



# International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Vancouver Island

Quarterly Newsletter

Since 1902

## Canem Systems Turns 50(ish)

Wyder Electric Ltd. opened its Victoria Office in 1963 with projects like the Christie Point apartments, Lord Simcoe apartments, the Victoria City Hall Annex, University of Victoria McPherson Library project, Woolco, Safeway and the old Town and Country Mall, (which is now the Uptown site).



On the leading edge, Wyder bought a Royal McBee LGP-30 in 1966. A state of the art computer, and pioneered the first programming techniques unique to electrical estimating in the Canadian construction industry. The McBee(hemoth) weighed in at over 800 pounds and occupied 22 cubic feet, with less programming power than today's average cell phone.

Just before 1970 Wyder was bought by Bentall Properties and Victoria Branch Manager Jack Hodgson suffered with his health. He was replaced by Gerry Stewart at that time they were busy with Victoria's Bentall Building and Crofton Pulp Mill site.



In 1974 the Wyder Group of companies, Wyder Electric, Peterson Electric and Tryco Installations were amalgamated into one company, Canem Systems which became a wholly owned subsidiary of Bentall Holdings Limited. Around that time Canem opened shops in Alberta, and started the University of Victoria's Music Centre.

The downturn in the early 1980's created a need to improve on efficiencies and pre-planning concepts were introduced from Australia. These are the same efficiencies that Canem employs today to help maximize their success. In 1999 Gerry Stewart moved on as Regional Manager and Knud Mortensen moved in as Divisional Manager.

Shortly thereafter, Canem acquired Rathlef Electric and Hodgson Electric both from the mid-Island area.

Projects since the turn of the century such as the Aria, Bear Mountain Arena, Victoria Airport expansion, University of Victoria Engineering Computer Sciences Building, and Multi-award winning Nanaimo Conference Centre and Dockside Green projects allowed for the Island branches to really highlight the capabilities and craftsmanship of the Canem employees and Local 230 members.

Today Canem continues to move, shake and grow throughout Western Canada, and Local 230 members can be proud in helping contribute to Canem's success, from the first early days and tomorrow.



## Autumn 2012

*Inside This Quarterly*

[www.ibew230.org](http://www.ibew230.org)

### Page 1:

- Canem Systems Turns 50(ish)

### Page 2:

- Business Manager's Report

### Page 3:

- Code of Excellence Training

### Page 4:

- United Way Celebrates 75 years
- CLAC shown the DOOR

### News and Notes:

The Local 230 Office will be closed For the Christmas break between noon on December 24th and re-open January 2nd.

Victoria FSR Code Course to be set early in 2013

Construction Safety Training Systems (CSTS) is now online through the Local. We are encouraging members to get Certified.

To enroll in these courses please contact Drew at:  
[training@IBEW230.org](mailto:training@IBEW230.org)



**FIND  
US ON  
FACEBOOK**

# Business Manager's Report



Philip M. Venoit  
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

belong to a union.

Our construction work picture all around western Canada is heating up, and is looking like we have a few stellar years in front of us for our membership. If you are currently unemployed I would urge you to take advantage of some of the work off the Island at this time as we shouldn't really be ramping up any real major work in Local 230 until late spring early

summer next year.

*On behalf of the Staff I would like to wish all of you a safe and Merry Christmas, and a prosperous and Happy New Year!*

I left my report to the last story in this Newsletter, and I didn't really leave myself a lot of room! Suffice it to say, it will be short and sweet. I would like to start by welcoming four new construction contractors to the Local who have all signed to honour the Construction Inside Wiremen's Collective Agreement; RJ Arsenault Electrical Services from Nanaimo, Chemco Electric from Alberta, DH Total Installations and Nexus Electric, both from Victoria.

We met with Leonard Landry, Constituency Representative for North Island Member of Parliament, Minister John Duncan and Dr. James Lunney, our two Island Conservative Members of Parliament, concerning several potential illegal and/or immoral issues around the private members Bill C-377. They were both cordial and to a degree candid, however it appears the Alberta/Harper Conservatives will be pulling the strings in how they vote concerning this mean spirited piece of legislative crap. They're saying that this Bill is about Financial Transparency, when it is really about making union members pay to give non-union companies our financial information, our strike funds, our market recovery funds, and any other financial information beneficial to give them the upper hand. If you haven't sign on to the [WWW.WorkersBuildCanada.ca](http://WWW.WorkersBuildCanada.ca) website yet and sent a message to you Member of Parliament I would urge you to do this fast, (it only takes 2 minutes) or it could be your name along with the drug prescription information you or your family are taking open to the entire public through the Canadian Revenue Agency website for the world to see, all because you

**TAKE ACTION**  
**WORKERSBUILDCANADA.ca**  
CANADA'S  
Include on Display. Every Day.  
**SEND A MESSAGE TO YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**

**FLATLINE**

**BUILDING CONSTRUCTION & METAL TRADES COUNCILS CHRISTMAS PARTY DINNER AND DANCE**

Featuring live entertainment from "Flatline"

Serving Turkey Dinner & Vegetarian Lasagna with the works!

**DOOR PRIZES!!**

Saturday, December 15th, 2012  
The Pacific Fleet Club, 1587 Lyall Street  
Tickets \$20 per person  
Doors open @ 6:30pm, Dinner @ 7:30pm

# Code of Excellence Training

The IBEW's Code of Excellence is a program for each local union to demonstrate and showcase the skills and professionalism of our membership. It promotes the highest quality and quantity of work using our best work practices. It's designed to instill a sense of pride and professionalism in our membership, and this new attitude will demonstrate to employers and to our customers and clients. It's a marketing strategy to say; if they want it done right the first time, the IBEW is the workforce to ensure that happens and, that we are synonymous with excellence.

