



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Vancouver Island

Quarterly Newsletter

Since 1902

Asbestos Awareness Campaign

Asbestos is a naturally mined product that was extracted for industrial and building construction use in Canada for decades. In the early 80's the health impacts of asbestos products became better understood, that one of the benefits of asbestos as a binding agent in products like wall plaster (spread over thin boards known as lathe), was the barbed-hook. That when asbestos dust was inhaled or ingested into the body the hook would set into the throat, stomach and often the lung. It takes just one fibre to set its hook into the body and over time causes plural plaques or a hardening of the tissues surrounding the hooked asbestos dust. If that is a lung, the lung begins to have difficulty in expanding and contracting to draw air in, and the victim begins having difficulty in breathing. Asbestos over a gestation period typically of 20-30 years causes cancer.

Many of our older members have asbestosis and have suffered the effects of working with asbestos. Many like Brother Don Bentley who passed away last year from mesothelioma (the disease caused from inhaling asbestos) who had 3 brothers a Sheet Metal worker, a Pipe-fitter and an Office worker, the office worker is the only brother still alive, the rest died from exposure to asbestos. This is the tragic story of so many of our Brothers working in construction and shipyards. A story we need to begin to re-write. Although, the last Asbestos mine in Canada was shut down in 2012, and we have stopped exporting asbestos, there has been no passage of any law prohibiting the importation of asbestos, and many products like brake pads, industrial piping and even some crayons are still being imported.



Late this summer we developed our Asbestos Awareness Campaign which sits on four basic pillars;

A National Building and Vessel Registry available to all construction and shipyard workers and employers, *Education through a better standard of credentialing* with a new worker classification known as "HazMat Worker" so we have better assurances when we get to our work the product has been safely removed from the area, *an Awareness Program* so the general public and new youth tradesmen and women will better understand the health effects and dangers of working around asbestos products, and finally to join over 50 other countries in *a complete ban on importing asbestos* in any form into Canada. We wrote every Member of Parliament, every provincial Premier, every Member of the BC Legislative Assembly and every BC Mayor and Council, seeking our four pillars to be recognized and acted upon. We have had some municipal success and are working with a number of councillors on resolutions to be moved and debated upon at next year's Union of BC Municipalities Conference. We have met with several BC MLA's who will be advocating our plan for changes in British Columbia and we are in a slight holding pattern until the dust has settled on the federal election. What we have proposed to our Nation's politicians makes practical sense and will result in saving Canadians, construction and shipyard workers, and our members lives. To read the full letter sent to the Prime Minister and learn more about the campaign check out our Local 230 website.

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News & Notes

X-Mas Office Closure

The Local 230 Office will be closed from noon December 24th and re-open January 4th.

Upcoming Union Training

Code of Excellence

Victoria – February 26th

Construction Organizing

Victoria – February 27th

Two half-day classes

Call Jen or Nicole in the Office to sign up for these Union classes



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Business Manager's Report



Business Manager Phil Venoit presented Long Service 50 year Pins to (left to right); Gary Graham, Doug Jordan, Larry Reid, Burt Rumsby, John Borman, with the exception of Brother Larry Reid who received his 60 year pin.

I would like to welcome new signatory contractor specializing in the Security Industry, Kobalt Systems, and I look forward to working with this new contractor with his plan to grow into a small Island business.

Long-overdue, our second website (the first was our Organizing website) in the past year and half is up and running and I urge you to take a good look through it. Same as the original website, it is jam packed full of important information, along with our Twitter feed and Facebook. Go to: www.IBEW230.org

We also filmed our most recent Labour Day TV Commercial, and finalized our New Member Orientation Handout. If you're fairly new to the Union and want to learn a little more of the basic information about belonging to the IBEW and Local 230, as well as your rights and responsibilities, please sign up for the next available course through Nicole or Ariel in the Local 230 office.

Business Representative Shane Scott and I hosted our Annual Retirees Luncheons, presenting our older members their Long Service Award Pins. The pins presented were for members beginning with 50 years of service and more. It's great to pause for a moment throughout the year to sit with our elder Brothers and listen to the stories and the projects of decades past.

