



NATIONAL TRANSIT  
**E M P L O Y E E**  
RECOGNITION AWARDS &  
**CENTENNIAL SCHOLARSHIP**  
AWARDS

**2007**



NOVEMBER 14, 2007  
HILTON QUÉBEC HOTEL, QUÉBEC CITY

# CUTA 2007 NATIONAL TRANSIT EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARDS

## AWARD CATEGORIES

### EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

These awards are presented upon the recommendation of individual employers to recognize a major contribution or an outstanding achievement. Examples include acts of heroism on duty; significant accomplishment on special projects; and outstanding volunteerism on behalf of the local transit system.

### VOLUNTEER/ADVOCATE AWARDS

These awards highlight the achievements of those who actively promote or champion public transit in Canada.

### OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT OR SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT

Awarded for demonstrated achievement in improving the efficiency and/or effectiveness of public transit in Canada.

### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Awarded to individuals who have made a significant, ongoing contribution to public transit through advocacy, leadership, workplace improvement initiatives, or policy or legislative initiatives.

### LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Awarded to individuals who have concluded their career and have made extraordinary contributions to the public transit industry in Canada.

## THANK YOU TO THE CUTA 2007 AWARDS PROGRAM SPONSORS



**BOMBARDIER**



## THANK YOU TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CUTA 2007 AWARDS SUB-COMMITTEE

### CHAIR:

Chris Prentice, IBI Group

### MEMBERS:

Larry Ducharme,  
London Transit Commission

James Byrns,  
Tecsult Inc., Montreal

Susanne Fossey,  
BC Transit

Lori Patterson,  
Halifax Regional Municipality

Pat Pellegrino,  
Calgary Handi-Bus Association

Bob Pinet,  
Mohawk Manufacturing & Supply Co.

John Sirovyak,  
Edmonton Transit System

Isabelle Trottier,  
Société de transport de Montréal (STM)

Robin West,  
Amalgamated Transit Union

## EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

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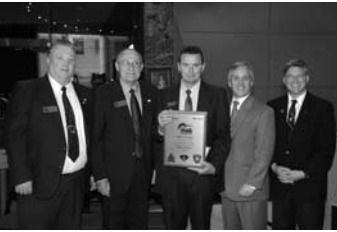
### MARIO BORAS & WASYL LEWYCKY - TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION



On July 14, 2006, the quick thinking of bus operator Mario Boras, assisted by Wasyl Lewycky, an employee in the TTC's Legal and Claims Department, averted a potentially dangerous situation. While operating his bus, Mario spotted a driverless garbage truck crossing four lanes of traffic. He parked his vehicle and ran after the truck bringing it to a safe stop before any damage occurred. Mario found the truck driver slumped over in his seat. Fortunately, Wasyl Lewycky was on the bus at the time. Wasyl immediately came to Mario's assistance by calling Transit Control to have Emergency Services attend the scene. Wasyl also kept the other passengers on the bus informed of the situation.

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### ROBERT DUBOIS - OC TRANSPO



On June 20, 2006, bus operator Robert Dubois noticed a female customer who had just boarded his bus in pain and in obvious distress. Robert asked her if she was alright and she advised that she was in labour, the baby's head was crowning, and she needed to get to a hospital as quickly as possible. Robert immediately cleared the front seats and had the woman lie down. Robert then contacted Control and requested clearance to re-route his bus directly to the hospital. Since this section of his route was under heavy construction, it was necessary for Robert to obtain clearance from a flagman to proceed without delay. With the assistance of Control, who had contacted the hospital to have them waiting for the woman, Robert was able to transport her to the hospital for the baby's safe delivery.

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### JASDEEP GREWAL - COAST MOUNTAIN BUS COMPANY



Transit operator Jasdeep Grewal went to the aid of a young man who was being attacked by four youths. The four youths had barricaded the street with a construction barrier and were standing over their victim. Operator Grewal left his bus to move the barrier causing the assailants to flee. He went to the aid of the young victim and at this time discovered the young man had a shunt in his head as the result of a brain tumour. Jas called 911 and was waiting with the young man when the four youths returned. Jas stood his ground, protecting the young man from the attackers. One of the youths charged, hurling a projectile that bounced off the pavement striking Jas on the leg. At that moment, as the Police approached, the four youths fled. Police later apprehended two of the assailants a few blocks away.

