

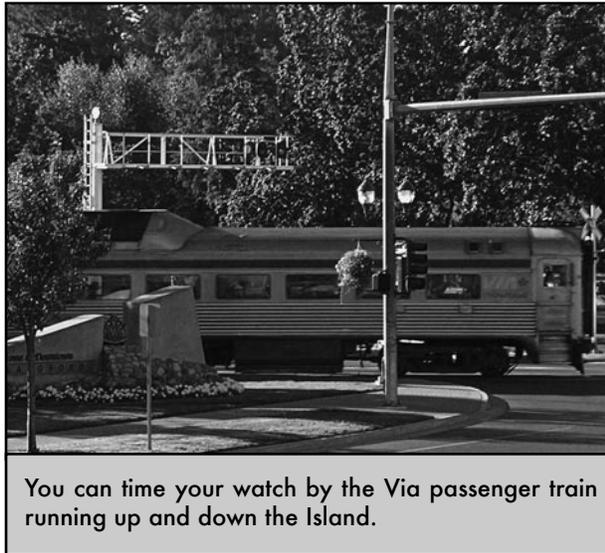


INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

www.ibew230.org

Railway Receives Possible Resurrection

In 1873 Prime Minister John A. McDonald promised British Columbia that a railway would be built on Vancouver Island. Although the legislation passed the House of Commons it would not pass the Senate until 1884, when it was decided that Robert Dunsmuir, owner of the coal mines in Nanaimo, was awarded the rights to construct the railway. Work began immediately and the first section of the Railway between Esquimalt and Nanaimo was completed on August 13, 1886.



You can time your watch by the Via passenger train running up and down the Island.

The Railway was an important element in the development of the Island. It provided access to the Island's forest and mineral resources, increasing employment and population contributing to the expansion of towns and beginnings of whole new settlements.

In 1905 the CPR bought the E&N Railway and proceeded to attract American investment in the forest industry on the Island. The CPR expanded the Railway into Port Alberni in 1911, and then up to Courtenay in 1914, with further plans to develop up to Campbell River, however World War One put an end to those plans.

In 1979 Via Rail took over the passenger service and in 1998 the CPR sold off the Nanaimo-Port Alberni subdivision and leased the balance of the track to Rail America. With the sale came the transition from a federally regulated railway to a provincially regulated railway and what is considered a "short line".

While the railway was federal, the Signal and Communications workers were members of the IBEW System Council 11, a federally chartered union, that had no jurisdiction within the realm of Provincial Labour Relations, and local 230 was contacted as a possible "interested party" to the ensuing consolidation case. After 5 days of hearings the BC Board allowed the affected unions' time to explore the possibility to create a council which would inherit the bargaining rights for the workers at the E&N. The Vancouver Island Council of Railway Unions was developed and negotiated a great first time collective agreement with Rail America, and as the ink was drying on that Agreement Norske decided to begin moving their product to and from their Pulp and Paper mills around the Island by truck, the E&N losing their largest customer.

We then sat thru the VIRDI process, to test the future financial viability of continuing on with Railway service on Vancouver Island, and from that process created the Island Corridor Foundation (ICF). The ICF have recently concluded a 1 year contract with Southern Railway (a subsidiary of the Washington Marine Group) to practically put the future of the E&N to that test. After this initial first year "test", Southern has verbally committed to continuing on for a further 20 years. Possibly putting the end to what has been a very rocky past 7 years for our members working at the historic E&N Railway.

Summer 2006

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News/Notes:

- Please be advised in future we will be mailing out dues receipts with the quarterly newsletter, this will save the Local over \$3000 each year.

Business Managers Report



Philip M. Venoit
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

The biggest news over the last quarter is that *the Union construction sector in the Province finally wrapped up negotiations with all 14 Building Trades Unions*, the last 4 unions accepting arbitrated settlements. It was August 2005 the IBEW settled for an increase of \$8.00 over a five year period, we used the enabling portion of the Collective Agreement to make the changes immediate which allowed our members to receive the increases right away, this works out to over \$4,000 in

increased wages and benefits over the past year for a Journeyman, in light of this I know it was the appropriate action to take. The Settlement is a good one and works out to over 30% increase over 5 years. After many years of minimal increases, as Chief negotiator for the Local, I was proud to bring this Agreement back to the members. This Agreement was passed by the IBEW membership by 70%. *Hopefully, developers, general contractors and other customers of our labour will see the opportunity for harmony and the Building Trades as the only hope to get our construction venues and spin-off infrastructure ready for the 2010 Olympics.*

