

Workers, families and community celebrate Labour Day

Vimy Ridge Park was buzzing with lots of activity on Monday, September 2nd as workers and families in the community gathered to celebrate Labour Day.

"Labour Day is a time to look back and remember the progress we have made over the years in the workplace and our community," said Local 500 President, Mike Davidson. "Things that people take for granted like an eight hour work day, maternity leave, health and safety laws - those were all fought for by labour."

The picnic featured live entertainment, kids' activities and plenty to eat with grilled hot dogs, pop and chips. One of the biggest attractions of the day included the chance for children to explore city equipment such as a front-end loader and line painting trucks.

Davidson extended his appreciation to the Local 500 members from the Streets Maintenance and Traffic Services Division for bringing out the equipment to the event.



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- Local 500 President, Mike Davidson

"Some of our members were on shift that day and others volunteered their own time," said Davidson. "Their participation at this year's picnic was very much appreciated."

It is estimated that close to 1,000 people were in attendance at the picnic.

"We were very pleased with the turn out for this event," Davidson said. "It's a great way to celebrate the contributions of all working people and at the same time, highlight what unions have done and continue to do in the community."



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President's Message

Welcome to the fall edition of the Communicator. I hope you all had an enjoyable summer and found some time for rest and relaxation. I know that many of you worked throughout the summer providing public services to Winnipeggers when and where they needed it. This does not go unnoticed and I want to thank you all for the work you do, day in and day out, to help keep our city moving forward.

The summer was a busy one for our Local on a number of fronts.

Since late July, our members at Riverview Health Centre have been dealing with a reorganization of support services (nutrition, housekeeping and service partners). We want to assure the membership that the union has been working diligently throughout each step of the process to ensure that seniority is respected, job changes are fair, and job reductions are kept to a minimum.

We have also seen some recent changes at the City's 311 Contact Centre. Effective September 16, the Contact Centre took over operations of the Customer Service Counter at 510 Main Street. This change will result in the redeployment of three members from the Water and Waste Department who previously worked at the Customer Service Counter. Our main role throughout the redeployment process is to make sure the rights of these members are protected and the collective agreement is adhered to.

On the bargaining front, negotiations are continuing on behalf of all CUPE health care workers in Manitoba including Local 500 members at Riverview Health Centre and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA).

We are also in contract talks for a first agreement with Emterra for our members working in the recycling facility. Bargaining is also underway at Southdale Community Centre and the Commissionaires (RCMP "D" Division).

In addition to these issues, our Local continues to deal with a number of grievances, arbitrations, WCB/LTD claims and other labour relations matters.

Finally, CUPE is pleased to be joining the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) in the launch of labour's "together FAIRNESS WORKS" project. This initiative is in response to the ongoing Conservative attacks against unions. These attacks come in the form of federal legislation that aims to weaken our ability as workers to have a voice in the workplace and the right to free collective bargaining.

Now more than ever, it is important for the labour movement to show Canadians that we can work together to fight for fairness and achieve positive results for all workers. We've done it throughout our history and there is nothing that we cannot accomplish when we work together as a community. Together FAIRNESS WORKS!

In closing, I look forward to working with you on the many challenges ahead for our Local and the labour movement.

Keep our union strong!



Mike Davidson

Table Officers

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Mike Davidson

1st Vice President

Howard McCubbin

2nd Vice President

Glenoria Molnar

Treasurer

Phil Dembicki

Secretary

Rebecca Scott

Warden

Cathy Williams-Stewart

Trustees

1 year

Margaret Feliksiak

2 year

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3 year

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Local 500 donates water bottles to Siloam Mission

On August 22, 2013, CUPE Local 500 delivered 200 reusable water bottles to Siloam Mission for distribution to the mission's users.

"Clean, fresh water is one of the biggest needs in the homeless community and these reusable water bottles will allow them to carry fresh water with them each and everyday," said Local 500 President, Mike Davidson. "Water is a basic human right and every member of the public should be able to hydrate themselves, at no cost, with public drinking water."

Siloam Mission is always in need of donated items such as powder laundry detergent, deodorant, and disposable razors. Donations can be delivered to 300 Princess Street in Winnipeg, or by calling (204) 956-4344.



