is also the International Brotherhood of Teamsters' 28th National Convention. As a delegate, I would like to thank all the members on behalf of our entire team of delegates for the opportunity to represent Local 31 members at Convention.

On a final note, I believe it is quite fitting that, on the 75th Anniversary of our Union, ten students of parents who are Local 31 members are to receive \$2500 scholarships to the university or school of their choice. From this year forward, ten scholarships will be awarded by Local 31; as well, the Art Price Memorial Scholarship has been increased to \$2500.

Brothers and Sisters, as the warm weather approaches (I hope), I want to wish you and your families all the best and hope to see you at one of several anniversary events the Local has planned.

Stan Hennessy, President

Davies wins re-election to Parliament in Vancouver-Kingsway

31NEWS is proud to report that Local 31's former Director of Legal Resources, Don Davies, has won re-election in the riding of Vancouver-Kingsway.

Bro. Davies was first elected to Parliament in 2008, when he decided to run in the riding made famous when David Emerson (elected as a Liberal) crossed the floor to sit as a governing Conservative. In 2008 he secured the seat for the NDP, with 35% of the votes in the riding, which was 6% more than the Liberal candidate.

This time, in 2011, Bro. Davies won the riding by a greater margin, securing 23,452 votes, or 50% of the votes cast. He beat the runner up in the riding, Conservative Trang Nguyen, by almost twice as many votes.

Bro. Davies will now be working in the first-ever NDP official opposition in Canadian history, and has been named as the Critic for Public Safety and Multiculturalism, an apt portfolio since it was reported that about 100 different languages were spoken by constituents in the riding.

Bro. Davies had this to say on his re-election, and his years spent at Local 31:

"I am very proud of the many years I spent working with the men and women in Local 31. In my view, there is no greater privilege than the opportunity to help working people achieve better conditions and fairness in the workplace.

As the only card-carrying Teamster in the House of Commons, I am very happy to carry that important work forward in Parliament.

Canada is a wealthy country. It is a nation that has achieved its potential because of the labour of millions of working men and women. I am very pleased to advocate for a fair distribution of our nation's wealth to all Canadians who play such a pivotal role in creating it. Safe workplaces, fair labour laws and good Canadian jobs are keys to our economic future.

I will continue to bring the voices of all workers - and all my sisters and brothers in Local 31 - to our national stage."

International Brotherhood of Teamsters Delegates Election

At Local 31's nomination meeting for delegates to the 2011 IBT Convention, the following members were nominated, seconded and accepted the nomination. Since the number of nominees for delegates and alternate delegates did not exceed the number to be elected for these positions, the delegates election scheduled for February 14, 2011 was cancelled. The following members are declared elected.

Stan Hennessy	Delegate
Dave Cooper	Delegate
Richard Van Grol	Delegate
Cheryl Popeniuk	Delegate
Terry Tyler	Delegate
Rod Blackburn	Delegate
Mike Hennessy	Delegate
Grant Coleman	Delegate
Caley Fieldhouse	Alternate
Jim Kidd	Alternate
Tom Brown	Alternate
Catherine Gastaldello	Alternate

Teamsters welcome newly-organized companies

by Terry Tyler, Business Representative

Teamsters Local 31 Director of Organizing, Jure Kelava has been very busy this year organizing four new companies: Rocky Mountaineer, Park 'n Fly, Canada West Warehousing and Canada Cartage.

Rocky Mountaineer Railtours is a tourist train that offers two-day rail tours - Vancouver to/from Banff to Calgary, Vancouver to/from Jasper and Whistler to/from Jasper. The Company employs 110 new members. Secretary-Treasurer, Rod Blackburn is in negotiations with the Company for a new collective agreement.

Canada West Warehousing is a warehouse with 12 employees who are represented by Business Representative, Larry Sargeant who is currently in negotiations for a first collective agreement.

Canada Cartage is in the distribution business, whose customers include Canada Safeway and currently employs 123 members. Business Representative, Richard Van Grol, and Organizer, Jure Kelava, recently concluded negotiations and have ratified a first collective agreement with the Company.

Park 'n Fly offers secure parking at YVR in addition to valet

parking. Our new members at Park 'n Fly include cashiers, lot jockeys, bus drivers, foremen and car washers.

The Company is represented by Business Representative, Terry Tyler who will be negotiating a new collective agreement for the 70 new members working there. If you park there don't hesitate to introduce yourself as a brother or sister Teamster and welcome these new members to our Union.

Park 'n Fly has secure parking facilities in Vancouver, Toronto, Ottawa, Halifax, Montreal and Edmonton and is offering an approximately 25% discount on parking services at these facilities.

