

## Department of National Defence Refocuses on the West Coast

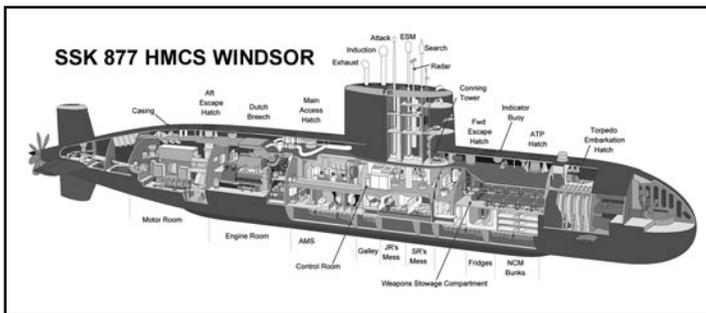
Since the attack on the World Trade Center, our Federal Government has increased its focus on Defence and with the Coast Guard Search and Rescue vessels coming to completion, we are beginning to see some further significant federally sponsored shipbuilding projects out to tender. Beginning with the YAG program which was intended to replace older Cadet Training Vessels, this multi-vessel project was awarded to Victoria Shipyards Ltd. to build and maintain six (6) vessels with the possibility to build a further two (2). Federal hiring has increased our membership at the Esquimalt Dockyard through recent hiring mainly to deal with manpower requirements to maintain HMCS Victoria, a 70 metre, long-range diesel-electric patrol submarine. Twin Paxman Valenta 16 cylinder diesels drive 2 G.E.C. Alsthom 1,400-kw generators which power the main drive motor and electrical systems, as well as charge the two main 240 cell batteries. The batteries power the sub while submerged which can reach 20 knots and a depth of over 200 metres. The hull is constructed of high tensile steel and stiffened with circular internal frames and covered in anechoic tiles to reduce her detection by active SONAR. HMCS Victoria has 6 torpedo tubes and can carry up to eighteen torpedoes for use against surface and sub-surface targets. She is also fitted with RADAR for general navigation, attack and search periscopes (incorporating video recording and thermal imaging) and an Electronic Support Measures suite.

HMCS Victoria is about to undergo an Extended Docking Work period of close to two (2) years and some members were even sent over to England to be trained on her systems. This work will be very labour intensive due to the dense amount of machinery on her; (comparable to an old Chevy or Ford where you could climb inside the engine compartment to work on it unlike the cars of today where the engine and her parts are virtually jammed to within millimeters of the hood). Other proposed federal contracts are three (3) Joint support vessels to replace HMCS Provider/Protecteur, new design build Coast Guard and Ocean Sciences vessels. This federal work will translate into more work for our members directly at Dockyard and/or our private marine employers.

The Defence budget for the Fleet Maintenance Facility (FMF) will increase this year by \$10.5 million which will translate into increased manpower of 150 more trades workers and 50 more Apprentices primarily at the Esquimalt base. Commodore Roger Girouard recently sent the members of the Dockyard Trades and Labour Council a "Bravo Zulu" (job well done!) for the work on HMCS Winnipeg. He will assume command as Admiral of the Maritime Pacific this summer and we look forward to having a good working relationship with him.



Past Executive Board Member  
 W. Montgomery



Cross section cut out of the Victoria Class Submarine.  
 For better detail visit our website.

## Spring 2005

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#### News/Notes:

- May 17, 2005 is the Provincial Election **Get Out and Vote!**
- COSTCO application included in this mailing
- Check out the archives page on the website for the Local 230 journal stories of the 1930's.

# Business Managers Report



Philip M. Venoit - Business Manager/  
Financial Secretary

Over the past three (3) years of this term we have had our challenges: the restructuring of the Apprenticeship system, the changes and deletion to one-third of the Workers Compensation Regulations and a stagnate Industrial construction market to name just a few and although some days I feel like I'm trying to push a rope up a river, we have also seen some good success and progress with the Local.

We were able to grapple with the growing debt that followed the Local for the past decade and more, we have paid that debt down by over 73% of the original debt when I came in as Business Manager, I'm sure everyone realizes this goes well beyond a "balancing of the books", it took sound management of our money without making drastic cuts to our ability to represent our membership.

**Beginning this year, we have created the IBEW Local 230 Building Society** and are transferring \$2 per month per member into our Building Fund which means we are now on our way towards owning our own building. Many of you may not see the direct benefit in owning a building but, if the will of the members is to include a Training Centre in that building with the lab equipment and materials, our members

**Remember to pay  
your dues to the  
Victoria office only:  
#3-802 Esquimalt  
Road Victoria,  
BC V9A 3M4**

can continue upgrading in the Trade and we can re-establish the common craft ties that bind us as a Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

We voted on changing the Dues structure to rid us of paying dues the month after we were laid-off from our job. This was a bitter tax that many of our elder members can attest to over decades and I was happy to be the Business Manager to deal with this.

