



HOTLINE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
PUBLICATION OF
LOCAL 258 IBEW
FALL, 2010

LOCAL 258, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, BRITISH COLUMBIA



SAFETY FIRST

IBEW members display skills at 2010 Safety Rodeo

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 ANNUAL GOLF TOURNEY RAISES FUNDS FOR MS SOCIETY OF CANADA

 EITI GROWING GLOBALLY AND LOCALLY

 WORKING IN THE SKY: BARE HAND SPACER REPLACEMENT

 UNION LOSES FORMER UNIT 6 CHAIR BARRY BELL



HOTLINE Fall 2010

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THE UNION OF HEARTS AND MINDS

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Local 258 IBEW Administrative & Office Staff: Janice Krieger, Lesli McBratney, Geri Watson, Becky MacDonald

Local 258 IBEW Legal Counsel: Rebecca Murdock



Cover photo: Congratulations to the winners at the 2010 Safety Rodeo, shown here at Local 258's Awards Banquet & Dinner that followed the event.

VIEWPOINT from your Business Manager Doug McKay

We are very fortunate to be able to look back at our union and its decision in the early 1990s to step up to the plate and have the foresight to meet the future needs of our members after the crown corporation abandoned many apprenticeships in our utility system. In addition to ensuring that our members received the quality training they needed to complete their trades, the Electrical Industry Training Institute (solely owned by Local 258) has been a financially successful venture for the past 13 years and its future appears even brighter.

Besides being the leader in training workers in BC's electrical utility industry, recent global expansion has seen new satellite offices opened in the United States and Malaysia. Our school has been elevated to being a leader in its field on an international stage and we need to have the foresight that those who came before us had in meeting our industry's future demands for skilled workers. Our training facilities here in BC (currently located in Surrey and rented from BC Hydro), although ideal in many aspects, may be somewhat limited as we plan for the future. If we are to continue to be the leader in providing top-notch training for workers in the electrical utility industry, we need to be able to have the facilities we need to best deliver our programs and build on this investment.

One thing we know for certain in our electrical industry world – safety, education and training is vital. And safety IS our primary focus. You may think I'm always talking about safety – and you're right – I am. But what is going on in our workplaces when we're still having serious incidents and, sadly, yet another fatality in our industry?

Are there too many rules? Some seem to think so, but most of the rules we have in our industry are written in blood because somewhere there was an accident that caused us to make these rules.

There's no company that will give you rewards for breaking rules but you will be reprimanded if an incident happens and rules are broken. We keep asking the question – why are the rules, that are intended to keep us safe in hazardous working conditions, not being followed?

The simplest rule I try to pass on is the cliché – it's not dead



unless it's grounded.

If we follow that one rule alone there's a very good chance bad incidents won't happen. You can't assume a conductor you're working on is dead unless you've done a physical check.

Unfortunately, in the last few years we've had to go to too many funerals, homes and hospitals for members who've been injured or killed on the job. The IBEW stands for many things, but one of the reasons it was created in the first place was because too many of us were dying on the job.

Over 100 years ago, our founder, a lineman named Henry Miller, organized workers into an association whose main focus was to bring safety to the job so we would all come home safely at the end of the day. Although he died when he fell from a structure after an electrical contact – IBEW's commitment to safety has never diminished.

As this Local's Business Manager I know I'm fortunate to represent a group of top professional people. We are the best in the world at what we do, but there's only one person who has full control of working safe and that's the person who looks back at you in the morning in that glass over the sink.

We need to remember every day that we are each other's keepers. Take care of yourself and your partners and let's keep this issue front and center to make sure we're working safe every day. ⚡

**SAFETY ON THE JOB—
EVERY DAY —
IT'S OUR #1 PRIORITY**

LOCAL 258

IBEW





Dear Brothers & Sisters;

After a period of 4 months AV, July 1st, 2010, marked my first official day as a BC Hydro retiree. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the good work done on behalf of all 258 members by the elected executive and members of the business office.

