



NATIONAL TRANSIT

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARDS AND CENTENNIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

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MARRIOTT CHÂTEAU CHAMPLAIN
MONTREAL, QUEBEC

towards sustainable solutions 
public transit



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AWARD CATEGORIES

CUTA 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.

CUTA VOLUNTEER/ADVOCATE AWARDS

THESE AWARDS HIGHLIGHT THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THOSE WHO ACTIVELY PROMOTE OR CHAMPION PUBLIC TRANSIT IN CANADA.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

AWARDED TO INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT, ONGOING CONTRIBUTION TO PUBLIC TRANSIT THROUGH ADVOCACY, LEADERSHIP, WORKPLACE IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES, OR POLICY OR LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT OR SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT AWARDS

AWARDED FOR DEMONSTRATED ACHIEVEMENT IN IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY AND/OR EFFECTIVENESS OF PUBLIC TRANSIT IN CANADA.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

AWARDED TO INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE CONCLUDED THEIR CAREER AND HAVE MADE EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PUBLIC TRANSIT INDUSTRY IN CANADA.

RADENKO KNEZEVIC
COAST MOUNTAIN BUS COMPANY



OPERATOR SAVES RESIDENT FROM BURNING HOME

Operator Radenko Knezevic was commended for his courageous and heroic efforts on July 28, 2009 when he noticed flames coming from the roof of a house while he was driving. He called 911, went to the front door and started to alert the occupants.

When no one answered, he went back to his bus and started honking the horn.

Radenko then went back to the house, began knocking on the door finally awaking the occupants. Everyone in the house got out safely including some handicapped persons. He then climbed the stairs to the rear deck and noticed the fire coming from the hot tub motor. He used the garden hose to keep the fire from spreading until emergency vehicles arrived.

City of Burnaby Fire Chief wrote a letter of commendation to Radenko for his selfless heroic act in saving the lives of the occupants of the home. His assistant commented that if it had not been the quick actions of the operator, the outcome could have been much worse and that Radenko may have been responsible for saving the lives of at least four people.

MARINO VERZEROLI
OC TRANSPRO



HERO SAVES YOUNG CHILD LOST IN SNOW STORM

While in service on January 1, 2008, Bus Operator Marino Verzeroli noticed a three-year-old boy standing alone at an Ottawa intersection. It was snowing with a wind speed of 20 km/h creating a chilly minus 11°C temperature. He realized the child was not dressed appropriately for the weather conditions and stopped the bus immediately to come to the child's rescue.

When Verzeroli asked the child about the whereabouts of his parents, the little boy began to cry and responded that he did not know. Verzeroli then wrapped the little boy in his winter jacket and carried him onto the bus. He contacted OC Transpo Transit Control and Ottawa Police Service was dispatched to meet Verzeroli at a nearby transit station.

As a precaution, a police officer transported the child to Ottawa Children's Hospital, where doctors confirmed he did not sustain injuries. However, Verzeroli's actions reunited the child with his mother and took the boy out of imminent danger. Marino was honoured at the 19th annual OC Transpo Transecure Awards ceremony at which time he was chosen as the 2008 winner of the year for his heroic deed.

PETER JOHNSON

GO TRANSIT



ACT OF HEROISM ON DUTY

For the thousands of commuters who pass through GO Transit's busy Oakville Station, Peter Johnson is known as a genuinely nice and caring person. Few however would have any idea about the selfless act of heroism Peter displayed on March 27, 2009.

A customer service attendant notified Peter about a man who was standing on one of the tracks below the platform. After alerting an approaching VIA train and GO Transit Operations about the situation, Peter had very little time to act once it became clear the VIA train was not going to be able to slow down in time.

With the man unresponsive, Peter jumped down onto the tracks and pulled him to safety out of the path of the train. The VIA train was eventually able to stop however, beyond where the man

had been standing moments earlier.

With very little decision time, Peter did what came naturally to him and put himself in harm's way in order to save a life. As a 24 year employee with GO Transit, Peter has not only developed the skills to act quickly, but also the heart to respond to the needs of anyone who passes through GO's Oakville Station.

RANDY SMITH

BC TRANSIT



EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Several years ago, Randy noticed that BC Transit was not represented in community Christmas parades so he took it upon himself to make this change. Purchasing lighting and taking a considerable amount of his own time, he decorated a bus and entered it into a parade. Randy has continued to build upon his initial success by making enhancements to the original Santa Bus design which now includes a light show synchronized to Christmas music! Randy's enthusiasm has been contagious and he has recruited other employees to join him in his endeavours. The project has grown over the last three years to one that inspires employee involvement and enhances BC Transit's profile in the community. The 'Santa Bus' has been used to help deliver food hampers and under the 'Stuff the Bus' program provides an

opportunity for the employees and the community to donate toys and food to those in need. Randy's peers think highly of his efforts and awarded him Employee of the Year for 2009.