These are only three (3) important accomplishments we can be proud of.

Over the past quarter, along with the 3 new construction contractors as mentioned in the Organizing report, **the Metal Trades have also continued to meet with CME and their employees** in the Marine Sector to establish a Collective Agreement with this new company from Halifax. Until then the work has been contracted out to Raylec Power and our members have been doing the electrical work for CME. The construction unions affiliated to the Vancouver Island-Building Construction Trades Council re-elected me as the Council President and as such, **I attended an Immigration Roundtable, facilitated by the Centre of Labour and Business Studies.** Participating in this small focus group was all 3 levels of government, the chamber of commerce, several business groups, immigration advocacy groups and labour with the focus on dealing with future shortfalls in labour, due to slowing population growth, the aging population and/or the projected decline of the working age population. Governments are looking at the possibility of immigrant workers to fill the shortfalls in areas like construction and healthcare. This is just not a realistic proposal in the trade groups we represent, (mainly due to language barriers on the job and in understanding the legal diction in our National Building Codes), compounded by the fact we will be in competition with many countries around the world. Remember after the Second World War we experienced a baby boom, with the emphasis on "world" war II. As the baby boom followed most countries involved in that war, so those countries are beginning to experience the same problem, retirement of their skilled trades workers. However, after all this, our position has always been firstly to create the tax incentive (deduction), so unemployed Canadians could travel outside their geographic area to work without incurring the costs associated, i.e. transportation, meals and accommodation as often as needed through out any given year.

**A Construction Bargaining Update** - we continued to provide submissions to the BC-Labour Relations Board on how to proceed with negotiations as after the first

day at the main table we quickly reached an impasse on our Main table items as described in the last Newsletter. We are staged to sit down with our Electrical Contractors to discuss Trade Table items next and although many of the other construction trades may have some big hurdles in front of them, our contractors know and many agree we need a wage raise now. With that in mind, I have floated some ideas to the CLRA representative on how to get there sooner rather than later for the IBEW.

**I would like to touch on the Charges which have been laid** over the past year or so by a couple of relentless members. I believe it is important to voice that ALL of the charges that they have laid against me as Business Manager prior to 2005 have been dismissed by the International Vice-President. So, in summation, this has all been a complete waste of every ones time and expense other than to prove that they were wrong in their accusations and although I believe this was all intended to tarnish my reputation with our membership unfortunately they have bruised the Local and the IBEW as a whole by taking their accusations outside the IBEW.

Dave Thompson has resigned from his Local Staff position and I wish him all the best in his future. **I will be looking to hire a replacement from the up-island area** to serve the Local shortly after the Elections. If you are truly interested in helping organize our area and representing our membership please submit a resume to me before August 1, 2005.

## The Secret's out: Sun Spots/Sun/CALMS

"The vast majority of drugs-more than 90 per cent-only work for 30 to 50 per cent of the people who take them." That's the opinion of Allen Roses, worldwide vice-president of genetics at pharmaceutical giant GlaxoSmithKline, in an interview with The Independent, a leading British newspaper. Commenting on Roses' admission, the newspaper said it was "an open secret within the drug industry that most of its products are ineffective in most patients, but this is the first time that such a senior boss has gone public." Further to this: Two studies on the drug Paxil showed different results. The first trial, known as Study 329, showed that Paxil might help with depression in adolescents. The second, Study 377, revealed that a sugar pill was just as good. So the company widely publicized the first study and buried the second. Earlier this year, the state of New York filed suit against GlaxoSmithKline, accusing the firm of consumer fraud for not disclosing all its Paxil data;

# Financial Secretary's Overview

Over the past year, there has been a lot of discussion on the Local's Finances so I thought I would share with you the process by which the members' money is expended.

For example, in my Business Manager's Report I discuss Bargaining in Construction which takes place in Vancouver. To get to the Mainland I took a BC Ferry and the cost of that Ferry ride goes on the Local's Visa. That ferry trip is then registered on the Local's Visa statement (along with all the other expenses for that particular month). On the 15th of each month the expenses are then compiled for the month, double checked by the office staff and then warrants and subsequent cheques are written. These bills are then presented to the Executive Board Officers who are required to read through them again and ask any questions on the expenses if they feel necessary. The Recording Secretary checks the Bills and Warrants to confirm all the dates, amounts, and cheque numbers are consistent and if there is no issue with the Bill he signs the warrants and hands them over to the Local's President who goes through the same process to double check the Recording Secretary. The President then looks over the cheques to ensure they match the warrants and bills signs the cheques and passes them over to the Treasurer to double check the President.

