

# Chronicles of CUPE



[www.cupe87.ca](http://www.cupe87.ca)

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June 2010

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## Summer's finally here!

In this issue we'll talk about wearing an ID tag while running, jogging, or walking.

You should have received a Call for Proposals and Questionnaire in the mail by now. Please remember to complete them and return to the CUPE Office. Contract talks will be starting in the fall so submit your suggestions.

This issue also has a review of the CUPE Ontario Division conference. Lots going on to report. There is also an article about how Wal-Mart in the USA is in hot water again.

Congratulations to the CUPE Scholarship winners!

## The picnic is just around the corner!

We are always looking for extra hands to help out so if anyone can come out and volunteer please contact the office at 345-9511 and leave your name.



To subscribe to the CUPE 87 newsletter please send your home email address to:

[newsletter@cupe87.ca](mailto:newsletter@cupe87.ca)

Next newsletter will be published in Sept 2010



- Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.
- Artificial Intelligence is no match for Natural Stupidity.
- Teamwork means never having to take all the blame yourself.
- Go the extra mile. It makes your boss look like an incompetent slacker.
- A snooze button is a poor substitute for no alarm clock at all.
- When the going gets tough, the tough take a coffee break.

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### Dates to remember:

Father's Day	June 20
Summer Solstice	June 21
Canada Day	July 1
Civic Holiday	Aug. 2
Labour Day	Sep. 6
Grandparent's Day	Sep. 12
Fall Equinox	Sep. 23

## ROAD ID

### Family of late runner urges others to wear an ID tag in her memory

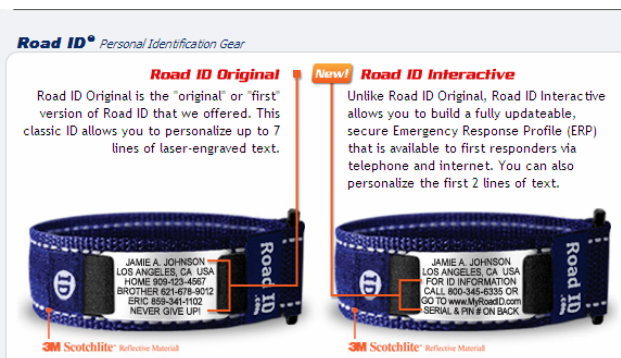
On Monday, March 1, a tragic accident on the intersection of John Street and the Expressway claimed the life of my beautiful wife, who was on a training run for her up-and-coming race in the Ford Ironman World Championships in Kona, Hawaii. She was wearing an identification tag on her runner at the time, which provided the OPP with the information that they needed to ease the painful task of identifying her at the scene of the accident.

Kathie was a meticulous and safety-conscious athlete, and my family and I would ask that everyone who runs, walks or cycles on any of our roadways purchase one of these tags or some other form of ID and wear it in Kathie's memory. The information that is contained in an ID tag will give your loved ones peace of mind as it will provide first responders with the critical medical and contact information that they need to perform their difficult jobs.

God forbid that this tragedy happens to you or anyone else. We would ask that everyone pause for a moment and give some thought as to what they can do on a personal or collective level to ensure that this never happens again. And for motorists in particular - with the busy pace of people's lives these days, it is easy to become preoccupied and intent on getting home at the end of the workday. But please stay alert and take the time to slow down or move over if you see people on the side of the road - it would cost you nothing to give them that extra space.

In one brief moment so many lives can be changed forever. So for everyone, whether you are a motorist or pedestrian, please ensure that safety is your number one priority.

*Barry Chezick, Thunder Bay*



Road ID ([www.roadid.com](http://www.roadid.com)) is one company that sells many different types of ID that Barry is promoting. They sell products that you can wear on your wrist, your ankle, or leave on your running shoe. Information that can go on these pieces of ID are name, phone number, medical information that could be imperative for first responders (ie asthma, diabetic), blood type, emergency contact information, or even a personal/inspirational message. Kathie Chezick had ID... and apparently her inspirational message was "Dream Big and Run Long".

Just like a seat belt, we don't plan to need this stuff. However, it can be key to saving a life and contacting loved ones right away if something was to happen.

