

CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL

National Youth Newsletter

Busking on the Causeway Editor – Job Description According to Saille Bishop-Legowski, editor 2003-2005

What is Busking on the Causeway and what is it for?

Busking on the Causeway is the Canadian U*U youth newsletter. Its purpose is to keep U*U youth in Canada informed about what is going on in U*Uism, particularly in the youth branches and with regard to youth issues, and to keep us connected. It's a forum for dialogue about things, a way to spread the word about causes and cons, and ultimately a way to create and keep a sense of community across this massive and diverse country of ours.

What does the editor do?

The editor of the newsletter collects and edits the submissions for BotC, puts them all together, then send the whole thing to the CUC for printing and mailing. For me, this involved a process something like this:

I sent out requests asking for submissions (articles, poetry, artwork, photos, anything) about two months in advance of the mailing month. I took the submissions I got about a month later (after reminding people a few times), fixed their grammar and spelling, and chose among them and combined them (if there were too many, or two on the same subject). Then I took the flood or drought of submissions, put them in order, wrote a little editorial, and made the finished product into a PDF. I then sent it to the CUC for printing and mailing. Sometimes there were volunteers who helped me, sometimes not.

You don't have to do it the same way as I did. My BotCs were very computer dependant. I put them together in a word processing program, made them into PDFs, used graphics programs or text characters to make it look pretty and all that. You don't have to. You can do it however you want.

How much time does it take?

Well, the sort answer is as much time as you're willing to spend on it.

The long answer goes like this. The amount of time it takes to put a BotC together depends A LOT on the amount of submissions you have. I spent about 40 hours on an 8-page issue, and probably minimum 10 hours on a four-page issue. This is spread over about 2 months, three times a year (ideally), but concentrated in about a week before the mailing dates. It takes a few minutes to write emails asking for submissions, a few more to spell check, but the VAST majority of time goes into layout and prettifying.

Give yourself at least 10 hours. More realistically, 16-20 hours for each issue. I think each page of my BotCs was around three hours of work.

What kinds of skills are needed or useful?

- A decent sense of grammar and spelling. Not saying you have to be perfect, I'm certainly not! But enough to tell their from they're and there, to from two and too, than from then, accept from except, etc.

- The ability to set and meet deadlines (for yourself and others).
- The ability to write and communicate. Half the time you'll be writing and summarizing stuff yourself.
- Some kind of news sense, to put the pieces in order.
- Spatial sense for organizing pages.

What's so great about being editor?

Well, aside from looking great on scholarship applications, résumés and community service forms? You get access to all sorts of helpful email groups, you get to work with wonderful youth and adults, you get to use the busking@cuc.ca email, you get to write editorials, and nearly everyone appreciates you for taking a on leadership position in youth affairs!

Anything else I should know?

If you need help, ask. It can be tough and frustrating, but everyone really wants to see you succeed. Seeing it all in print is quite satisfying, and such a relief. The CUC monthly mailing dates are provided and copying is done at the CUC in Toronto.

When I started, I had NO idea what the heck I was doing. I was completely and utterly clueless, and look how things turned out! Even if you have no experience at all, you can still do it!

You do not need to do this the same way I did (three times a year (ideally), on the computer, prettified with flowers or text curlicues, 8.5x11 paper, simple formatting, etc.). Do it however strikes your fancy!

So, watch the youth e-lists and CUC web youth pages for an application and more details – Feel free to contact me, Saille at sailleway@gmail.com for more information!