This is the process by which we take care of our entire expenses whether they are for rent, the phone bill or the ferry trip cost as used in this example.

Then each financial quarter all the bills and bank reconciliations are handed over to the bookkeeper for accounting purposes; then on an annual basis we have a Certified General Accountant do our financial year-end. Although having all these hands involved seems a little cumbersome, when you consider your own personal finances, it ensures absolutely none of your dues money is used for any purpose other than what they are intended for, running the day-to-day business of the Local Union. If monies are proposed for any other purpose, it must go out to the membership to be voted on.

## 22ND ANNUAL IBEW BASKIN PIG ROAST

July 9, 2005 • 2pm BYOB

301 Petersen Road, Campbell River

Pot Luck (Bring A Salad Or Dessert)

Lots Of Games For The Kids

Directions On The Website Or Call The Hall

## Sector Report

**Appliance Repair** – CAMCO is slow right now, and the Office is currently reviewing the changes to the Income Extension Agreement, and changes to the Benefit Plan as negotiated in the last round of bargaining, this has been a little challenging as their chief negotiator had moved on shortly after our last round.

**Cablevision** – Our members at CRTV had recently discovered a secretly installed voice recording device on a workstation telephone, when our shop steward confronted management, they admitted that they had been recording both incoming and outgoing calls, this device was installed in conjunction with computer software creating a log of all calls, which could be accessed for playback, all this was done without our members knowledge. This is an obvious breach of our member's civil liberties, and rights to privacy; in response we have filed a grievance, and a complaint to the Federal Governments Privacy Commissioner.

**Construction** – Industrial – Work has been coming out in the Islands Pulp & Paper Mills, with Vicar and Surgenor Electric awarded some work in Elk Falls, FMI picking up work in Harmac, and Crofton.

**Commercial** – Canem Systems picked up the Mary Ellen Drive Project, Delta Ocean Point Resort, Victoria Airport 600 kW Genset, FMI picked up the Averil Creek Winery and the Hesquet School. Houle picked up the 595 Pandora Ave. job.

**Residential** – Canem Systems are low on the soho Condo, Houle picked up the 1st phase of

the Sidney Harbour Beacon Hotel, and we had a problem with Shaw Cable pulling in the Coaxial Cable on the Astoria project and Concert Properties stepped up to the plate, keeping their mandate in the forefront, the result is the IBEW Local 230 will be pulling in all cablevision on this project.

**Federal Government Dockyard** – see front page.

**Motor Winders** – Beaver Electric Machinery in Nanaimo is relocating to the north end of the City, meanwhile some members are driving to Campbell River to help out in that shop. Duncan Electric has recently started a new apprentice to continue with some good succession planning.

**Municipal Government** – As pictured, City of Victoria members are wrapping up a project for the Township of Esquimalt; a stretch of new condos along the old Island Highway at the Gorge Vale Golf Course required a fresh water pressure reducing station. Revamping the old Fort and Cook intersection, and the networking of signals to disperse the public away from the new Arena after each show or game have kept our guys busy at the City.

**Private Marine** – Victoria Shipyard is currently busy with the cruise ship Statendam, with work also coming up on HMCS Yellowknife & a major electrical job on HMCS Regina beginning in July.

**Provincial Health Care** – In early March the Facilities Bargaining Association met with the Health Employers of BC to discuss the attraction and retention problems of skilled trades in the



**Brother D. Mackay from the City of Victoria working on a PRV station.**

hospitals around the Province, collectively our presentation could not have been any clearer, Tradesmen were leaving hospitals en masse to go back into the busy construction market, or taking early retirement to escape the depressing environment in the hospitals, we have finally heard back from HEABC they are not willing to do anything at this time to correct this problem.

**Railway** – The island corridor foundation has reached a deal with the CP Rail, acquiring its portion of the E&N Railway. The foundation made up of a consortium of municipal and regional governments is moving full steam ahead to acquire the remaining 289 km's of track owned by Rail America. Rail America has announced it will be disposing of its share of the E&N Railway during the first half of 2005.

**Wholesale** – The Westburne locations in Nanaimo and Port Alberni have recently received their revised collective agreements. Remember, to continue to support these locations and your Brothers at work.

# Dispatcher/Training Coordinator Report

Our Training institution, the Western Joint Electrical Training Society (WJETS) have applied to the Federal Government (HRSDC) for training infrastructure monies to purchase; 2 Fire Alarm Systems, 2 Solar Heating Systems, 2 Rooftop Wind Power Plants and 2 Network Cable Systems and we are awaiting their reply to be able to offer these new courses to the membership this fall. The Golden Pliers annual Award goes to the apprentice with the highest overall school marks along with some other criteria and I am proud to announce the two (2) apprentices with the highest marks both come from Local 230. I will be contacting them shortly to congratulate them once it has officially been declared at the Western JETS Annual General Meeting.

