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**Funny “Check in” notes:**

On a DVD —  
“Stops at end”

On Dogs Annual —  
“Very dog eared”

On The Snowman DVD —  
“Froze”

On the Cheerful Weather for the wedding DVD —  
“Freezing”

—Anonymous submitter!

**Branch Anecdote!**

A young girl walks up to the OP Info desk, leans into our YST and says, “So, do you have any books?”

—submitted by Nancy Brydle.

***A fresh new look for Strawberry Hill Library!***

Strawberry Hill Branch opened in 2000 and over the years changes have been made to make the most of a small but well used space.

For the past several months Strawberry Hill has been undergoing major renovations and is looking fantastic! In addition to the cosmetic changes of new paint, carpets, furniture and upholstery for a brighter look, significant changes were made to the layout of the branch. The Children’s Department was moved to the front of the library which previously housed the magazines, newspapers and multilingual material. Staff can now greet children and families as they pass by the Information Desk on their way to the Children’s Department. The Magazine and Multilingual materials are now in the old Children’s Department along with some study space and comfy reading chairs. Patron feedback has been very positive. Adults are enjoying the quieter space and children are enjoying a more open space with help nearby for their many questions.

Staff areas also saw some upgrades with new adjustable desks in the Circulation area, a bright new staff washroom and upgrades to the staff room. Come by and check it out when you are in the area.

—Jan Parker



**2015 Meeting Dates**

**Newton Library**

**9:30 pm**

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January 21st

February 18th

March 18th

April 15th

(Elections)

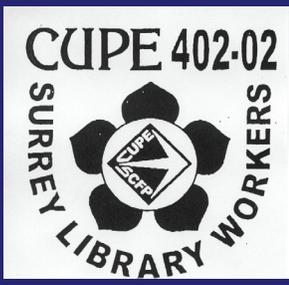
May 27th

June 17th

September 16th

October 21st

November 18th



***Vacation Leave for Regular Staff***

April 1 is quickly approaching so we are thinking about our vacation leaves. Where shall I go? What would the family like to do? or maybe your best friend's wedding is coming up.

In Article 14 of our Collective Agreement, you will see that Regular staff are allotted vacation leave depending on their years of service. The amount shown is the hours earned for Full Time employees. Part Time workers are prorated by the number of regular hours on the schedule they work each week.

For example Article 14.3 tells us that in the second and up to seventh year, full time employees have 105 hours or 3 weeks. A part time worker who has 21 hours each week on the schedule will have 63 hours of vacation leave for the current year.

Each Branch Manager, with the assistance of the

Circulation Supervisor, may create mock schedules to determine the amount of staff coverage required and pairs that against all requests submitted for the branch staff. They will also consider seniority to approve or deny requests before submitting total number of Casual staff required to fill in the gaps. Peak periods for vacation requests are the last two weeks in June to first week in Sept, as well as the 2 weeks around Christmas.

If you are planning a trip, don't make any reservations or buy any plane tickets before your requests are approved. It might be at a loss if you need to reschedule your trip if your requests are denied.

If you are requesting time for a special occasion like a family reunion or wedding, be sure to add that in the comment field of your request.

Talk to your coworkers about vacation requests as its sometimes better to coordinate with them so there isn't too many people trying to request the same block of time so hopefully no one will be denied.

We have been allowed to take our vacation in hours, or days or weeks so there are many options to use your time off.

Be sure to check the expiry date if you have Supplementary Vacation. After 10 years of service, we receive an additional 35 hours to use over a 5 year period. If you forget, they may be taken out of your bank.

If you have questions regarding your vacation leave, ask any Executive member or your supervisor to explain the details to you.

—Denise Parks

***Help support locked out CUPE 7000 workers***



CUPE Local 7000 members were locked out by their employer (Southern Railway) at 5:00 am January 5, 2015. CUPE Local 7000 represents 126 rail yard employees. Local 7000 have been trying to negotiate a fair and respectful agreement;

## Help support locked out CUPE 7000 cont'd.

however, the employer is demanding significant concessions. Southern Railway has 29 locomotives and 700 railcars and is part of the Washington Companies which include Seaspan Corporation. The railway is the major freight transporter in the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley, with almost half the traffic originating or terminating at Annacis Island.

Since the lockout, the trains have been operated by approximately 20 of the company's 34 managers. There is video footage of a train rolling through a crossing on Annacis Island with no headlights or front ditchlights on. CUPE 7000 has reported other incidents to the Safety Authority since the lockout began. This proves that Southern Railway needs to park the trains and get back to the bargaining table.

CUPE BC is encouraging locals to provide support if possible at the following picket lines:

20<sup>th</sup> Street – 2102 River Drive, New Westminster  
West End Trapp Yard – 6139 Trapp Ave., Burnaby

This employer operates on a 24/7 basis so support on the picket lines would be appreciated anytime day or night.

If you require additional information about these locations please contact Louise Oetting, CUPE National Representative at 604-291-1940 or Bill Magri, CUPE Local 7000 President, at his office 604-434-7006.