To secure a quote and print a coupon to park your car at a Park 'n Fly lot during your upcoming air travel, please follow these instructions on the Internet:

1. Go to www.parknfly.ca
2. Under 'Find the Best Rate for Your Stay' enter your departure

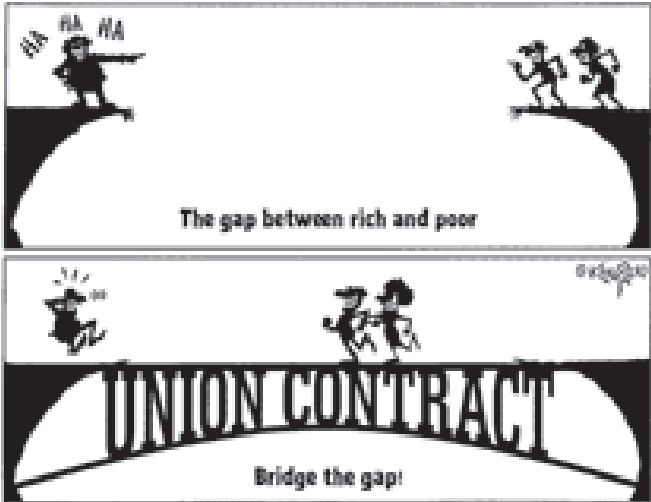
and arrival dates.

3. Click on the + sign beside 'Do you have a Discount Code?' Enter the number 59063 in the space provided.

4. Click on the city in which your car will be parked.

5. Click on the 'Click here for Specials' button.

6. At the next screen, it will display your discount rate. Click on the 'Quick Rate' button. A new



window will open allowing you to print your coupon with your bar code.

Lastly, but not forgotten are five new members in Fort St. John, employed by **Grimshaw Trucking**.

We welcome to all our new members into membership at Local 31!

Union vs. non-union in the food service industry

I am writing this letter to thank you for liberating me from the foodservice company that I used to work for. The company was a major distribution centre in the lower mainland that was not unionized.

I worked there for 10 years and noticed that when it was taken over by an American company everything changed for the worse. The company became a cold, faceless corporation that cared solely about corporate profits, and the employees became just mere numbers. Every aspect of the workplace became something that management wanted to use either to reward us or penalize us.

But rewards/bonuses came with many conditions that if they were not met, it would mean that we would lose our reward/bonus. This was great for management as they would get extra production out of us and not have to give the reward/bonus to us for taking a sick day, for example. It was apparent that whenever production targets were met, the targets would increase. Safety was just a nuisance for management regardless of the fact that WCB claims were going through the roof. Regardless of how many years of

service we gave to the company, we were only as good as our last day worked.

Currently, I have been working for a Teamsters Local 31 foodservice company for over a year and the differences between a union and non-union company have been very positive. Through the collective agreement, my family and I are enjoying the following:

- Starting wage of \$24 per hour with a \$2 per hour night shift differential
- Knowing exactly when and how much my raises will be for the term of the contract
- 100% employer funded pension plan
- 100% employer paid MSP, Dental and Extended Health benefits
- Sick Days and Personal Days with a payout option if they are not used in the year
- Job security
- Shop stewards and a clear grievance process if a genuine dispute arises
- A safe working environment where the workers have a say in safe work practices

These benefits are some of the obvious ones; but what I really

noticed is that I can now call what I do a career, rather than just a job. The industry that I work in is physically demanding, but now as a member of Teamsters Local 31, I have learned that it is not mentally and emotionally stressful anymore. Just knowing that the Union and the company will keep the health and safety of its workers their first priority is very comforting and worth going to work for. Not to mention the pension plan also gives me a sense of security and peace of mind when I retire.

Many believe that unionized companies have problems dealing with employees. However, what I have found is that there are far less problems, because there is a collective agreement in place that sets out clear rules and a framework of cooperation between the workers and the company for the betterment of the customer.

Today, I make more money, get better benefits, and work for a company that doesn't change the rules every second week. I am safer, healthier and more committed to my work than before. For this I would like to thank Teamsters Local 31.

*Bro. Sat Siekham
Martin-Brower Canada*

75th Anniversary Merchandise

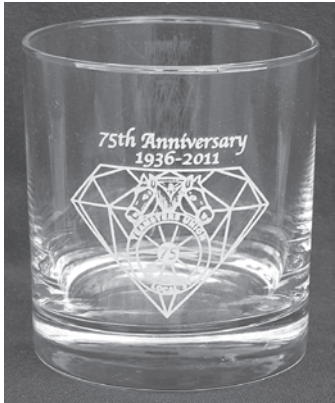
To celebrate our 75th Anniversary, Local 31 is offering merchandise which features our newly-designed Diamond Anniversary logo. Please come to our head office or phone Angela Martin at 604-527-2701 to purchase or if you have any questions. As usual, all our merchandise is made in Canada by union labour. All prices include taxes.