Over the past 3 months, we have dispatched more Local 230 members out to work in the Tar Sands of Alberta. Recently, the employers in the Oil and Gas Sector have been demanding pre-employment Drug and Alcohol screening. Now, it's not my job to judge our members, but it is my job to put you to work, so I'll be quite blunt on this topic. Do not accept a call to Local 424 if you can't pass the piss test; you will not only be taking a job away from another member but possibly hindering the Local from receiving further calls. I understand the Federal Supreme Court Case law on this subject matter but it will not help us to get the work by fighting this on our civil liberty soapbox, on the grounds of protecting our

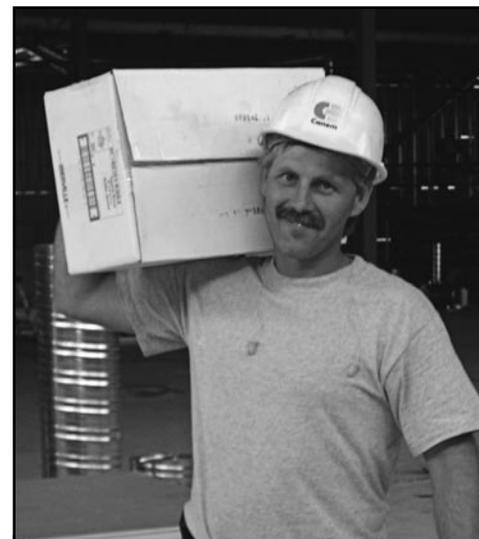
privacy; we will simply not get the work awarded to us and we will watch the unorganized and the CLACER's eat our lunch.

Prior to taking a Call for Local 424 in Alberta you must meet the following criteria:

- 1) You must have your Inter-provincial (Red Seal) Certificate.
- 2) You must take the CSTS (Safety Training) done in Alberta, (cost to the Member \$25.00)
- 3) You must pass the D&A Test which the Employer arranges and pays for.
- 4) Your Union Dues must be paid up in full, with your dues receipt in hand.

If you can't locate your Inter-provincial certificates and need a replacement call the Industry Training Authority at (604) 660-7105 to arrange for replacement certificates, we cannot do this for you. We have also recently started to photocopy members certificates upon completion of their apprenticeship to be placed in the members file, if you get the chance please make a photocopy and fax or mail your certificates in so we have this on file in the event you misplace it. As of the time of writing we have just hit the 100 J/M on the Out of Work List, and the market in all aspects of our Industry show no signs of slowing down for the balance of the year.

Remember, if you are interested in traveling outside the Local 230 geographic jurisdiction (off Vancouver Island) let the Dispatcher know



Brother K. Thomas onsite at Courtenay Driftwood Mall

so we can designate you with a "T" as at some point in the near future, we will be streamlining the dispatch to only call those who have shown interest in Traveling to work outside the Local. I am also interested in seeing how many members would be willing to work at the reduced Residential rate please call in and let us know, if we are going to look seriously at getting into this market I have to know how many of our members are willing to work under the conditions we have all set, in our Collective Agreement.

## IBEW Organizing DVD

Last summer we participated in an ambitious Canada-wide Organizing DVD project. This project brought out Andrew Kohl, IBEW 636 member, to shoot video of our members on Vancouver Island performing construction and marine work. Andrew and I visited several jobsites and employers offices and interviewed retired member Don Bentley and President Mike Vandervoort. The video emphasizes the superior wages, benefits, safety, retirement savings and training our Brotherhood realizes with membership over the non-union worker.

The purpose is two-fold; to emphasize the pride we should all feel when we ply our craft and to attract the skilled non-union workers to our Brotherhood as directed by the objects in our Constitution to, "organize all workers in the entire electrical industry".

The DVD will play in your personal computer as well as your DVD player. Local 230 was one of the first local unions to be filmed and we



Producer Andrew Kohl shoots IBEW member Tolentino Brual while working at the bench.

didn't really know what to expect. In viewing the finished product however, I must admit I am very impressed at the message and after you watch it, I believe you will agree with me, we really are the best representative of electrical workers anywhere. The video will be available over the next few months and will be mailed out to every member in the next Newsletter.

Further on the Organizing front we have recently signed 3 new construction electrical contractors; Shaw Electrical Services from Nanaimo, Langford Electric and GETSCO Technical Services, both from Alberta.