<http://www.cupe.bc.ca/news/southern-railway-local-7000-lockout-information>

## Libraries work because we do

CUPE library workers are more than just their collective agreements. The climate for supporting public services is precarious. More and more public services are falling victim to underfunding, contracting-out and privatization and libraries are not immune to these issues. CUPE is not only on the front lines in our workplaces but also on the political scene to protect our work. Delegates will not only come away with a greater understanding of CUPE, but all of the external work and advocacy we do on behalf of all library workers and how they can

get involved in the fight to preserve the integrity of information services, inclusive community space and both traditional and digital literacy. Because at the end of it all, whether we are librarians, support staff, trustees or management, it's about the people— and libraries work because we do!

CUPE BC will be presenting an interactive session at BCLA 2015 conference that will highlight the story of a local library worker's experience being out on the picket line. We will also cover the mandate and the history of both

the CUPE BC and CUPE National Library committees and finally introducing sessions participants to what we do best. We would present one or two of past resolutions to convention and have a mock set up where people would have the opportunity to speak on the presented resolution and then talk about what happens once a resolution is passed on convention floor.

—Denise Parks

### Current Disputes

Strikes and Lockouts

Marine Workers and  
Boilermakers  
Industrial Union

vs.

SSAB Swedish Steel

Commenced:  
Oct 3, 2014

BCGEU Native Court  
Workers

vs.

Native Court Workers  
and Counselling  
Association of BC

Commenced:  
September 30, 2014

Canadian Union of  
Public Employees  
Local 608 (Naramata)

vs.

Naramata Centre

Commenced:  
May 14, 2014

#251 12899 76 Ave  
Surrey, BC

Executive:

**Chair Person:**

Denise Parks  
Newton Library  
604-598-7405  
cupe40202chair@mail.com

**Vice Chair Person:**

Eileen McMillan  
Collections Services  
604-598-7388  
cupe40202vicechair@mail.com

**Secretary:**

Kelly Kennedy  
Collections Services  
604-598-7389  
cupe40202secretary@mail.com

**Chief Shop Steward:**

Jan Parker  
Strawberry Hill  
604-501-5844  
cupe40202css@mail.com

**Member-at-Large:**

Susan Andrews  
Guildford Library  
604-598-7379  
cupe40202mal@mail.com

**Sergeant-at-Arms:**

Sandra Cole  
City Centre  
604-598-7439  
cupe40202saa@mail.com

## Hearty Short Rib Stew

**Ingredients:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 3-4 lbs short ribs, cut each piece in half             | sprig of rosemary   |
| 1/2 cup flour  | 5 cloves of garlic  |
| 1 tsp smoked paprika                                   | enclose herbs in a large tea ball or tie in a piece of cheese cloth |
| 1 tsp black pepper                                     | 4 med yukon gold potatoes   |
| 1 large sweet onion, chopped and divided in 2 portions | 4 med carrots   |
| 2 stalks celery, chopped                               | 3 parsnips  |
| 1 large can diced tomatoes                             | 1 med rutabaga  |
| 2 cups dry red wine                                    | 1 litre beef broth  |
| 4 bay leaves   | small basket of cherry tomatoes                                     |
| 15 peppercorns   | salt, pepper  |

**Directions:**

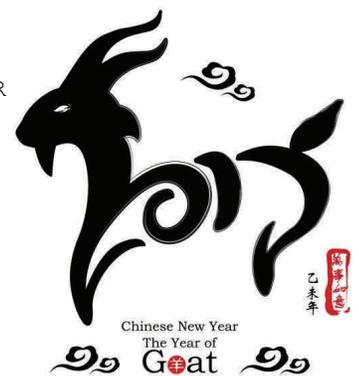
Combine flour, pepper and paprika. Dredge pieces of short ribs. Save flour for thickening later. In skillet, heat oil (of choice), brown meat on all sides and transfer to large pot. Once all the meat is done, sauté 1/2 chopped onion and transfer to pot. Deglaze pan with red wine. Scraping all bits off pan, add to pot. Add tomatoes and herbs. Bring to a boil, reduce to med-low heat and simmer for 2 hours. Stir occasionally.

Wash and prepare vegetables. Cut into 1 inch cubes. Remove bones when simmering time is done. cut meat into smaller pieces if desired. Add vegetables and enough broth for cooking. Bring up to boil again, reduce heat and simmer for 45 minutes or until all veg is tender. Stir occasionally. Add cherry tomatoes. Increase to med heat. In a separate cup, whisk remaining flour with 1 cup of hot broth (from pot) then stir into pot to thicken stew. Add salt and pepper if desired.

Serve with thick slices of sourdough bread. Enjoy.

## Chinese Zodiac Word Search

E B D N N Z O U E F U A G R A	DOG
P N F I R A R N S S J M Z Y Z	DRAGON
I U O A T V X W S S R G O A T	GOAT
G W D R D W S D L D G O S Y U	HORSE
E G P J H R U S O Z R H H M D	MONKEY
J Y L T C Y A G B I F Q H Y M	PIG
T A F A E D I G I Y R V R T O	RABBIT
F Q C K R W N I O I A A J U N	RAT
C W A R Y A D Z J N B Y W B K	ROOSTER
R N W E V Z T R S B U U I O E	SNAKE
S C V G V P P S I G M Y X H Y	TIGER
V Y G I L W I T X K P Q L J A	ZODIAC
O I D T Q E L C D W B M O D Y	
R O O S T E R C A I D O Z B L	
W T W L T S K Z A L U J K C O	



Send your completed puzzle to Kelly Kennedy to have your name entered into a draw for a \$10 gift card.