Anniversary lapel pin: \$6.50



Anniversary baseball cap: \$15



Anniversary hi-ball glasses (set of 4): \$20



Anniversary t-shirts: \$20



Anniversary leather jackets: \$315

Lockout at Coast 2000 Terminals settled

President Stan Hennessy:

My name is Jaskaran Haer, I am a Teamster Local 31 member since November, 2006. I work for Coast 2000 Terminals in Richmond as a Heavy Duty Mechanic. As you are well aware, in the middle of March our company, Coast 2000 Terminals, locked us out after several weeks of long, hard and strenuous negotiations by our negotiating committee. Bro. Smith, Bro. Matricardi, as well as our Business Representative Bro. Sargeant did a tremendous job. Not only by getting us a wonderful contract that helps us all for the next five years, but also being there every day fighting for us while answering any questions our Brothers would ask of them. They were rocks for us during this lockout and all the Union Brothers would like to thank them for their tireless effort.

I would especially like to take a moment to thank our Business Representative, Bro. Sargeant. He was calm and stood strong for us on the picket line day in and day out. Anything we asked or needed he would not hesitate to provide. As with many of my other Brothers, this was my first ever lockout and there was a lot of unrest felt during this time. While I was stationed on Westgate for the morning shift, Bro. Sargeant came down and had a long conversation with us. Not only did he ease our thoughts and concerns, he took the time to reassure us that all Teamsters were behind us and everything would work out for the best and gave us hope. His calm, composed and collected nature spearheaded our negotiations and delivered us a considerable contract and the security of knowing we were in good hands with Local 31 Teamsters.

There was a lot of uncertainty building up during our contract negotiations and no one knew what to expect. But thanks to amazing work done by all, we are all happily back to work and looking forward to showing support for the Teamsters in any way we can for years to come. From the bottom of our hearts, the Brothers here at Coast 2000 Terminals would like to thank all of the Business Representatives for their never-ending support and words of encouragement that helped with this great outcome.

*Bro. Jaskaran Haer
Coast 2000 Terminals*

Your Teamster Truck in the Community



Look for the Teamster truck at these events in your community this year:

June 4th at Hats off Day on Hastings Street in Burnaby

June 12th at Sapperton Day in New Westminster

July 24th at City Fair in Burnaby

July 31st at the 12th Street Festival in New Westminster

November 26th at the Edmonds Santa Claus Parade in Burnaby

Teamsters Benefit Plan News

Dear Plan Members:

As always, we appreciate the opportunity to provide reminders and updates to those members of Teamsters Local 31 who are covered under our Benefit Plan.

As a member of the Plan, it's important for you to keep in mind that its provisions can sometimes be complex. Relying on Benefit Plan advice from well-intentioned co-workers can be risky. We have also had recent reports of health service providers and durable equipment retailers providing misleading information about the Plan's coverage.

We urge you to call us directly at 604-552-2650 to ensure you have accurate information regarding the Plan's terms. Our office is open Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. If you leave a message after hours, we'll get back to you the next morning.

Those of us at the Plan's office take great pride in the level of service we're able to provide to Plan members. We are here to answer your questions!

*Gail Johnson CEBS
Administrator*

Benefit Plan News

Out-of-Province Emergency Coverage

The Plan now uses Medex Global Solutions to provide service to members (and eligible dependents) who are on vacation or travelling and require emergency treatment outside of B.C. Please note, the coverage is still provided by the Plan. Medex provides a 24-hour contact number for our members and provides assistance to them.

Emergency treatment in another province of Canada will often be linked to a member's coverage under Medical Services of B.C. However, if problems are encountered Medex will provide assistance.

If you are leaving for vacation outside of B.C. please call our office for a card with the Medex contact information. Please note, this coverage is for emergency treatment only and is limited to an emergency incurred within the first six weeks of any Out-of-Province visit.

For emergency treatment in North America, Medex should be called as soon as possible at 1-800-527-0218, Plan ID#



is 347521. If travelling outside of North America the number is 1-410-453-6330.

Improved Optical Coverage

As a result of input from the membership and a review of changes in the benefits industry generally, the Trustees approved the following Plan improvements:

The Plan will cover expenses incurred for the purchase of corrective lenses and frames or contact lenses and effective June 1, 2011 for fees for corrective laser eye surgery when prescribed by a Physician or Optometrist up to the applicable limits noted below.

Effective June 1, 2011 the maximum benefit for corrective lenses and frames or contact lenses or for fees for corrective laser surgery will be \$250 per person in any 24 consecutive month period.

