NEWS & VIEWS

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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello once again to all members,

I hope you're having a pleasant and enjoyable summer and we can continue to enjoy warm nights along with ever welcome daylight at least until October.

It's that time of year again when our schedules and to do lists get busy with children and adolescents returning to the start of a new school year. Before and after school programs, sports activities, arts and culture all contribute to additional duties and driving for parents. Please be mindful and aware of all the additional vehicles and pedestrian foot traffic and allow yourself that ever elusive extra time as we are all aware is necessary when commuting on the North Shore.

For those of you who may have missed our letter delivered to our bulletin boards in all four of our respective work areas, please join me in welcoming to our WVMEA, Sandra Stevenson as our newly hired Office Administrator for our office team. Sandra joins us with a strong background in office administration and she is quickly learning and absorbing the wealth of information with some guidance and much appreciated assistance from our recently retired Cathy Stokely. Sandra is also very community oriented and astute with a pleasant professional manner.

I would like to take a moment to give a sincere and heartfelt thank you to Cathy for all of her hard work and true dedication that she has presented us with these past 22 years in her role as our outgoing Office Administrator. We wish Cathy a very well deserved happy and healthy retirement with her husband Jim and ever faithful four legged companion (Murray). Thank you to all our members who were able to find time and join us for a celebration and appreciation of her career within our Association. It was very well received and greatly appreciated by Cathy.

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FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER



Well we have arrived at September already. I hope the summer didn't pass as quickly for you as it did for me and that you factored in some R & R and summer fun with family and friends over July and August.

Here is some news and a few updates since we published last:

All WVMEA members

Proposed expansion of the Canada Pension Plan
In June 2016, Canada's Finance Ministers announced they had reached an agreement in principle to strengthen Canada Pension Plan, helping Canadians achieve their goal of a safe, secure and dignified retirement.

Lately the *Canadian Federation of Small Business* is lobbying to stop the expansion (improvement) of CPP and the BC government is listening to them.

Knowing this, BC workers should become involved by writing their government and show support to the proposal of enhancing the CPP, this change will help both workers of today and those of the future. A simple e-message conveying your support by stating that our national retirement plan (CPP) needs this enhancement to keep up with rising costs of living for retirees. Note that for many Canadians CPP could be their only retirement income source.

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2	2016 Scholarship Winners
3	Fall Pension Seminars

FROM THE PRESIDENT *continued from Page 1*

Drive carefully so that we can all get home earlier. I'll see you around the district.

Clive Mynott, President

AND THE WINNERS ARE …

The WVMEA is pleased to announce that the *2016 Academic Scholarship* has been awarded to Makaela Smithers of Rockridge Secondary School. Makaela will be attending the University of Victoria in September beginning a degree in Engineering.

The *2016 Roy Hunter Memorial Scholarship for the Visual Arts* has been awarded to Eliza King who is also a Rockridge student. Eliza has been accepted to the University of Victoria in September to study Art History and Psychology.

The *2016 Trades Scholarship* has been awarded to Conner Fricke who is a Sutherland Secondary School student. Conner has been accepted to BCIT in the Fall to do a Carpentry Framing and Forming Foundation Program.

The Scholarship Committees extend their thanks to all the candidates who applied for these scholarships.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The $100 door prize winners from the September General Membership meeting were Romella Duffy and Erroll Ng. At this meeting there were also four "surprise" $25 Save-on Foods Gift Card door prizes won by: Aaron Bichard, Tory Black, Louise Carlson and Nima Karimabadi. Congratulations everyone!

The next General Membership meeting is booked for **1:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 3, 2016** in the **Music Hall**, at the **Community Centre** on Marine Drive.

MATERNITY, ADOPTION & PARENTAL LEAVE INFORMATION FOR [SCHOOL BOARD] SUPPORT STAFF EMPLOYEES

We are pleased to advise that this information guide is available on our website on the School page.

FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER *continued from Page 1*

The WVMEA has already written the government on this issue. Unions around the province are asking memberships to send a message also by using the provided link. If you agree I would encourage taking action on this item very soon.
http://engage.gov.bc.ca/canadapensionplan/

Terminating employment – All WVMEA members should take note that terminating your employment by resignation instead of retiring will result in the loss of some available monies. For details please talk to your union in advance of this type of career decision.

School District Support Staff

Public Education Benefit Trust (PEBT) has announced recent LTD Benefit improvement changes from 66.67 % to 70% of employees' monthly earnings (before any relevant deductions). This improvement became effective as of July 1, 2016.

School District Custodians - A Trial Expedited Posting Process has recently been agreed to and the information on its operation and a questionnaire was recently circulated to all Permanent Custodial employees by the employer. For those affected by this change the WVMEA would like to get your feedback on how, in your view, the new process of filling vacancies is working. Please call or e-mail our office with your comments, all responses will remain confidential.

Education Assistants – A reminder to think about next year's application of the SSLIF funds for the 2017-2018 school year. The WVMEA will be circulating a new survey in hopes to get more responses to the questionnaire. The purpose is to get consensus from the effected Education Assistants.

LTD Benefit – Please be aware that employees over the age of 65 should no longer be deducted premiums for the LTD benefit. After 65 you are no longer eligible for LTD.