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## DAVID KESTER - GO TRANSIT



GO bus driver David Kester averted tragedy twice this year. On January 3, David noticed a home on fire late one evening. David immediately called for assistance, and then ran to see if he could get anyone's attention by running around the building, knocking on doors and banging on windows. With these efforts, a woman came running out carrying her three small children to safety. On February 28 as he approached a bus stop, he saw a

female customer being aggressively attacked. By sounding the vehicle horn, he was able to distract the attacker who then fled the scene. At the stop, David parked his bus and went to the assistance of the victim who had suffered cuts and bruises but had no critical injuries. David then helped her onto the bus until the police arrived.

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## GUY SHAW - TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION



On May 25, 2007, bus operator Guy Shaw was operating his vehicle northbound on Bayview Avenue when he was advised that a woman was attempting to jump from the Bayview Bridge. As he approached the scene, he observed the woman placing one leg over the bridge railing, at which time he immediately contacted Transit Control for assistance. Guy secured his vehicle and ran over to the woman, restraining her and bringing her

away from the bridge railing onto the sidewalk. He then attempted to calm the woman by reassuring her that help was on the way. Emergency personnel attended and transported the woman to hospital. Guy's quick thinking and swift action played a key role in bringing this serious situation to a successful conclusion.

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## WAYNE SHEPARD - MISSISSAUGA TRANSIT



On May 22, 2007, bus operator Wayne Shepard demonstrated his dedication to transit and community safety when he went beyond the call of duty by crossing a busy road to the assistance of a woman who was being attacked. Wayne immediately ran to assist her, dodging vehicles as he crossed the busy street. As the assailant fled the scene, Wayne followed him toward an apartment building and called the police. The police soon responded

and the man was later arrested. The following day, transit officials received a letter from the young woman's mother, stating that "Wayne's actions saved her daughter's life. Words cannot express how grateful we are and we felt the need to commend this operator for his heroics. In our eyes, he is a hero and an angel."

**ED CHAMBERLAIN - CALGARY TRANSIT**



For many years, bus operator Ed Chamberlain has spearheaded several of Calgary Transit's annual volunteer initiatives. On his own time, Ed singlehandedly organized the 2006 Stuff-a-Bus program that raised over \$110,000 in grocery and cash donations for the Calgary Interfaith Food Bank. This included organizing twenty buses for a day, coordinating staff volunteers, meeting with Calgary Co-op Stores and initiating an offloading routine for the food items. Ed has also been instrumental in coordinating

volunteer efforts for Calgary Transit's annual staff contribution to the Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child shoebox campaign and tirelessly assists in obtaining donations from Calgary Transit staff for the City of Calgary's annual United Way campaign. He is also a key player in organizing bus operators to volunteer time for the annual Calgary Transit Magic of Christmas initiative to drive Santa and his Elves to visit less fortunate children in Calgary.

**OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT OR SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT**

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**TARA STEIGENBERGER - BC TRANSIT**



As the British Columbia Clean Air Day Coordinator, Tara Steigenberger facilitates Clean Air Day (CAD) activities in over twenty communities in British Columbia. As the CAD Coordinator, she tirelessly connects transit systems with local community Clean Air Day Coordinators. The goal is to help communities make the connection between clean air and transit. Tara has worked with the BC Ministry of Environment and Environment Canada on special clean air projects including

the coordination of an online Clean Air Kit to assist municipalities in lowering emissions. She has also assisted with the development of a Teacher's Guide to Clean Air which is a resource kit for grade five teachers that brings air quality issues into the classroom. Tara also represents BC on the National Clean Air Day Steering Committee, continuing her commitment to raise awareness about transit as part of the solution to cleaner air.

**MAYOR JOHN STUTZ - TOWN OF BANFF**



Early in 2008, the Town of Banff will switch to a transit fleet entirely comprised of hybrid buses that will use bio-diesel fuel. This achievement could not have happened without the dedication and commitment of Mayor John Stutz. Aligning the transit system to complement the Town's special place within Canada's first National Park was of utmost importance to Mayor Stutz. Championing the change of transit from a service to an experience was not an easy task, as the new fleet represented

additional costs of approximately \$4 million for a small town of 8,700 residents. Mayor Stutz educated councillors and residents on the importance of improving all facets of transit that included leading-edge environmentally friendly buses, upgrading service and enhancing the buses to become National Park interpretive initiatives. Mayor Stutz had the vision and the dedication to turn the Town's public transit into a world-class experience that may become the envy of many other communities.