We had the honour to attend the

the worst recession in our history, the most vigorous anti-union attacks through the George Bush years, he took the helm of our Union made some tough unpopular decisions and moved us forward



Business Representative Scott presents Brother Merv Baskin his Long Service Pin

with them, the actions of a true leader that after almost 60 years devoting himself to our cause that requires tremendous personal sacrifice, we the IBEW owe President Hill and his family unlimited gratitude.

There were no big surprises that October 19th resulted in a Federal Liberal majority under the leadership of Justin Trudeau. The Conservative attack ads failed in upsetting

International President Ed Hill's retirement; In traditional Ed Hill style he came to work late in May and announced to the International Executive Board he would be retiring on June 1st. President Hill oversaw some of the most difficult years that we have faced in the Labour movement, likely

Canadians desire to change the course we had been led under the leadership of Stephen Harper. While most of the Country fought a turf war between team red and blue, the Island voters turned out in droves to vote orange, with one exception with the green team sweeping Oak Bay to Pender Island. For construction and shipyard electrical workers we have likely the best scenario, as the Trudeau Liberals have agreed to repeal Bills C-377 and 525. These were the two hot buttons that Harper's Tea Party North planned on using to diminish and destroy Canadian unions influence, and power. They have promoted an infrastructure program that will put many construction workers back to work, while using the current low dollar to help manufactures rebuild the rust belt throughout Ontario. They back the LNG projects in BC, big Oil in Alberta, and resource extraction in Saskatchewan. In other words this Government has promised to lift the economy through direct job creation that is intended to put US to work,

at the same time respecting our collective interests, agreements, and honouring our social standing upon the Canadian Landscape.

Although, west of Lake Superior the Federal Liberals made little breakthrough, but it was central Canadian Building Trades openly backing a Trudeau Liberal government. The Libs won with the help from the IBEW and they know it. Our job out west is to let the NDP know they need to refocus on infrastructure job creation, and help set the social barometer at the same time. It is a little difficult to dance between the raindrops of the economy and the environment but it is their dance.

Again, this is a real win for working class Canadians and we can finally say good riddance to a tyrant who was backed by big business who hates us for wanting just a little bit more.

Our work is just beginning with this new Government.

From my Family to yours, have a safe and happy Holiday!

Nanaimo's New Water Treatment Plant

In 2008 the Vancouver Island Health Authority approved a new treatment standard for surface water supply systems. This treatment standard is a requirement throughout the Province. On Vancouver Island, all surface water systems serving over 500 people have had their operating permits modified to meet this treatment standard. The purpose of the policy is to add additional barriers in the multi-barrier approach to safe drinking water.

The City of Nanaimo's water supply was protected from bacteria by a single treatment process of chlorination. The majority of waterborne illness outbreaks in jurisdictions throughout North America are associated with surface water supplies with a similar treatment process as Nanaimo.

Adding a filtration plant will significantly reduce the associated risks of a potential waterborne illness for the City's population and bring the City's treatment processes up to Canadian Drinking Water quality standards. Houle Electric was awarded the electrical package on the \$45 million south forks project, with a capacity of 116 million litres per day gravity fed from the Nanaimo River, and contemplates Nanaimo's growth and will



The Nanaimo Houle Electric Crew in front of the Water Treatment Plant.

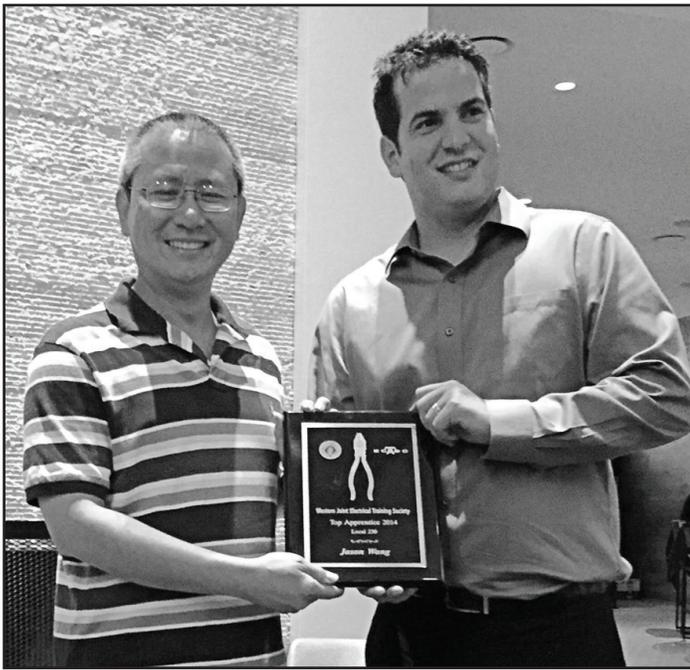
serve a population of 125,000 people, (which is expected to happen around 2035).