I started working for BC Hydro in 1974 and shortly after became a member of LU 258. For a period of 36 years I have always felt doubly fortunate; not only was I employed by a Crown Corporation that provides a valuable commodity to the citizens of BC, but the union representing me did such a fine job of obtaining the wages, conditions and benefits required by a worker and his/her family.

To all elected executives and business office members past and present who obtained and maintained these important conditions of employment – my hat (IBEW of course), is off to you. Thank you for a job well done.

PS. I received my hat, shirt and jacket, retiree and 35 year pins at the February meeting in Trail – I wear them with pride!

Sincerely

Brother Lindsay Partridge

Dear IBEW Local 258,

Thank you for the retirement gifts. I have always enjoyed working with the brothers and sisters for the last 41 years with BC Hydro.

The quotation (from Aristotle) on my retirement plaque says it all: "The end of labour is to gain leisure."

Sincerely

Bryan Knowles

Dear IBEW,

Thank you for supporting the Abbotsford Outlaws '97 B Fastball team. We had a successful season placing 3rd in BC, playing teams a year older than us.

Thank you for your support

Livia Kilian, #7

Dear IBEW members,

Thank you for the "get well wishes" and gifts sent while recuperating from 14kv contact, September 13, 2008. At a time when spirits can be very low, these gifts and thoughts really made a difference. The help and encouragement given to my family as they visited me in the Foothills Hospital was really appreciated. Knowing more people than IBEW members read The Hotline, I thank the BC Hydro members as well. I was amazed and am truly grateful.

Sincerely

Stan Perry

Dear Brothers & Sisters of Local 258 IBEW,

Thank you for your support and thoughtful words in my time of grief. Jon is now with his Lord and saviour and is no longer in pain.

In Christ

Mely Kempf

Dear IBEW Local 258,

On behalf of the Canadian Military Education Museum, I would like to thank you and your group IBEW Local 258 for the \$200 donation.

We are a non-profit group of dedicated collectors who have a world-class museum in Chilliwack and through your kind donations we now can exhibit larger collections of Canadian military history.

In the future, please give us a call (weather permitting) as we would love to have your group come out for a ride on the tank or half-track. Let us know and we will go out of our way to repay the generous and kindness you have displayed to our group.

Our sincerest thanks,

George Clark

Canadian Military Education Museum



To Doug McKay & Michelle Laurie,

Thank you for the retirement gifts.

On my last day of work in Nanaimo, on June 30 (before retirement), Tom Greenwell presented me with a jacket, a plaque and 2 pins on behalf of the IBEW. I would like to thank the union for these gifts especially considering my short time in the IBEW, having moved over in 2005 with the BC Hydro CPC merger. This was unexpected for me and again I thank you.

Steve Gaskin



Hello Folks,
 Three IBEW members enjoying the sunshine in Yuma, Arizona in March of this year. All three represent over 100 years of IBEW service. My years are 45 and I am sure Al Polok would have the same.
 Thank you
 Wayne Chambers

Dear IBEW Local 258,
 On behalf of the BC Hydro Power Pioneers Golf Club (Vancouver) members, I would like to thank you most sincerely for your generosity for all the extras this year. The \$500, jacket, t-shirts and golf towels will be gratefully used at our annual golf wind-up tournament dinner in September.
 We are all retired and our club is self-supporting so we really appreciate receiving your donation and the support you have given us over the past many years. Again, thank you.
 Sincerely,
 Irene Bedard, President

Dear IBEW Local 258,
 On behalf of Joey Whitford and the Chad Linsdell Memorial Golf Tournament, I would like to thank the Business Manager and Executive Board for their support and donation of \$200.
 Thanks
 Brother Ed Mullin

To the Executive Board, Staff and Members of IBEW Local 258,
 Thank you very much for the lovely plant arrangement. It was very nice to be remembered.
 Sincerely
 Phil Bartlett

STRIKES & LOCKOUTS

Please respect the union's picket line and **do not patronize** these businesses until the dispute is settled.