## **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE**

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### **FERNAND RICHARD - SOCIÉTÉ DE TRANSPORT DE L'OUTAOUAIS (STO)**



Since commencing employment with STO in 1978, Fernand Richard has held the positions of bus operator, quality assurance representative and supervisor. The STO bus operator position that we know today, was shaped by Fernand. During his 14-year career as a bus operator, he placed first in the Rodéo-bus three times at the regional level and also participated in the National Bus Roadeo. Since then, he has picked up the Rodéo-bus torch by taking charge of the organization of this annual event. Fernand actively contributed to implementing Club Sélect, a program to recognize bus operators who have been employed by STO for twenty-five years or more without being involved in accidents. For many years, he has been a Santé Sécurité au Travail (SST) committee member, the goal of which is to make accident prevention a daily priority. With his willingness to listen and professional attitude, many employees consider him a valuable mentor.

## **LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT**

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### **DANIEL CÔTÉ - SOCIÉTÉ DE TRANSPORT DE MONTRÉAL (STM)**



Daniel Côté, Executive Director for Major Projects at STM, retired on October 31, 2007 after 34 years of service devoted to engineering, maintenance, quality assurance, procurement and project management. His distinguished career was marked by a disciplined approach, an ability to handle complex situations, an openness to change and the development of a project management structure unique to the STM. Daniel was involved in a number of achievements

including: implementing maintenance and operations engineering, as well as the Métro's program for improving operational safety, refitting the MR-63Métro cars, the Réno-Systèmes program, the Métro extension to Laval, and finally, the introduction of a new fare sales and collection system. He is widely acknowledged as a seasoned executive, committed to raising standards of quality and performance. Thanks to the team spirit and teamwork he fostered, Daniel had a major impact on the development of public transit in Montréal.

### **HELEN MCLAREN - ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES - CITY OF HAMILTON**



Helen McLaren, who recently retired after 26 years of service, was a pioneer as the City of Hamilton's first, and for a time, only specialized transit employee. She saw the operation grow to provide over half a million passenger trips per year to people with disabilities. Unfailingly calm, caring and courteous, she was the passengers' main point of contact where she assisted thousands of people in using the service. Every customer felt they were special to Helen.

To passengers endeavouring to understand the service, she was a patient guide and teacher. To those with a particular need or problem, she was their advocate with managers, drivers and schedulers. There was no better ambassador for the service than Helen. Her depth of knowledge and breadth of contacts could resolve even the most difficult problem. Day in and day out, Helen was a shining example of excellence in customer service.

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## DANIEL DUPUIS - RÉSEAU DE TRANSPORT DE LA CAPITALE (RTC)



Daniel Dupuis retired in May 2007 after a 30-year career devoted to developing public transit in the Québec region. He started as a transportation analyst under the guidance of his mentor, Liguori Hinse. When Daniel began, there were no computers at the transit system. Daniel, through a friend, Jean-Marc Rousseau, who was a computer specialist, gradually implemented software for planning and assigning driver schedules. The friend eventually marketed his product

under the name GIRO, and that company now has more than 250 clients around the world. During these years, the transit system became one of the forerunners of this new technology. Taking these concepts out of schools and applying them to public transit required courage and vision. When Daniel looks back on his long career, he is most proud of this particular achievement.

## CUTA 2007 CENTENNIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

These scholarships have been designed with the intent to foster expertise that improves the visibility of public transit as a career option and develops a stronger pool of expertise for the industry's future. Each year, several deserving students registered in full-time Canadian post-secondary institutions across Canada are awarded these scholarships.

## THANK YOU TO THE 2007 CENTENNIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS SPONSORS

**SIEMENS VDO**



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## ATLANTIC REGION - GRAEME BROWN



Graeme Brown grew up in Campbell River, a small town on Vancouver Island. For the past several years, he has lived primarily in Vancouver, with brief periods spent in cities overseas and in Canada. His interest in transportation started during high school, with his discovery of cycling as a practical and enjoyable means of transportation. After moving to the city, Graeme recognized the significance and importance of public transit in shaping our cities and lives.