*Michael Shafirka and Jodi Martinsen  
(Road ID customers)*

**The 2009-2010  
Collective Agreement  
is now available to  
view and download  
on-line at  
[www.cupe87.ca](http://www.cupe87.ca)**

## Court: Wal-Mart to face class action suit alleging pay discrimination against female workers

By Paul Elias, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Tuesday, April 27, 2010

SAN FRANCISCO - A sharply divided federal appeals court on Monday exposed Wal-Mart Stores Inc. to billions of dollars in legal damages when it ruled a massive class action lawsuit alleging gender discrimination over pay for female workers can go to trial.

In its 6-5 ruling, the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals said the world's largest private employer will have to face charges that it pays women less than men for the same jobs and that female employees receive fewer promotions and have to wait longer for those promotions than male counterparts.



The appeals court upheld a lower court ruling allowing the lawsuit to go forward as a class action, which attorneys for the Wal-Mart employees said encompasses more than 1 million women.

**Read the full article at  
[www.canadianbusiness.com](http://www.canadianbusiness.com)**

### 2010 Lawrence Choquette Scholarship Winners

#### Congratulations:

- Olivia Merko (St. Pat's Highschool)
- Miranda Prout (St. Pat's Highschool)

Olivia and Miranda both received a Scholarship of \$350 each for the highest scholastic achievement over 65% in their final year of high school.

#### Have a Question? Ask Cupe

Think others would like to hear the answer to your question? Email [newsletter@cupe87.ca](mailto:newsletter@cupe87.ca) and we will post your question and answer on the CUPE 87 website. All questions will be posted online anonymously.

## CUPE Ontario Division Notes

- 1075 people attended the conference in Windsor. 885 voting delegates representing **225,000 CUPE Ontario members** from all public sectors like municipal workers, school boards, universities, healthcare & social services
- Fred Hahn elected president. He is the **first openly gay man** elected president of an Ontario trade union. Candace Rennick, was elected Secretary-Treasurer and is the youngest person ever elected and the **first woman** in this position.
- CUPE Ontario is 1.5 million in debt. Working on ways to handle this without affecting our ability to continue fighting for worthy causes.
- CUPE National reported that it has **\$173 million in the bank** and is financially very healthy and ready to back all locals.
- There was a presentation on **Public-Private-Partnerships** and how they lead to unsafe work, poor wages, poor management and just divert responsibility away from the politicians.
- Workers receiving decent wages is **not the reason for the recession**. How can it be reasonable for banks to receive \$4.6 billion dollars in tax cuts and bail-outs but public sector workers are the ones who



pay with wage cuts and benefit reductions?

- Municipal elections are our chance to **vote in our bosses** and set public interest & vision. All unions need to focus on the upcoming municipal elections.
- Ontario Federation of Labour welcomes back the CAW. The OFL now represents all major Unions in Ontario.
- With new Provincial legislation against violence in the workplace introduced, CUPE recognized a CAS worker who was recently **stabbed** on her way into work.
- 1st annual '**Injured Worker Activist**' award handed out to Rick Moon. Nominations are accepted year-round for next year's award.
- "Casualization" of jobs hurts all including youth workers who are trying to get good full-time jobs and get a start in the work force. As you retire are your kids/ grandkids getting good full-time jobs? This discriminates against women, young workers and racialized workers the most.
- University of Toronto campus being evacuated for **G20 summit**. Students being kicked out of their residences and staff being sent home without pay in order to hold the \$1 Billion event.
- Reminders were sounded that all the workers before us worked hard to ...



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## CUPE Ontario Division continued

(Continued from page 4)

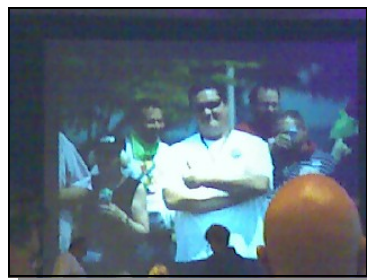
... build the contracts we have now.  
Whatever you let go of now you **will not get back**.

- OW reported that the government's changes are replacing the "**Special Meal Allowance**" program for recipients who have special dietary needs. This \$230 allowance will be replaced with a program that, for example, gives a person with diabetes \$10/month **to cope with this illness**. These saving are going to \$4.6 Billion in tax-cuts to big business.
- **Pension reform** is high on CUPE's agenda. Many union locals do not have pension plans! Many who do have pensions are trying to have 2-tier contracts forced on them. How could it be fair for a new hire to have less benefits than a long time employee?
- CUPE is demanding that homecare & childcare become more of a public service and **not more privatized** like the City of Windsor was doing as the CUPE conference went on (they laid-off all daycare workers! 100+). The recent recession shines a light on how private companies will just fold and run when difficult times come around. Public services stick it out and continue to provide the needed services.
- You may have heard of **Homes for the Aged** workers wanting to be able to spend



3.5 hours on each resident per week. Some places are barely about to provide 2 hours of support. One delegate spoke of working alone to support 30 residents during a day. Would you want your mom being treated this way?

