

CAW Local 114 Contributes to Long Standing Community Event in Victoria.

Just as Local 114 was gearing up for a strike at Pacific Coach Lines they were still helping the less fortunate in Victoria, BC. The Local allocated a modest contribution to assist organizers of the 13th Annual New Year's Day Poor People's Levee Tour. Every year since 1998 Brother Art Farquharson (Grayline West) has joined with other anti-poverty activists and taken Victoria's poorest citizens and elders on the tour. The tour feeds these folks on a day when soup kitchens are closed and reminds the privileged that poverty doesn't take a holiday.

Levees are a tradition that date back to the 17th century in Canada. In Greater Victoria various Mayors and the Lieutenant Governor receive all citizens and offer refreshments to start the New Year. This year's Levee Tour visited Victoria, Saanich and Sidney City Halls and Government House. "And in keeping with my CAW Labour Music School training (1994) we sang *zipper* lyrics to the tune of 'Let It Snow'", said Farquharson.

p.s. The PCL strike was averted by an 11th hour agreement.