For the last two years he has been able to contribute to, and

learn about, Vancouver's transportation system through his work in alternative transportation and transit planning at TransLink (the Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority). Graeme is now studying Urban and Rural Planning at Dalhousie University. He feels Halifax is a great place to live, and looks forward to continued learning through his experiences there as a student and resident.

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## BRITISH COLUMBIA - JOHN CALIMENTE



John received his Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Simon Fraser University and shortly after traveled to Tokyo to work as an English teacher. Once he had achieved fluency in Japanese, he was hired as an international advisor for the Chiyoda City Hall. Returning to Canada, John was a political and economic analyst in Ottawa and also worked for the International Centre for Sustainable Cities in Vancouver. He is now in the Master

of Urban Studies Program at Simon Fraser University and recently completed a transportation planning internship with TransLink. Living in Tokyo, a city where almost everyone rides public transit, has made John a strong advocate of extensive and efficient public transit networks utilizing streetcars, subways, light rail and buses. He believes that car ownership should be a choice, not a necessity.

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## PRAIRIES AND TERRITORIES - SANDRA LANGE



Born in Porto Alegre, Brazil, Sandra moved to Edmonton in 1998. Sandra always had an interest in protecting the environment and soon after her graduation she joined a local association of environmentalists. From then on, environmental interests permeated most of her activities and were the subjects of her two Masters degrees (Solar Energy and Sustainable Building Design). Currently, Sandra is working toward her PhD at the University of Alberta,

focusing on the evaluation options for sustainability of public transportation. The main topic of her PhD research is the life cycle analysis of public transit and buses. An expected outcome will be to increase the use of public transportation by helping the City of Edmonton to develop an optimized system. As a result of her collaborative work with the City, she is working directly with people involved in transit ranging from the transit garage environment, fleet engineers, operators, mechanics, and planners.



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## ONTARIO - MOHAMED WAHBA



Mohamed Wahba was born in Bani-Seuf, Egypt. After graduating from high school, he joined the Faculty of Computers and Information at Cairo University. He completed his Bachelor of Science degree with honours in 2000, having majored in Operations Research and ranking first in his class. In 2002, Mohamed was awarded a full scholarship to study Management Sciences at Cambridge University. In 2004 he was awarded another scholarship and earned a

Master of Science degree majoring in transportation engineering at the University of Toronto. Presently, Mohamed is completing his PhD. degree in Transportation Engineering. Mohamed has demonstrated innovative thinking in his research on transit system analysis. His areas of interest include transportation planning, public transportation operations, intelligent transportation systems, advanced public transportation systems, micro-simulation and transportation systems modeling and operations. His career goal is to either work in a transportation-based consulting firm or in academia.

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## QUEBEC - SHANNON HARVEY



Shannon Harvey has studied, worked and lived in Ottawa, New York, Vancouver, Rotterdam, and now Montreal. Shannon's interest in Urban Design stems from her thesis project entitled "Mapping: Place" which she completed in 2005. She is currently enrolled in the Masters of Urban Planning Program at McGill University, majoring in Urban Design. She plans to pursue a career in the public transit industry that will enable her to further develop her interest

in urban design by linking urban planning with public transportation and focus on transit-oriented and "complete community" development. Shannon is optimistic through her involvement in developing integrated, transit-oriented design that communities can become healthier, more vibrant places to live.





CANADIAN URBAN TRANSIT ASSOCIATION  
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DU TRANSPORT URBAIN

**Main Office/Bureau principal**

Suite 1401 55 York Street  
55, rue York bureau 1401  
Toronto, ON Canada M5J 1R7

**Tel/Tél. : 416.365.9800**

**Fax/Télééc. : 416.365.1295**

**[transit@cutaactu.ca](mailto:transit@cutaactu.ca)**

**Ottawa Office/Bureau d'Ottawa**

1500 St. Laurent Boulevard  
1500, boulevard St. Laurent  
Ottawa, ON Canada K1G 0Z8

**Tel/Tél. : 613.842.3616**

**Fax/Télééc. : 613.744.7271**

**[www.cutaactu.ca](http://www.cutaactu.ca)**