New Plan Booklets

The work of updating Plan booklets is well underway. We're hoping to distribute new booklets to Plan members in July, 2011.

Important Reminders

Is your Beneficiary information up-to-date?

In most cases, members have named beneficiaries for the Group Life Insurance and Accidental, Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) Insurance. If there is no named beneficiary, any death benefits would be paid to the member's estate.

Are you sure the beneficiary information in our files is correct? If not, please call our office. Please note beneficiary information for the Benefit Plan is not linked to that of the Teamsters' National Pension Plan.)

Have you checked the number on your Drug Card?

Your Drug Card should show an employee number, not your Social Insurance number. Please contact our office if you require a replacement.

Who qualifies as an Eligible Dependent under the Plan's rules?

- 1) Your spouse or common-law spouse with whom you reside;
- 2) Your or your spouse's unmarried child under the age of 19 provided the child relies principally upon you for support and resides with you;
- 3) Your or your spouse's unmarried child under the age of 25 provided the child is in full-time attendance at a recognized school, college or university, relies

principally upon you for support and normally resides with you. Please note, confirmation of attendance is required on a semester basis;

4) Your or your spouse's unmarried child of any age who is mentally or physically handicapped to the extent that such child is incapable of self support provided the child relies principally upon you for support and resides with you may be covered for EHB and dental benefits only.

In the event that you are legally separated or divorced and the courts order you to provide coverage for your dependents, dependents shall include:

- any child who resides with your former spouse and meets all other conditions of being a dependent, and
- a former spouse, provided you have not appointed another spouse.

What are your responsibilities if the Plan pays you Weekly Indemnity benefits while you wait for a decision from WorkSafeBC?

- You must notify the Plan when a decision is made on your WorkSafeBC claim and provide a copy of the decision letter.
- If your claim is accepted by WorkSafe B.C. the Plan must be reimbursed for the Weekly Indemnity benefits paid to you. It is a serious violation to collect from both providers for the same disability.
- If your claim is denied by WorkSafeBC you must appeal by requesting a review of the decision (unless you receive prior Trustee

approval for an exemption). There is no charge to request a review of a WorkSafeBC decision. Our office can provide the forms, if necessary. It is a serious breach of the Plan's terms if a request for review is not filed with WorkSafeBC within the prescribed time limits. Please note, the Plan must be provided with a copy of the Request for Review and/or confirmation from WorkSafeBC.

Why do you get a T4A slip from the Plan each year?

Some of the benefits provided to you under the Plan are taxable. These include any disability benefits you received during the year as well as any portion of your group life insurance or M.S.P. premium paid for by your employer.

Please note, provisions of the Income Tax Act provide that, if you paid for a portion of the cost of the disability benefit, you may be able to claim a certain portion of those contributions against the benefit you received. In these cases, the Plan provides a letter with your T4A that can be enclosed with your tax return.

If a member is paying 100% of the contribution for benefits, no T4A is issued.

Who do you call with your change of address?

If your residential address changes, it is very important that you call both the Local 31 office at 604-540-6009 and the Benefit Plan's office at 604-552-2650. If you call only the Local 31 office, the Benefit Plan will not have your new address.

Teamsters' National Pension Plan

Pension Workshops



Please note: **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED**

Workshops will provide:

- General information on the provisions of the Plan, its history, a list of current Trustees and funded status will be available. We will also provide information on the Plan's formula for pension accrual, retirement options and death benefits.
- The Plan's Trust Agreement, The Plan Text and the Plan's Statement of Investment Policy will be available for members' review.
- If required, one on one meetings will be arranged to provide specific information on your individual pension accrual as well as early and normal retirement options.

The workshop will be held at the Plan's office from 5:00pm to 7:00pm on Tuesday, June 28, 2011.

1610 Kebet Way,
Port Coquitlam, B.C.
V3C 5W9

CALL 604-552-2650 TO REGISTER!

Refreshments will be served.

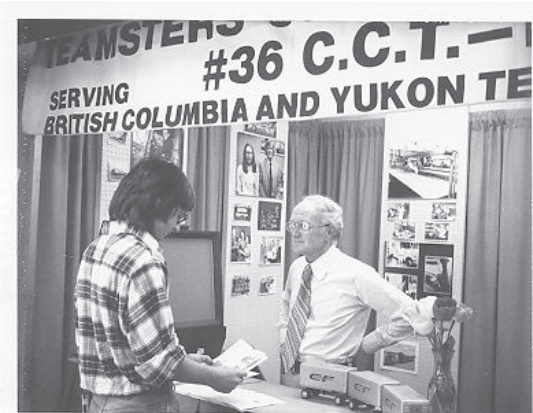
We look forward to meeting with you.