Today we face an unprecedented amount of competition. We have the non-union working in some cases at \$10 an hour cheaper, think that through, a small 5 man 1 week job, they are \$2,000 cheaper. We have low voltage groups encroaching on our traditional fire alarm, security, and environmental controls



work even cheaper than the non-union. We have employer convenience unions like CLAC moving into areas to sign sweet heart agreements sub-standard to the IBEW Regional Agreements promising that workers will work for less. If we

are going to continue to want a better standard for ourselves, we need to employ every tool we can to create the IBEW Advantage. It is incumbent upon each and every one of us, to come to work every day better trained with our best attitudes to getting the job done. Whether you're working by yourself or on a crew, we all need to be contributing in a positive way. The only way we are going to continue to get ahead is by focusing on the only aspect under our individual control.

**WAGES + BENEFITS (COST) X PRODUCTIVE TIME (VALUE) = OUR SUCCESS**

The wages and benefits are contained in our collective agreements, the only control each member has in the equation is your productive time, or value to each project. Your job depends on it, your family's security depends upon it, the success of

your employer depends upon it, and your Local Union depends upon it.

We have all witnessed that one negative member working on a crew can have a huge impact on



the entire crew and bring down the job, and can often continue to alter your mood even after the workday is done. We all need to explain to that member his behaviour is not acceptable.

We've had three Code of Excellence classes taught this year, and the vast majority of the participant's comments after the classes were, how positive of a course this is, and that how it opens the membership's eyes and minds to who we are and what we represent. We will be continuing this very important course and resulting paradigm shift, as a tool to help towards our goals of organizing the

entire electrical industry.

Our next classes will be scheduled for February or March next year, we will be doing at least one class up Island, and with the full intent of our entire membership eventually going through it. I am asking you if you are interested in taking this course to contact Jen or Nicole in our office to get your name on the list.

If you are unemployed at the time the course is scheduled in your area there is a reasonable expectation for your attendance. Again, this course is designed for your success in the electrical industry as an IBEW member.



# United Way Celebrates 75 years

The Victoria United Way is celebrating 75 years as an umbrella community organization that has touched so many people in so many positive ways.

“The United Way starts like a joke your grandfather might tell: In 1887, a priest, a philanthropist, two ministers, and a rabbi came together to solve a welfare problem in Denver.

But the eclectic first group was no joke. They laid the foundation for what would become the largest community funded non-profit charity in the world. Together, the four men and one woman led a single fundraising campaign that year, raising \$21,700 (over \$500,000 today) for 22 agencies in the Denver area. Founded as the Charity Organizations Society, the group also established the United Way framework,

that 125 years later still unites people in need with their communities.

Recognizing that charities have a greater impact if they work together to raise and distribute funds, many other communities soon organized their own “united” campaigns. Over the next 10 years, hundreds of related organizations popped up all over the United States.”

*(Taken from the 75th Anniversary Your Way Magazine)*

Last year, the Victoria Labour Council endorsed the idea of having 125 street banners made to help market and promote the United Way

within the south island communities. We were contacted by the United Way when they were informed by the City of Victoria that the banner installation work came under the jurisdiction of the IBEW and so we partnered up with one of our contractors,



Tom from South Island Signs installs the new United Way banners.

Tom at South Island Signs who agreed to help out and hang the banners to coincide with this year’s campaign. In 1937 the “Community Chest” (today’s United Way) opened on View Street where the Bay Centre is now located. If you can help out with a donation this year, the United Way is one of five recognized IBEW Charities.

## CLAC shown the DOOR

The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) was formed in 2006 in a merger between the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions with the World Confederation of Labour (WCL), and in 2008 Vancouver hosted the Confederations 2nd Congress which I was asked to attend. The ITUC represents 175 Million Union Members around the world living in 155 countries. Prior to the Congress I was at a Meeting with Jim Sinclair President of the BC Federation of Labour, Ken Georgetti President of the Canadian Labour Council (CLC) and Guy Ryder the General President of the ITUC, amongst a dozen other of BC’s Labour Leaders, and the night before I was up in the wee hours (kinda like the night I wrote this story) doing research for the following days meeting, and on the ITUC’s website I noticed the CLAC’s Affiliation and almost fell out of my chair. So, the following day I asked Brother Ryder about the CLAC’s Affiliation to the ITUC, and how do we change that?

Turns out as a member of the WCL, the CLAC membership was automatically accepted when the two large organizations merged.

The BC Fed and the CLC acted quickly and put together

the arguments with the purpose to have the CLAC suspended from the ITUC in 2010, for publishing policies and being involved in activities that undermine the conditions of workers in Canada and hinder the organizing activities of CLC affiliated unions. One of those “activities” that they were involved in, would be when the CLAC sponsored a meeting of the Merit Shop Contractors in Kelowna in 2010 so construction contractors could come from all over North America and listen to industry speakers, like John Mortimer, who is described in the Conference material as a “management consultant specializing in transitions, turn-arounds and maintaining or achieving union-free status”, Really!???

Can’t make this stuff up! Does this sound like a prudent use of their union funds? To

promote people at functions who’s primary purpose and job is to teach employers how to get rid of unions in their workplace?

Maybe they should concentrate on their own internal efforts in that regard and Canadian workers would be a way better position to be able to lift their standards both at work and at home.