- Did you know that **Ontario higher educational institutions** are approaching 50% private funding? Windsor U announced that it is now more than 50% funded by private dollars. How do they remain unbiased institutions? How do they remain accessible to all people with a dream of a good education? In all of North America, **only Alabama has a lower per-student funding ratio that Ontario**. Thunder Bay wants to create a knowledge economy? How, when no one can afford to go to school?
- More reminders that we **should not be ashamed of the work we do**. Unionized workers are safe workers, consistent workers, proud workers, trained workers. Non-unionized are "under-the-gun" and always thinking that if they push for these rights they could be fired. Good jobs create quality services for citizens.



## General meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of each month

A traffic policeman recently stopped a woman for exceeding the posted speed limit.

He asked the driver her name.

She said, "I'm Mrs. Chadivaler Zuminskagia Ragretumunga from the Republic of Uzbekistan visiting my daughter in Kapuskasing."

As she finished speaking the cop paused for a moment and then put away his ticket book and pen, and said, "Well, OK, but don't let me catch you speeding again."



- 👉 When you take a long time, you're slow.  
When your boss takes a long time, he's thorough.
- 👉 When you take a stand, you're being bull-headed.  
When your boss does it, he's being firm.
- 👉 When you're out of the office, you're wandering around.  
When your boss is out of the office, he's on business.
- 👉 When you're on a day off sick, you're always sick.  
When your boss is a day off sick, he must be very ill.

## Your Executive and Committee Members

**President:**  
Marie Dean  
[cupe87@tbaytel.net](mailto:cupe87@tbaytel.net)

**Vice-President:**  
Lisa Steenerson

**Treasurer:**  
Barbra Lix

**Recording Secretary:**  
Paula Zubrecki

**Negotiating Committee Schedule 'A'**  
Gordon Jones (Chair)  
Paula Zubrecki  
Ami Osadec

**Negotiating Committee Schedule 'B'**  
Barry Chezick (Chair)  
Luc Connell  
Lisa Steenerson

**By-Law**  
Pina Pasciullo (Chair)  
Ami Osadec  
Barry Chezick

**Negotiating Committee DSSAB**  
Ardene Rezka (Chair)  
Terry Davis  
Natalie Fortier  
Jackie Livingston  
Marlene Rinala Wideman

**Research Committee**  
Karen Martin (Chair)  
Gordon Jones  
Jim Allcock  
Brenda Lyons

**Sergeant-At-Arms**  
Luc Connell

**Sick & Welfare Committee**  
Jackie Andrew (Chair)  
Ami Osadec  
Marlene Wideman  
Laura St, Jacques

**Grievance DSSAB**  
Marlene Rintala Wideman

**Trustees**  
Verna Connolly  
Ami Osadec  
Jim Allcock

**Grievance Schedule "A"**  
Ami Osadec  
Marie Dean  
Paula Zubrecki  
Laura St. Jacques  
Tracey Spencer  
Joanne Hardy (Aboriginal Chair)

**Grievance Schedule "B"**  
Mark Wilson (Chair)  
Ernie Rollason  
Rick Rayner  
Sal Piccalo  
Allan Caddo  
Chris Morgan  
Barry Chezick  
Martin Nuttall  
Hank Siegers  
Mike Hanchar  
Wade Williams  
Joe LaDouceur

Mark Wilson  
Jim Allcock  
Glen LeBlanc  
Robert MacMillan  
Harry Hurd  
Sandy Holbrook-Nelson  
Gary O'Leary  
Tony Santos  
Ed Luretig  
Lance Forsberg  
Rob Henderson  
Bob Munson  
Michael Dowhoszya  
Brian Lix  
Gary Garner  
Patty Wilson  
**WSIB/STD/LTD**  
Lisa Steenerson

**Health & Safety Co-ordinating Committee**  
Martin Nuttall, (Chair)  
Glen LeBlanc  
Ami Osadec  
Tracey Spencer