The Hotel Janion

In the late 1800's the Island's transportation difficulties were much greater than the Colwood crawl, Pat Bay purgatory, and the McKenzie malaise combined. The Malahat had not been blasted through and the Sooke to Shawnigan road was a long trek through the wilderness. Water travel was efficient but expensive, so the most reliable and inexpensive was the E&N railway. In 1891 the train made its way slowly across the Johnston Street Bridge where the E&N put up its small stationhouse. The same year local builder John Turner decided it made perfect sense to build a hotel at the doorstep of the railway so up-Island business interests had a first-class hotel to stay at while visiting Victoria. Taking the name of recently deceased Richard Janion, a Hawaiian importer who had settled in Victoria, and his warehouse stood at the foot of the Janion Hotel. The hotel would boast 50 rooms with better than usual amenities than found in hotels back then. Within a few short years the hotel was bought out by the E&N to be renovated and used as their office building, until 1948 when it was used as a warehouse for a while, and it's sat dormant since 1973. Today, The Janion is being rebuilt into a micro-condominium building with around 100 units. Developer Reliance Properties received a permit to build an additional six stories out the back end looking over the mouth of the Gorge waterway. The street frontage will include some retail and office space. Canem Systems is the electrical contractor on this project set to re-open for the second time, re-built and re-born 125 years later.



2014 Golden Pliers Award



The BC Government has extended the Training Tax Credit program for another three years until the end of 2017, providing refundable income tax credits for apprentices. This is great news for apprentices working towards receiving their Red Seal, and can amount up to \$6,500 throughout your apprenticeship. And in that respect with little fanfare our Red Seal designation has been approved to use as a recognized designation like “Dr.” please feel free to use the “Red Seal Endorsed” or “RSE” after your name on any official or formal correspondence.

Congratulations are due to both Brothers Jason Wang and Adrien Livingston. Jason is this year’s Golden Pliers Award Winner; Jason achieved the astonishing averaged mark of 97% over the four years of his apprenticeship and his I.P., while Adrien has been hired as the Western JETS new Executive Training Director.

Western JETS Policy Change

The Western Joint Electrical Training Society Board of Directors has changed the current “No Show Policy” to reflect that; in the event a member signs up for or, agrees to receive training by Western JETS and fails to provide an adequate reason within one week’s notice prior to the first day of the course they signed up for and failed to show up will be required to provide a deposit of 50% of any further course costs over the following two year period upon the end date of the course the member failed to show.

The deposit will be refunded only upon successful completion of subsequent course(s).

Members can provide reasons in writing why they missed the course, the Executive Director and the Board of Directors will consider reasonable legitimate excuses for non-attendance.

Baskin/IBEW Pig Roast

The only day to really rain since April was the day of the Baskin/IBEW Pig Roast in Campbell River, we still had a good showing with many members braving the weather with hats, coats and even umbrellas! By the end of the evening everyone, had good food, good music, and good company, regardless of the rain. We also raised over \$800 to go towards the Campbell River Food Bank in 50/50 draws and a long-standing favorite, chicken chit Bingo.

A big thank you to Bob, Betty, Murray, Todd and the entire Baskin family for hosting this fun-filled family event, that gives us all a chance to catch up with brothers & sisters both old and new!



Todd Baskin at the CR Food Bank



We now carry your Apprentice Text Books!

Level 2: \$85

Level 3: \$100

Level 4: \$100

*includes tax