

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 19, 2011

Lt. Governor Phil Scott plays a new tune

Montpelier, VT - Lt. Governor Phil Scott took his Vermont Everyday Jobs tour to Brattleboro yesterday, working an "everyday job" most of us would consider exotic: violin-making.

Scott worked alongside master violinmaker Douglas Cox, who has been in business for 30 years and has built more than 650 instruments. Yesterday, Cox instructed Scott on carving, planing, varnishing and gluing the various pieces that make up a violin. The Lt. Governor, who is used to working with his hands at DuBois Construction, nevertheless found the hand carving to be a physical challenge. "I worked up a sweat. I'm not sure I could do that work for more than an hour, much less for an entire day.

"Everything is done entirely by hand, one instrument at a time. It was really interesting to see and to participate in the process that transforms southern Vermont spruce, ash and maple into works of art that also produce beautiful music.

"There are a lot of dimensions to this business that surprised me, including the quality control process for each violin that comes out of the studio."

Each finished violin is shipped out to local musicians, who test the instrument and rate it according to a precise grading system. At the end of yesterday's visit, Lt. Governor Scott had an opportunity to "test" an instrument himself.

"I don't have quite the 'ear' that Mr. Cox has, after his extensive training in Germany and Boston," Scott said; "in fact, many would say I have absolutely no ear for music! But I definitely learned a lot from the experience."

About Lt. Gov. Phil Scott's "Vermont Everyday Jobs" Initiative

Lt. Governor Phil Scott started his "Vermont Everyday Jobs" initiative to promote Vermont businesses and highlight the hard work that Vermonters do every day in all areas of our economy. By finding out firsthand, and in a hands-on manner, what it takes to make Vermont businesses work, the Lt. Governor will gain a better understanding of what state government can do to help those businesses work better. The tour will also help to facilitate relationships and ongoing dialogue between Vermont business leaders and their representatives in state government.

In previous "Vermont Everyday Jobs," Lt. Governor Scott has taught second grade at Union Memorial School in Colchester, built a solar tracker at AllEarth Renewables, checked lift tickets at Stowe Mountain Resort, worked in the Emergency Department at Porter Hospital, worked with a Green Mountain Power line team, and changed oil at Vermont Quicklube.

###

For more information, please contact:

Nancy Driscoll
Chief of Staff, Lt. Governor Phil Scott
nancy.driscoll@state.vt.us
Office: 802-828-2226
Cell: 802-734-7555