Local 500 President Mike Davidson (far right) at Siloam Mission where over 200 water bottles were distributed.

A lot of heart on big bike ride



"We've been participating in the Big Bike for the past five years," said Margaret Feliksiak, Chair of the Local 500 Sports and Social Committee. "It's a great way to have fun and raise funds at the same time for life-saving heart and stroke research."

Ten Manitobans die each day from heart disease and stroke. It is the number one cause of death in Manitoba and across Canada. Last year, the Big Bike ride in Manitoba raised over \$250,000 towards vital heart disease and stroke research, health promotion and advocacy efforts.

Once again, the CUPE 500 Positively Public team rose to the challenge and pedaled their way through our community in support of heart disease and stroke research. The event took place on June 18 at the Forks.

Thank you to the Positively Public team members and those who supported their efforts for this year's Big Bike ride.

Eterra drivers and swampers join CUPE 500



Eterra members and their families gather at Local 500 member appreciation event held at Northwood Community Centre on July 14, 2013.

A second group of Eterra employees have voted to become members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees.

"CUPE is committed to representing the employees at Eterra," said Local 500 President, Mike Davidson. "All workers have the right to be represented by a union, and we are looking forward to negotiating a fair contract on their behalf."

CUPE Local 500 will now represent approximately 185 Eterra employees, including garbage and recycling collection (drivers and swampers) as well as employees working in the recycling plant who voted to join CUPE in May 2013.

We welcome this new group to CUPE and look forward to working with them.

Moving? Name Change? Please let us know!
In order to keep our membership database current, please keep us informed of any information changes including addresses and name changes.

Local 500 education award winners announced

Four students have won awards from the Les Butterworth Scholarship Fund sponsored by CUPE Local 500. One scholarship of \$1,250 and three bursaries of \$750 were awarded.

The scholarship is awarded on the basis of academic achievement. This year's scholarship recipient is **Michael Grossi** who is enrolled in the Bachelor of Science, Honours Degree – Chemistry Program at the University of Winnipeg. Michael is a Local 500 member working in the Recreation and Leisure Services Division at the City of Winnipeg.



Local 500 President Mike Davidson (far left) and Leo Van Den Bussche, American Income Life (far right), with 2013 Award Winners

The bursaries are awarded on the basis of good academic standing with consideration of financial need.

Here are the bursary award winners for 2013:

- **Nicole Sheedy** is enrolled in the Faculty of Agricultural & Food Sciences, Pre-Veterinary Studies at the University of Manitoba. Her mom Deborah is a Local 500 member working in the Library Services Division of the Community Services Department.
- **Erika Manaigre** is enrolled in the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Department of Psychology at the University of Manitoba. Erika is a Local 500 member working in the Recreation and Leisure Services Division at the City of Winnipeg.
- **Allen Chalanchuk** is enrolled in the Occupational Health and Safety Program at Red River Community College. He is a Local 500 member working in Golf Services at the City of Winnipeg.



2013 Award Winners: left to right: Michael Grossi, Nicole Sheedy, Erika Manaigre, Allen Chalanchuk.

The scholarship and bursary fund was set up in 1980 in memory of Les Butterworth, a past CUPE education representative, who had a strong belief in the value of education.

"The success of our scholarship and bursary program would not be possible without the generous and ongoing support of American Income Life," said Local 500 President, Mike Davidson."

The annual awards competition is open to Local 500 members and their families. Applications are available in mid-April and the competition closes at the end of June.

Congratulations to the 2013 award winners!

Steward Training

Local 500 members take part in the Representing Members in Front of Management module of the Steward Learning Series at the union centre on September 28. In total, three modules were held for stewards who had completed the Introduction to Stewarding course. We'd like to thank all of the members who attended these workshops.



RM of East St. Paul contract expires December 2013

The members working for the Rural Municipality of East St. Paul are awaiting negotiations on their next contract. The current collective agreement with the RM of East St. Paul expires on December 31, 2013.

The Local represents employees who work in public works, water and sewer, community services, building inspections and other areas.

Steward Orientation

Wednesday, October 16, 2013
6:30 – 8:00 pm
7th Floor, 275 Broadway

This is a brief introduction to the job of a union steward and to the structure of our Local. Contact the Local 500 office at 204-942-1001 to register.