RICK MULVOGUE

TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION (TTC)



HELPED SAVE THE LIFE OF A PASSENGER

In May of 2008, Toronto Transit Commission Chief Mobile Supervisor Rick Mulvogue was on duty, and responded to a call from Transit Control concerning an ill passenger on a subway train. When Rick arrived, he found the passenger lying on the floor of the train with vital signs absent. He immediately began CPR, and the ill passenger's heart began beating once again.

For his actions, Rick was presented with the TTC's Award of Merit at the May Commission meeting. Following the presentation, he returned to his duties, and responded to another call of a passenger suffering a heart attack at Museum Station. Rick once again began CPR. Emergency responders attended and the ill passenger was taken to hospital.

During the Award of Merit presentation, Rick also praised the work of Toronto EMS paramedics, who are stationed in the subway system during the morning and afternoon rush hour periods, and two TTC customers who came to the aid of the ill passenger as well.

AUDRA MCKINLEY

GRANDE PRAIRIE TRANSIT



RISING STAR

For the past two and a half years, Audra has been the Transit Coordinator for Grande Prairie Transit, replacing the Transit Coordinator on sick leave. Audra's original position was in Transit Customer Service and she has taken a giant leap and has risen above and beyond the challenges of her new position. Some initiatives that Audra has spearheaded in her short time as Transit Coordinator are the completion of a four-year Capital/Operating budget, a transit master plan, a new safety program, some expanded routes, a new drivers contract, the purchase of four Transit and two DTS Busses, a marketing plan, an advertising contract and the development of a solid City/Contractor relationship with the transit operator provider. Audra is currently completing the Supervisory Training program. She is

expanding her knowledge through CUTA training, and is very active in the Association at the Chapter level and nationally. It's worth mentioning that Audra has accomplished these achievements with minimum staff support.

CUTA EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

PIERRE RABY

SOCIÉTÉ DE TRANSPORT DE MONTRÉAL (STM)



HEALTH AND SAFETY OF DRIVERS, OPERATORS AND CHANGERS

Pierre Raby, Occupational Health and Safety Coordinator of the STM drivers' union, designed several projects pertaining to the occupational health and safety of drivers, changers and operators. Over the past 15 years, he helped develop specifications for the first- and second-generation low-floor buses, improve the driving positions of Adapted Transportation bus and minibus drivers, and re-evaluate the workstations for metro changers and operators. Pierre took part in testing brake performance, modifying the application of the retarder on the accelerator pedal, evaluating and participating in traction tire tests, as well as working on the Sécüribus file and the integration of articulated buses.

Pierre has also made significant contributions to various projects and all of the concrete initiatives put forward by the company, including employee training. A fierce defender of health and safety, Pierre is the STM's leading union expert. In addition to his meaningful contributions to the company, Pierre is recognized for his involvement in Quebec transportation companies and as a Board of Directors' member of the Association paritaire pour la santé et la sécurité au travail, secteur affaires municipales (ASPAM).

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

DENNIS FLETCHER

ENTRA CONSULTANTS



DEDICATION TO THE PUBLIC TRANSIT INDUSTRY

Quietly and without much fanfare, Dennis Fletcher, Director of Transit Planning at ENTRA Consultants, has had a profound impact on transit across North America. Although the projects Dennis has worked on in the last 25 years have only occasionally reached the evening news, which does not diminish the impact they have had on transit riders in communities across North America. In small steps, the work Dennis has done in communities of every size has met resounding success. From Brampton to Edmonton, Whitehorse to Halifax, he has been a valuable asset to transit systems.

In PEI, transit ridership rose more than 400 percent while in Oakville new communities are being designed under the transit-first design concept, thanks to his tireless work.

It would also be hard to find someone who has volunteered more time to CUTA through his work sitting on numerous CUTA committees, various task forces, and on the Board of Directors.

Furthermore, Dennis has contributed a significant amount of personal time to teaching transit planning to future transit professionals. His teaching work with CUTA and NTI helps ensure that the future of transit in Canada is in good hands.