As required by the Constitution, I attended this year's Progress Meeting held in Saint John, New Brunswick where we heard from President Ed Hill who spoke to us on "keeping our eye on the ball", understanding that a lot of what we do is very nice, but *what matters most to our construction members is maintaining and even increasing our market share so they have good paying union jobs to go to.* In

many areas of North America IBEW locals are still not organizing their areas, and are withering on the vine because they put all their efforts into one sector or another, very few locals like Local 230 diversified their membership and jurisdiction giving us more strength, and opportunities for our membership. Locals like ours are fighting to get back their market share, and the way we won it historically was to withhold our labour from contractors not willing to honour our Collective Agreement. *Considering the amount of work we have coming over the next 3 to 4 years and our commitment to IBEW Island electrical contractors, we are shutting down the Salting Program. The only exception to this is with the explicit permission of the Business Manager, with the full effort and intent to bring that non-union contractor to the IBEW in a timely manner. Those members currently working for non-union contractors are required to call the Union Hall as soon as practical to discuss their current employment situation with the Business Manager directly.*

Tournament of Hope

This years Tournament of Hope had two IBEW Local 230 teams, with "Dockyards Finest" placing 4th, and the Emery Team placing somewhere behind that, with a total of 24 teams from the rest of the labour movement, the weekend was a very busy one for all involved. The Michael Dunahee, Tournament of Hope is a charitable event with the proceeds going to the Victoria Child Find. It's hard to believe it has been 15 years has gone by since Michael was abducted from a ball field not far from where the Tournament is held. "We have been trying to keep alive the hope that the Dunahee family and other families hold on to for their missing children. Our kid's safety and security depend on the awareness of the entire community." says Secretary-Treasurer Colin Graham of the Victoria Labour Council.



Brothers M. Baxter, B. Mason, & N. Brown watch their team mates go to bat for Victoria Child Find.

A Labour Day Note

Labour Day is celebrated on the first Monday of September. It is a statutory holiday throughout Canada and the U.S... The Canadian labour movement can justly claim the origins of this Holiday. In April of 1872 the Toronto Trades Assembly (possibly the first labour body in Canada) organized the first North American "workingman's demonstration", calling for an abolition of the law which decreed that "trade unions were criminal conspiracies in restraint of trade." Early in September that same year members of seven trade unions organized a parade that stretched for more than a mile long ending at the home of Prime Minister Sir John A Macdonald. The Prime Minister was aware of the discontent of workers with the laws which made unions illegal and declared that his party would "sweep away all barbarous laws". These laws were repealed by years end.

Ten years later the general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters suggested a day to honour workers. On June 28, 1894 the United States Congress passed an act making the first Monday of September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories for all federal workers in all states. On July 23, 1894, less than a month later the Canadian Government enacted similar legislation making Labour Day a national holiday.



Local 230 President Neil Banman presents sister Pam Bosman from United Way a donation from the Promotional Fund. After 7 years of service we wish Sister Bosman the best where-ever life takes her.

Sector Report

Appliance Repair – Our members at MABE have seen an increase in sales over the previous year, so remember if you're looking at purchasing a new appliance please drop and see the guys on Burnside Road.

Cablevision – We received a positive interim decision on our privacy complaint to the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, and are awaiting their final decision.

Construction: Commercial – Aines & Tyler picked up renovations to the Port Alberni Arena; Canem Systems picked up the London Drugs in Rutherford Park Mall and the James Bay Thrifty Foods; Emery has picked up the Royal Oak School, Deep Cove Lift Station, and Friendship Baptist Church; Houle has picked up the Beckley Farm Lodge, the Monterey Middle School, Fire Alarm upgrade at the N.I.C. Courtenay, a new Steels Industrial Products, and a Co-op Gas & convenience store in Parksville; Raylec Power picked up a Victoria Airport job, and the Brentwood Bay revitalization.

Industrial – Vicar has picked up another paper flaw detector on the #5 paper machine in Elk Falls and security cameras to comply with the new Port Security Code, while the John Hart Dam is moving very slowly.