Remembering a Father

Local 31 Business Rep Tom Brown follows in his Teamster Dad's footsteps

by Tom Brown, Fraser Valley Business Representative
(photos courtesy of Joint Council 36 archives)

Sam Brown came to Vancouver in 1952 on his way to Australia. He needed to raise funds to bring his wife and first child out from Toronto to join him in Vancouver, so he applied at Dairyland and was hired as a delivery driver. Vancouver became our family's home and Dairyland was the genesis of my Father's almost 30 years as a Teamster. His love for anything dairy had begun on the farm on which he was raised in Belfast, Ireland. I believe his career path was predestined. I learned from one of his siblings that he voiced his concerns as a teenager on the farm in Ireland. He didn't think the hired help at the farm were adequately compensated for their work, nor were they fed as well as the family, and that was wrong. He left home at 15 never to return.



Sam Brown manning the Joint Council 36 booth at a job fair

The Second World War brought him to Canada, a country with which he fell in love and that had a political party (CCF) that fit his philosophy, a desire to help the common working man and woman. The labour movement was his passion and he soon found a local connection with the NDP, a party that shared this same philosophy. As a young child I remember many meetings in our home and big 4X8 plywood signs letting the neighbours know who the Browns were voting for.

Dad became a shop steward at Dairyland very early in his employment there and then ran and was elected as a Business Agent for Local 464 in 1960.

He moved from Business Agent to the research director for Joint Council 36, a position he held for 20 years. I remember accompanying him to 490 E. Broadway to his office on a Saturday or Sunday morning and, while he was working, I would push the big broom around the hallways and peek into the big hall where a raucous meeting was taking place. Dad was able to keep a good balance between work and his role in raising three boys and coached our soccer teams. I remember wearing a blue and yellow JC36 Teamster uniform for a number of seasons. I also remember going to his peers' homes for dinner and have especially fond memories of visiting Peter Wilson's home. When Dad passed away at an all too early age of 62, his coworkers and friends together raised funds and set up a bursary at BCIT in his name. For 25 years my mother, brothers and my children have all proudly been there to hand out the Sam Brown Memorial Scholarship to deserving students from different faculties at BCIT. Dad was always a supporter of the Vocational School (now



February, 1964: Sam Brown (second from right) with other Joint Council 36 Executive in front of the East Broadway building

part of BCIT) and young people furthering their education. He was asked to speak to students on many occasions, proudly representing the Teamsters. I must have inherited some of that DNA from my father as I also was a shop steward for Teamsters Local 31 early in my career with Canadian Freightways and have also become a Business Representative. I'm extremely proud to work for a Local whose President, Stan Hennessy, recognizes that education is a very important component for the young workforce of today. One of my favorite days on the job is when I get to hand a scholarship cheque to a deserving child or grandchild of a Local 31 member.

To All the Fathers out there have a Happy Fathers Day 2011!

Profile of a Teamster: Sheila Doyle

Sheila Doyle is a Teamsters Local 31 shop steward employed as a Transcriber at the Abbotsford Police Department. Local 31 represents civilian employees at the APD.

Sis. Doyle started at the APD in 2006 as a casual, working in communications at the front counter. She moved to a temporary full-time Records Clerk at the front counter in July, 2006, and then to a full-time position as a Transcriber a year later.

She then became an FIS Clerk from January to

September, 2008 but is currently a Transcriber working shift work.

In 2010, she was seconded for six weeks to produce the APD's 2010 Annual Report. Sis Doyle also oversaw the creation of the APD's branding logo, which incorporated the Department's values.

Local 31 represents members working in a variety of jobs in industries such as trucking, warehousing, the public sector, school bus driving, package delivery, bottling, food service, tourism, moving and grocers, and is proud to highlight the work of our members.

Committed to educating our members



In February, Shop Stewards from the Lower Mainland and the Fraser Valley gathered at Local 31's meeting hall for the Shop Steward Training course. Topics included the roles and responsibilities of a Shop Steward and identifying and drafting grievances. Local 31 is committed to educating Shop Stewards and will be hosting a Shop Steward Seminar in October. If you have any suggestions for topics, please forward them to spike@teamsters31.ca

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 Wednesday of the Month
3 – 2480 Kenworth Road
7:00 p.m.

Victoria

2nd Thursday of the Month
Trafalgar 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

As per past practice, the meetings for June (except Abbotsford), July and August will be cancelled. We will resume in September.

Do you have a story idea? Do you want to express an editorial opinion? Do you have any photos of you or fellow members on the job? Submit it to the newsletter tyler@teamsters31.ca or spike@teamsters31.ca and it will be considered for publication in our next newsletter.