PASCALE BEAUMONT, ODETTÉ BEAUDRY, NADIA BESSIM, MARIE-HÉLÈNE BRETON, CHANTAL DUBUC, ALFRED DE GRÂCE
SOCIÉTÉ DE TRANSPORT DE MONTRÉAL (STM)



**FIVE WOMEN, ONE MAN
AND THE PAPE**

The environment is a topic covered extensively by the media, companies, organizations and political institutions. The PAPE thinks it is more important to act!

We are not talking about the Pope in the Vatican—which is Pape in French—but about the group of six employees who came together

to promote small acts capable of improving our quality of life. The experience started with Pascale and Chantal, strong supporters of the environmental cause, who found colleagues in their work environment who shared their ideas. The PAPE, or Petites Actions Pour l'Environnement (Small acts for the environment), promotes using public transportation, reducing waste and greenhouse gases, using drinking water judiciously, etc. Information is posted periodically in their work environment and the group purchased 100 mugs and distributed them to employees in the cafeteria to decrease the use of Styrofoam cups, which are very harmful to the environment. They initiated two-sided photocopying on their floor and the STM followed suit by setting the photocopying centre accordingly.

A number of other projects are on the way. Congratulations for these initiatives and long live the PAPE!



LUC CHAMPAGNE
SOCIÉTÉ DE TRANSPORT DE L'OUTAOUAIS (STO)

INVOLVEMENT AT VARIOUS LEVELS WITHIN STO

A driver with the STO since January 1997, Luc is an employee who distinguishes himself by his many commitments within the company.

Luc has been very involved in the bus drivers' and maintenance employees' pension fund file for nearly two years. He developed a preventive aspect in his role as file coordinator; as soon as he hears that an employee is thinking about retiring, he performs the calculations and prepares to answer the employee's many concerns.

Every year, the City of Gatineau holds the "Mayor's Breakfast" to collect money and non-perishable food for distribution to underprivileged families in the Outaouais region during the Christmas holidays. After volunteering as a driver for several years, Luc agreed to assume

responsibility for distributing the Christmas baskets two years ago. He shares his passion within the walls of the STO by recruiting his colleagues to volunteer as drivers during this event.

Luc has been the social representative since January 2002. He is mainly responsible for supporting other colleagues who are going through tough times. Using his excellent listening skills, Luc has established solid credibility among his colleagues and various workers in the community.

As a bus driver, Luc has not had any preventable accidents on his record in the past nine years. He is punctual, diligent and liked by his colleagues, which earned him the title "Positive influence at work" in the Driver category in 2004.

ALAIN BEAUDRY

SOCIÉTÉ DE TRANSPORT DE MONTRÉAL (STM)



GREEN DRIVING, HE'S A PRO!

Alain Beaudry has worked for the STM for several years as a trainer for the Bus Network. His contributions to green driving greatly surpassed the expectations of a training officer. With his colleagues, Beaudry trained the STM's 4,000 drivers on the new driving techniques. CUTA appointed him trainer for the Francophone trainers and sought his skills as a facilitator to lead discussion groups on best practices. He took part in news stories and interviews about green driving (e.g. the Rebut global report on Radio Canada's website) and gave a conference talk at the Salon de l'environnement 2007 (Expo for the Environment 2007), to prioritize green driving; he was also a special guest at conferences on the topic. Not only is Alain Beaudry a passionate ambassador of green driving, he also enjoys sharing his in-depth knowledge and promoting the benefits of green driving for the

environment. You can see him in action in a video devoted to green driving on the STM website: www.mouvementcollectif.org.

JACQUES COUTURE ET YVES LAFRANCE

SOCIÉTÉ DE TRANSPORT DE MONTRÉAL (STM)



START YOUR ENGINES!

Jacques Couture and Yves Lafrance, two training officers at the STM, took part in developing training material to diagnose and repair engines. This experience was very successful since the training was picked up by the Réseau de Transport de Longueuil. The training and related materials were often cited as examples when employees from other companies took courses with Cummins, the engine supplier. These favourable comments led to a visit from Cummins representatives to STM's seasoned trainers. This reputation also came to the ears of a researcher in engineering who approached Yves Lafrance; he wanted to use his documentation on the catalytic exhaust system to write his master's thesis.

SUSAN DICKISON
DURHAM REGION TRANSIT



TRANSIT ADVOCACY THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

As Durham Region Transit's Communications Coordinator, Susan has worked with Operations, Planning, CIS, GIS and contracted vendors to create a new "green" branding on DRT's print materials, website, fare media and promotional displays.