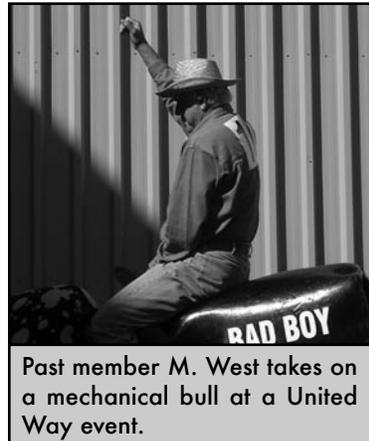
Residential – Concert Properties has been named Silver Finalist in the 2006 CARE (Construction Achievements and Renovations of Excellence) Awards of Vancouver Island. Concert received the first 3 CARE nominations for Astoria, the

20 storey condominium tower designed to appeal to young professionals seeking a downtown Victoria address. The company was also nominated for the Best Customer Service award. Astoria is Concert's first residential development in Victoria which includes 164 suites and ground level retail along Humboldt Street. Astoria sold out within 6 weeks. Concerts next project the Chelsea is a 6 storey, 66 suite mid-rise condo, and is expected to begin construction late in September. Mazzei Electric has picked up a low-rise townhouse complex in Nanaimo and has recently opened up a new Office in Uclulet; and Aines & Tyler has also picked a low-rise complex in Port Alberni.

Dockyard – We received a briefing on the new Federal Public Service Staff Tribunal and the changes that will come with internal postings of employment affecting our members at the Department of National Defence.

Motor Winders – All shops have all been given their new Collective Agreements.

Municipal Government – We've been served notice to begin bargaining as our Collective Agreement at the city of Victoria opens at the end of the year, I would ask our members



Past member M. West takes on a mechanical bull at a United Way event.

working there to begin thinking about proposals.

Private Marine – Victoria Shipyard topped out the summer with over 100 members and travelers with the HMCS Calgary, the Oosterdam and Infinity all leaving at the end of September, with the first Orca undergoing dockside trials, the second currently being wired, and the 3rd hull being laid. We have started negotiations with Nanaimo Shipyard.

Provincial HealthCare – We were able to achieve the standard (construction) agreement on behalf of our capital construction crew working at the Hospitals in the south island area, along with the standard wage increases we were able to bring them up to the same RRSP contribution rate by year 2009, and we were able to secure them the signing bonus all other Provincial employees received earlier this Spring, I would like to thank our members working both maintenance and construction for their patience and trust throughout this latest difficult negotiation process.

Railway – (see front page)

Wholesale – We've settled negotiations with the Westburne Wholesale in Nanaimo & Port Alberni, our members' ratified increases of 3%, 3.25%, & 3.25% over a three year agreement.

Dispatch and Training

It continued to be a busy summer with dispatching, many times nearing the bottom of the list to fill calls, and in some cases we had to go to our sister locals for help, and I would like to thank the Brothers and Sister traveling onto the Island to help finish those projects. Near the end of summer Nanaimo has picked up with many projects coming out of the ground mid-island. The training traditionally slowed over summer so everyone could get on with their vacations with the kids and the rest could simply enjoy a few BB-cues and beers. We have some code courses coming this fall and winter, along with Field Productivity Courses developed by Dr Hanna from the Construction Engineering Division, University of Wisconsin.

Attention Retirees:

Local 230 has been contacted by Sister Ruth (Churchill) Ralston who joined the Local and began working at Yarrows Shipyard shortly after Pearl Harbor. Ruth is writing a document related to these times for the BC Historical Society. Anyone who would like to contribute to this historical document, please contact the Local 230 Business Office.

The IBEW X-mas Dinner/Dance Tickets Are Now Available!

IBEW X-mas Dinner/Dance Saturday December 2, 2006 at the Strawberry Vale Hall, 52 High Street Victoria, for ticket information please contact your Shop Steward or the IBEW Business Office.



Brother Bill Vincent, this years poster child for this event.



Houle Electric Service Manager & Chairman of the Western JETS Lew Williams presents Robert VanSchaik with the C.E. Williams Trophy as the Top Apprentice in B.C.

The Local has the 2006 Canadian Electrical Code books and Pocket Reference are available and at the rock bottom price of \$97.50. We will also have some available at the Unit Meetings.

IBEWHourPower.com

IBEW provides up to date information for members, employers, and the customers of our labour. Over the years IBEW leaders have been talking about different methods of marketing the skills and ability of our membership, the best way to achieve this is by highlighting the day-to-day work our membership performs.

Let's face it, our labour is our commodity, and it has been up to us to sell the IBEW difference. Hour Power is our answer to the marketing shortfall. This new website is the future of media and it's only fitting to see the IBEW again honing the leading edge in what will soon be a common medium.