The littlest Teamster turns one!

Photo and Story by Lorrina Mitchell
Local 31 Yukon office

The littlest Teamster has been growing and learning at an accelerated rate. From early on, he was accompanying his dam while she worked and observing what is expected from those beings who are exemplified by the Teamster logo. He is a calm and intelligent



young fellow and his first lesson since being weaned from his dam at the age of 9 1/2 months, has been to learn to come to his name when called. Previous to expecting him to perform this task, we had to establish a 'benefit plan'.

As the colt learned to eat hay and grain, he was also introduced to horse treats, small flat chunks of compressed grains and molasses

specifically designed to be appealing to equines. Once Handy had learned to enjoy these treats, he was given a couple of them each time he came when called. He is now most reliable in responding to his name, even leaving his hay just put out to come to the gate when called. As with the workplace, the 'benefit plan' is an important part of the overall compensation to the individual.

Handy is now of sufficient size that he has worn a saddle pad and surcingle in preparation for his eventual purpose as a companionable riding mount. Here the colt is pictured on the day of his first introduction to his future 'working wardrobe'.

The other half of the Teamster Logo has been learning new skills this winter. Caramel, Handy's 'aunt' has been learning to bow and kneel. Though in the wild such a posture would put her at risk, she is willing to participate through shared trust and respect.

That's Teamsters for you, knowing how to get the job done.

Moose a frequent hazard up North

Photo and Story by Lorrina Mitchell
Local 31 Yukon office

Teamsters are largely to be found in the transportation industry and most are quite familiar with the large mammal known as the Moose, for these ungulates are quite numerous in several provinces and pose a very real threat to vehicles moving at speed on our highways. It seems hard to comprehend, yet frequently a collision with a moose, even by a transport truck, can be a stalemate, taking out both the moose and the truck, and often causing injury to the passengers, more often so if a passenger vehicle is involved.

I know many people who have been involved with moose-related collisions, and for that reason when the cow moose and her twin young of last year showed up at the ranch, we neither encouraged or deterred their presence. The winter had been long and rebounding temperatures had retarded the early growth that marks the return of spring. The horses were alarmed at first, snorting and running in their pens, but soon enough there was an uneasy truce, and eventually we all got used to sharing this space. I would herd the moose away from one shed to feed the horse nearest the house, and then chatter loudly to the horses as I approached the second shed, albeit while carrying my hay fork. Madelaine incurred one bite on her nose from the moose, likely a case of both mother's defending their young. My horse will not be scarred, the moose eat much less hay than horses, and I

consider that during the time the moose spent here, the highways were that much safer for my Teamster brothers and sisters.



Did you know...

Fascinating Teamster Facts

2011 marks the 75th anniversary of Local 31, but did you know that the Teamsters have been in British Columbia since February 1919? It all began when the Milk Sales Drivers and Dairy Employees Union, Local 464, were granted a Charter in February 1919, followed by the Bakery Salesmens Union, Local 371 and the Truck Drivers Union, Local 665. These Locals comprised Joint Council 36 and a Joint Council Charter was issued on October 2, 1919. During the next few years the Locals and the Joint Council saw growth and then decline, resulting in the closure of Locals 371 and 665.

Despite the fall of Locals 371 and 665, Local 464 steadily grew and in 1925 applied for a new Charter for the Truck Drivers Union, Local 466. Over the next couple of years, Locals 464 and 466 continued to organize and eventually received a Charter for the Taxicab, Stage and Bus Drivers Union, Local 151. The next group to join the Joint Council was Local 189, the Bakery Salesmens Union.

The Depression had an extreme impact on the Union and the Joint Council saw the end of Local 466. The Joint Council remained united and battled through the early years of the Depression. This strength resulted in a Local Union Charter being issued for the General Truck Drivers Union, Local 31 on November 6, 1936. Various other locals were chartered and joined the Joint Council in the years following, including Locals 213, 842, 885 and 351. The Joint Council is currently comprised of Locals 31, 155, 213 and 464.

Throughout the years, Joint Council 36 and Local 31 have battled though adversity, but have continued to transform and expand. This growth is evident from our Charter, which sets out Local 31's jurisdiction as:

Teamsters – representing employees in freight, cartage, moving and storage, specialized trucking, warehousing, bus, courier, airlines, specialized food, office, public sector and miscellaneous jurisdiction, province of British Columbia and Yukon Territory, Canada.

(*Additional historical data may be found in "The Teamsters in British Columbia" by Bruce W. Laffling, March 1967)

Next up: Purolator

by Dave Cooper, Business Representative

Teamsters will be ready to start negotiations with Purolator the first week of September. That was the decision made by the Canada Council of Teamsters at its Divisional meeting this past April. President of Local 31 and International Vice-President Stan Hennessy attended these meetings with Business Representative Dave Cooper, who is the newly-appointed Assistant Director (West) for the Parcel and Package Division.

