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Tom Wiebe

After a very long working career at the City, the **“Big Man”** has decided to call it a day and retire. Tom’s been a fixture throughout his time at the City, almost everyone knew him by name. You couldn’t miss his giant stature and you could always hear him coming because he was usually bellowing something to someone somewhere.

Always one to greet you with a smile and willing to give you a hand. Whether you wanted it or not, Tom will be a hard person to replace. He’s been a safety advocate for decades, being heavily involved with the City of Surrey’s Safety Committee and Co-Chairing CUPE BC’s Safety Committee.

“The man can talk, especially about asbestos!” He can go on and on...and on...but all joking aside, he talks about these things because he cares about the health and welfare of each one of us and he wants us to go home the same way we arrived, healthy and in one piece.

In his variety of roles on the union executive, Tom has touched many people throughout his career. Safety was one aspect but he has a very soft and caring side when dealing with difficult situations among the membership. He enjoyed challenging managers on behalf of members being disciplined and was not one to back down easily, but also knew when to soften his tone.

At times he was a pain in the butt, poking at you or making some sort of smart ass remark but **“if push came to shove he would be there standing shoulder to shoulder beside you. Or more accurately, shoulder to armpit.”**

We’re happy for Tom’s retirement but sad to see him leave. It just won’t be the same at the City without him. Keep an eye on the Cupe 402 Website and Facebook page for his Retirement Party.

Events

April 12/17	General Meeting	-Union Office
April 22/17	Party for the Planet	-City Hall Plaza
April 28/17	Day of Mourning	-Ops Centre
May 10/17	General Meeting (Elections)	-TBA
May 19-22/17	Cloverdale Rodeo	-Cloverdale

CHECK OUT www.402.cupe.ca FOR MORE DETAILS



Change to EI (Employment Insurance) Waiting Periods

Effective January 1st, the waiting period for EI benefits has been reduced from two weeks to one – this includes regular, maternity, parental, and sickness benefits.

Party for the Planet

It's that time of the year again! The City of Surrey is hosting this popular all-ages annual event on Saturday **April 22nd 2017 from 10am – 6pm at City Hall Plaza**. Every year the 402 Environment Committee and volunteers have a tent featuring great prizes for children and all smiling faces! Other attractions include: musical performances, eco-crafts, a bicycling clinic, and of course an incredible sale for a variety of trees and plants. Come down and bring the whole family for a great day of celebrating Mother Earth! If you are interested in volunteering a couple of hours at the tent, please contact the Union office. Can't wait to see you there!

Day of Mourning

Since 1984, Canadians have been gathering on the 28th of April to honour lives lost and those injured on the worksite. Since then, people in over 80 countries come together to pay respect and renew their commitment to a safe and healthy workplace. Here at the City of Surrey, we are fortunate to belong to a community where safety is of the utmost importance to everyone who works here. We all want to see each other go home and return to work the next day healthy and happy, but there is always room for improvement. Even though reported injuries were mostly strains and sprains and did not result in much lost time, 2016 still held the highest rate of accidents in the last six years. **Please join us April 28, 7:30 am at the Operations Centre** as we reflect on the importance of occupational health and safety.

Canada Day

On **July 1st** join CUPE 402 as we will have our annual booth at the City of Surrey's 150th Canada Day Celebration! There will be tons of prizes and giveaways for kids of all ages, and a free outdoor concert. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact our Union office.

Congratulations and Happy Retirement to the following Members who have retired or will be retiring by the end of April 2017.

Richard Fraser	38 years
Raymond Gilbert	38 years
Dorland Lamour	36 years
Jo-Ann Anakotta	35 years
Greg Gibbon	33 years
Kathleen Piccott	26 years
Neil Dowbiggin	25 years
Doug Marr	25 years
Anthony West	25 years
Cheryl Drozda	24 years
Zenaida Santiago	21 years
Alan Campbell	18 years
Glenn Massey	18 years
Gerard Babyak	15 years
Warren Moore	14 years
Tammy Jackman	10 years

Wishing you all the best in your retirement!