DRT maps and schedules have been redesigned in 2009 to incorporate professional layout and versatility for region-wide transit system use. Susan has applied herself above-and-beyond the requirements of her position to actively engage partners in key promotional initiatives with community businesses and industry partners. These include: Video Production for Accessible Transit Features, and Transit 101 promoting environmental, health and economical savings; Video Partnership with Smart Commute promoting transit options/alternatives; Canadian Environment

Week Promotion with Smart Commute, Region Waste, Health and Planning Departments; Safer Bars Coalition with Health, Police Services, local bar owners and golf courses, OLG, and MTO; and Festive Campaign: Partnership with Police Services.

Susan served on the Diversity & Immigration Partnership Council to create an inclusive community, and eliminate barriers for new comers to Durham Region. She arranged the publication of "free" editorial content in local publications such as "Green" Transit, Re-location Guide, Welcome Home, Eco-Durham, 50 Plus and Forever Young.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

RON DROLET
BC TRANSIT



LEADING THE GROWTH OF PUBLIC TRANSIT IN BC

After 30 years of dedicated service to transit in British Columbia, Ron Drolet, Vice President of Planning retired in April 2009. Considered by all to be the "Voice of Transit in BC", Ron's career spanned years of continued and dramatic growth of the provincial transit agency, from its beginnings as the Urban Transit Authority to BC Transit. He held many positions with BC Transit, including Transportation Planner and Municipal Systems Program Director, and senior executive positions in Planning, Marketing and Operations and most recently Senior Vice President and Corporate Secretary.

DESMOND LIGGETT

ST. ALBERT TRANSIT



OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC TRANSIT IN WESTERN CANADA

Desmond Liggett (Dez) has served the public transit industry in Western Canada for 34 years. Starting his career with Edmonton Transit in 1974, Dez moved to the Manager of Transit position for St. Albert in 1986. During his career with St. Albert and as a result of his influence, the community experienced some notable achievements. St. Albert Transit was the first system in Western Canada to own and operate 18m long articulated buses, the first system in Canada to operate Low Floor wheelchair-accessible buses on regular scheduled routes.

Dez also was a significant contributor to the activities of the Prairie Provinces and Territories Chapter of CUTA. He served as Secretary Treasurer, Vice Chair and Chair and the work that he did to establish a financially viable and productive chapter has ensured an organization with vitality that contributes effectively to the public transit industry in Western Canada.



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Samuel Boisvert is currently a Geography Major at the University of Calgary. Upon completion of his undergraduate degree, Samuel will pursue a career as a Transit Planner. He has already worked as a Research Assistant with several planners and has also worked as a summer student with Calgary Transit. This fantastic opportunity gave Samuel the experience of what Transit Planning is all about. Samuel has a strong interest in human and urban geography, and has fresh ideas on how public transit can sustain urban neighbourhoods and improve the quality of life of residents in inner cities. Congratulations, Samuel!



Anne-Louise Chauvette is currently completing her MA in Urban Studies at the Université of Québec's INRS. Anne-Louise has done some impressive international work one of them being the coordination of the Youth Parliament event for the UITP. Anne-Louise is presently coordinating another conference promoting transportation to youth. Once her graduate degree is complete, Anne-Louise would like to work with a transit organization in conjunction with governmental authorities with the goal to promote the importance of public transit in Canadian cities. Congratulations, Anne-Louise!



Alisha Mody graduated with a BA in Political Science / Sociology, and is currently working on her MA degree in Planning at the University of British Columbia. She has worked with Vancouver's TransLink as a Student Transportation Planning Assistant over a span of eight months and during that time, took on various roles – one of them assisting with the development of the TransLink Sustainability Policy. Her interest in transportation planning is derived from her appreciation of how transit services affect the health and sustainability of communities. Alisha's goal is to advocate for land use patterns and urban design standards that would facilitate transit services and enhance the user's experience when using public transit. Congratulations, Alisha!



Patrick Whalen is currently working with the Department of Transportation and Works in Saint John's, Newfoundland and is also working on his BComm degree from Memorial University. Upon completion of his studies, Patrick would like to work as a Labour Analyst in the transportation industry. This role would allow Patrick to monitor the safety standards of the industry while protecting employees through the heightening of industry standards. Congratulations, Patrick!



Andrew Wisniewski is currently enrolled at the University of Waterloo's Faculty of Environment – Honours Co-operative program in Planning. Andrew has gained a wealth of experience through working on urban design, planning, landscape architecture and transit-oriented projects with various firms. Andrew has also assisted on a transit-oriented design project for a Dubai-based development contract. Congratulations, Andrew!



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