Bruce Scott, Business Manager

FROM THE BUSINESS AGENT



I want to remind everyone that our three Municipal Collective Agreements, in the Municipality, Library and Police Departments, are set to expire at the end of this year. We anticipate sitting down with the Employer for bargaining either late in 2016 or early 2017. By now our members in the three areas should have received a notice calling for proposals for this round of negotiations. If you haven't received one yet, please see the Shop Steward in your respective area or call us in the office and we can get you a copy. I would appeal to all of you to give this serious consideration and be sure to put any ideas on the proposal sheet for improvements to, or issues that you may have, with your current Collective Agreement. I look forward to a collaborative and mutually successful round of Collective Bargaining.

Speaking of Shop Stewards, I am pleased to announce that we have had someone step forward to fill the position of Shop Steward in Parks. Please join me in giving a warm welcome and expressing our appreciation to Rick Burnham for taking on this critically important role.

Also, after an exhaustive search we have finally found a male Shop Steward to represent the Municipal Hall. Please take a minute to welcome Paul Reece to the role and the Association appreciates Paul stepping up to the plate.

At this time I would also like to let you know that we have recently had a couple of vacancies come up with the Association's trustees. We now require a second and a third year trustee, who must come from the Local's membership. Trustees play a crucial role in supervising the property of the Association subject to instructions from the Executive Board. They are also required to audit the Association's books bi-annually to ensure that all bills are promptly paid. This is a three-year position and any work/time lost which is put into this role is reimbursed by the Association. If you are interested in becoming a trustee or know someone who you would like to recommend, then please contact the Association office.

With that September is here and it feels like summer is fading away. I hope you all had some great times with friends and family over the past few months. Take care and see you in your work sites.

Phil Bargen, Business Agent

BABY CONGRATULATIONS TO …



This information has been deleted due to electronic privacy issues. Our hard copies contain this information, and are available throughout our work sites.

PENSION NEWS

The new **Fall 2016 Pension Seminar schedule** has been published and should be posted at all worksites. *Your Pension, Your Future* (1 ½ hours) is aimed at new and mid-career plan members while *Thinking About Retiring* (2 hours) provides information for members within five years of retirement. There is an easy-to-use online registration system available – go to the Pension Plan's website at mpp.pensionsbc.ca for more information and to register for the seminar that is right for you.

Please also note that the Municipality is hosting two Municipal Pension Plan Seminars in Council Chambers at Municipal Hall as follows: :

i. *Your Pension, Your Future* will be held Tuesday, September 20 from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m.;
ii. *Thinking About Retiring* will be held Tuesday, October 4 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

NOTICE OF THE

MUNICIPAL PENSION PLAN'S 2016 AGM

to be held
October 13, 2016
10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Anvil Centre, Third Floor Theatre
777 Columbia Street
New Westminster, BC

MEMBER DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE ...

NEW: **NexGen Hearing**, 114-2439 Bellevue Avenue (just down the hall from the Association office), West Vancouver, 604-281-3691, is pleased to offer WVMEA members a **10% discount** on all hearing aids. Their experienced Audiologists have been assisting clients on the North Shore for over 20 years from their Dundarave location. Please phone them for a free, no obligation, hearing test, or visit their website at www.nexgenhearing.com.

As a privilege of membership, just show your laminated membership card when at these participating merchants for special discounts (for complete details, please visit our website at WVMEA.com):

- *AUSTRALIAN BOOT COMPANY*;
- *DAYTON BOOTS FACTORY STORE;*
- *LIONS GATE FABRICARE CLEANERS;*
- *LORDCO AUTO PARTS*;
- *NEX GEN HEARING;*
- *ONO TRADING;*
- *SHERWIN-WILLIAMS.*

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REMINDER: COSTCO MEMBERSHIP

Members are reminded that the Association has purchased a "business membership" to Costco which provides for a "transferable" card that may be borrowed from the Association (for *cash*-only purchases — no cheques, and photo i.d. may be required.) If you are interested in borrowing this card, please give Cathy a call (604-925-7447) to make arrangements.

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WWW.WVMEA.COM

Check out current bulletins, newsletters, Collective Agreements and hot links on the Association's website.

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WELCOME TO NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

We'd like to welcome the following people to our Association:

Atifeh Ahmadi, Zoe Anderson, Adam Barraclough, Jonathan Bautista, Holly Castle, Haley Fleury, Caitlin Ford, Rongerard Gaanan, Lauren Hanssen, Tiffany Huynh, Samantha Irwin, Rebecca Kelly, Roz Khalilzadeh, Sarah Kim, Sherry Kim, Byron Lee, Ryan Mara, Michael McDonald, Tiffany Moffatt, Allan Pisko, Andrew Pyett, Siegfried Quante, Toby Rae, Eva Revay, Serina Sam, Kimia Shahrabi, Makaela Smithers, Hayley Stauffer, Katarina Stevovic, Julie Stubbs, Adam Tidball, Rachel Tidball, Elsa Wah, Leanne Warner

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If you have moved recently or are planning to move, *please forward your new address to us* at:



Moving ?

#118 - 2419 Bellevue Avenue
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[**or** fax it to us at 604-926-7059, **or** email us at info@wvmea.com]

Name: _____

New Address: _____

City: _____P.C: _____

Home/Cell Phone #: _____

Effective Date: _____

Place of Work: _____

Signature: _____

Your assistance in keeping us "up to date" is much appreciated.