During the course of the three-day meetings, President Hennessy told the Committee of principal officers and business agents from across the country that he believed it was so important that we start negotiations early for the 10,000 Purolator Teamsters across Canada. It was unanimously agreed that we address this set of negotiations in the same manner as in 2010 where we were successful in reaching a landmark agreement in Canada with UPS, ratified with over 83% approval.

Bro. Cooper will be co-chairing these negotiations and has just concluded taking proposals from the Purolator members in B.C. Through July and August President Hennessy and Bro. Cooper will be attending Regional and National correlation meetings along with officers and business representatives from across Canada. A full set of proposals will be formalized, with collective bargaining commencing in September.



2011 Teamster Women's Conference New York, NY

The 2011 Teamster Women's Conference is scheduled for August 26-28 at the Sheraton Hotel and Towers in New York City. The opening session will be held Friday, August 26 and the conference will adjourn on Sunday afternoon, August 28.

If you are a female Teamster member and are interested in attending this year's conference, please write to:

Stan Hennessy, President
Teamsters Local 31
1 Grosvenor Square
Delta BC V3M 5S1
Fax: 604-523-1897

Your application should include your name, place of work, and contact information. Please apply as soon as possible. Deadline for applications is July 15, 2011.

Longtime Local 31 company celebrates 90 years in business

by Chris Coakley, Manager, Poco Building Supplies Ltd.
(photos courtesy of Poco Building Supplies' archives)

The beginnings of Port Coquitlam Transfer & Building Supplies Ltd., started in 1919 when R.C. (Jack) Galer added and expanded his shoe store's product mix to begin delivering fuel (sawdust); and while he was already at the lumber mill, (where the Company's life-long recycling commitment began) he started picking up lumber so that our local residents could start building their dreams.

In May, 1921 the Port Coquitlam Transfer Company was incorporated, and our future began.

Jack ran the one-truck company on his own, until his son,



1968: Employees in Poco Transfer's yard

The focus of our Teamsters now is primarily lumber deliveries, and the occasional cartage job or lifting materials with the truck-mounted cranes.

We will be holding celebrations throughout our 90th Anniversary year to mark this milestone.



1977: Poco Transfer float in Port Coquitlam's May Day Parade

John joined him in the late 1930's. When John was denied entry in the Canadian Army in 1940, as an essential service to the Canadian war effort, John spent the next five years delivering cement to the Abbotsford Airport, on the Company truck, three trips a day, 250 100-pound bags, each trip, hand loaded, and each bag hand unloaded by his own hand.

In 1947 John became President of the Company, a position he held until he passed the Company on to his sons Bob and Joe, and their sister Lynette in 1985.

Another significant milestone was that in 1949 the Company signed on as Teamster Local 31 company, as more of the business was freight and cartage. The fleet eventually expanded to 14 trucks and tractors carrying every imaginable cargo: building materials, gravel, fuel, wine(!), engines and parts that made plants, mines and businesses run throughout British Columbia. (There is no record of animal hides or fish parts though).

Purolator helps deliver 'gift of life'

Purolator Courier and its Teamster drivers are helping to keep a little girl from Nelson, B.C. alive by delivering her life-saving breast milk from mothers across Canada free of charge.

Anaya is 20 months old and suffers from a neurodegenerative disease called Krabbe leukodystrophy.

With a short life expectancy for Anaya, her mother, Camara, is fighting to keep her daughter comfortable. To do this, she has asked for the help of lactating moms across Canada to send her breast milk, which is about the only thing that Anaya's body can tolerate. To get the word out, Camara used Facebook and also has a website and blog about Anaya.

Enter Purolator. Mary Labrecque, Calgary Sales Coordinator, and Taylor Pressey, Regional Sales Manager, Southern Alberta, heard about Camara and Anaya from Andy Martiniello, Regional Sales Manager, Vaughn, Ontario. Andy heard about them from a friend in Calgary who was involved with the family.

Mary and Taylor read Anaya's blog and "it touched our hearts so deeply that we knew we had to get involved."

Mary and Taylor met with a lady named Sarah who was already involved with collecting milk from mothers. Mary and Taylor offered their assistance. After learning that there were 10 different women supplying breast milk from eight cities across

Canada, Mary undertook the logistics of getting the milk to Anaya.

She contacted each breast milk donor through email and telephone. She then made special arrangements to have all the milk sent by Purolator to its Calgary depot. Mary personally kept all the delivered milk in the freezer to keep it from spoiling. She then worked with Purolator operations teams in B.C. and Calgary to ensure that the milk was delivered before 9:00 a.m. the next day to ensure it did not thaw and spoil.

In a recent Province news story, Camara said that the expense of breast milk has been affordable for the family because "Purolator saved the day" by offering free shipping. Their freezer is full of milk – enough to last about six months – and Camara is signing up new milk donors because little Anaya has lived seven months longer than the average age of a child with Krabbe.

31NEWS would like to salute Mary, Taylor and Andy from Purolator Calgary, for recognizing a need and organizing assistance for Anaya and her family. As well, we would like to thank our Teamster members across Canada who had a hand in delivering life-giving nourishment to a little girl in Nelson, B.C.

If you would like to learn more about Anaya:

www.healinganaya.com
www.healinganaya.blogspot.com
Facebook: The Anaya Initiative

Teamsters on the job



Ramp Equipment Operators Rob Selles (left), Ferdinand Comendador (right) and Christina Titleborn (operating loader) loading flight 276 destined for Winnipeg and Montreal. Bros. Selles, Comendador and Sis. Titleborn are members at Purolator Air Operations at the Vancouver Airport. (photo by Pat Symons, Purolator Courier)

In Memoriam

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

Barry Pollard	Van-Kam	60
Donald McBeth	Lomak Transport	63
Judy Gambill	School District 34	62
Bruce J. Babbs	Canada Drayage	48
William Parsons	Stewarts Cartage	80 (retired)

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

Anthony Kirk	(250) 563-5346	teamsters@shawcable.com
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Yukon

Jure Kelava	(867) 667-2473
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Organizing Dept.

Toll Free:	1-877-BE UNION
Jure Kelava	(604) 527-2722 jkelava@teamsters31.ca

Dispatch

(604) 527-2718

Dues

Angela Martin	(604) 527-2701
Dianne Pett	(604) 527-2702

Executive Office

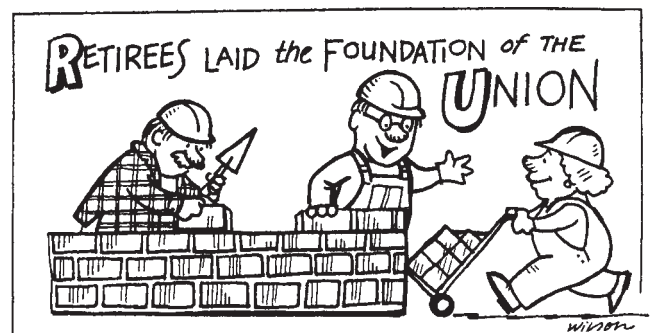
Stan Hennessy	(604) 527-2716	shennessy@teamsters31.ca
Rod Blackburn	(604) 527-2707	rblackburn@teamsters31.ca

Teamsters H&W & Pension

	(604) 552-2650
Toll Free	1-888-478-8111

Congratulations Local 31 retirees!

Name	Company	Years a Teamster
Richard Albinet	Pt Coquitlam Transfer	30
Walter Arnold	School District 34	29
Vernon Bell	Murray Latta Progressive	41
Robert Bowen	Prince George Transit	7
Ulla Cupit	School District 34	20
James Davidson	Purolator Burnaby	12
Permjit Dhaliwal	HBC Logistics	
Grenvell Dieno	Western Cartage	25
Wilfred Houston		38
Gurdave Kadola	Woodco Fibre Carriers	
Robert Keller	Superior Propane	
Donald Klone	Canadian Freightways	30
Robert Lambertus	Salmons Transfer	30
James Land	F&G Delivery	37
Bruce Mayo	YRC Reimer	38
Valarie McDonald	School District 34	10
Teresa Misic	Metro Vancouver	15
James Mullaney	School District 34	5
Richard Neville	Prince George Transit	35
Ralph Sembsmoen	North 60 Petro	21
Denice Thompson	Vancouver Police	6
Bryan Wainwright	Purolator Richmond	



DUES VIEWS: 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 membership 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.

IBT Teamster Magazine for Retirees

The May/June 2010 issue of the Teamster magazine (sent from Washington, D.C.) has been sent out and will be the final Teamster magazine for the Retirees. However, retirees are still entitled to keep their free subscription and can do so by calling the Local Union advising of their request. Please contact Angela Martin at 604-527-2701 or Dianne Pett at 604-527-2702 to request the IBT magazine.

If you are a retiree who would like to continue receiving the Local Union newsletter (31News), please contact Bernadette Bajo at 604-527-2714 to be put on the mailing list.

31NEWS is an official publication of Teamsters Local Union No. 31, affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Teamsters Canada and the Canadian Labour Congress.

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