United Mineworkers of America VS. Teck Coal Corporation

Major Issues: Benefits, Wages
 Commenced: August 6, 2010

Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), Local 873 VS. BC Ambulance Service

Major Issues: Wages, Benefits, Concessions
 Commenced: April 1, 2009

United Food & Commercial Workers Union (UFCW), Local 1518 VS. Extra Foods Maple Ridge

Major Issues: Wages, Job Security
 Commenced: December 15, 2008

Construction & Specialized Workers Union, Local 1611 VS. Wescon Enterprises (Trivern), Armstrong

From the Internet...



Labourers hold their colleague to install underground electric cables on a roadside at Noida in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh August 27, 2010.



Apprentices laying the groundwork for the 2010 Safety Rodeo



2010 Safety Rodeo



LOCAL 258
IBEW



BC hydro



Safety Rodeo



Displaying their workplace skills and abilities, many IBEW members who work at BC Hydro and with our Line Contractors took the opportunity to participate in the 2010 Safety Rodeo on Saturday, September 11, 2010.

The family oriented event took place at BC Hydro's Surrey facilities where the union's training facility, EITI, is located and more than 3600 were in attendance including the competitors and exhibitors, families and friends. Hundreds watched as IBEW members competed in both team and individual events as both apprentices and journeymen demonstrated the skills required to do their jobs, including a 230 kV barehand demonstration and an emergency response team rappelling demonstration. The fun-filled egg climb concluded the day's events.

Competitive events also tested the skills of drivers, electricians, first aid and forklift workers.

A union sponsored Awards Banquet took place afterwards with participants, volunteers and family members gathering at the Sheraton Guildford Hotel in Surrey where awards were presented and everyone enjoyed a delicious dinner buffet done up by the union hotel workers (CAW). A 50/50 draw took place with proceeds going to the MS Society of Canada.

The winners of the Overall PLT and Overall Apprentice PLT will travel to Kansas City in October to compete in the Annual International Linemen Rodeo.

Many thanks to all who helped organize this event, including the volunteers from the Power Pioneers and their families.

Competitor results:

Overall PLT Crew

First place: Brock Maclean, TJ Fisher and Gene Beaton

Second place: Dan Clinaz, Tyler Thompson and Paul Lu

Overall Apprentice PLT Crew

First place: Robin Poirier

Second place: Chris Smith

Driving:

Class 5: Shawn Curtis

Class 3 Pre- Trip: Al Steidle

Forklift: Alfredo Fabros

First Aid: Shannon Shackerley-Bennett, Randy Laidlaw, Alice Cheung

Electricians: Donney Mathiesen, Ian Anderson



Local 258 members benefit from union-owned training facility

EITI welcomes Troy Hudson to manage Certified Utility Arborist apprenticeship training

Local 258's training facility, the Electrical Industry Training Institute, has been on a roll – not only with global expansion in the United States and Southeast Asia, but locally they have added Certified Utility Arborist Troy Hudson to their staff.



Local 258 member and Certified Utility Arborist Troy Hudson is now in charge of CUA training at EITI.

Troy came to EITI about 9 months ago after having worked in the utility arborist industry since the early 90's. "I was a member of the Boilermaker's Union prior to taking a position with Davey Tree and it all started from there," he said during a recent interview with The Hotline.

Brother Hudson holds his Certificate as a Utility Arborist and has worked all over BC including Vancouver Island. He comes



EITI representatives travel to industry trade shows across North America on a regular basis. Shown above at the 2010 IBEW All Canada Progress meeting in Saskatoon, from left, Ed Hill, IBEW International President; Phil Flemming, IBEW First District (Canada) Vice President; Gerry Bramhill, EITI; and, Lindel Lee, IBEW International Secretary-Treasurer.



*Certified Utility Arborists work alongside BC Hydro workers across the province. Workers are shown here cleaning up fallen trees after a major storm.
Tom Somerville photo*

to EITI as an experienced trainer and is proud of the Institute's growing reputation as a world leader in training workers for skilled jobs in the electrical utility industry.

"With the recent expansions to the United States and abroad, EITI's future is very bright," he said. "Under the leadership of Phil Davis, our Executive Director, the programs and training we offer are superior to anything else that's out there. With our primary focus on safety, we are able to offer what industry is looking for - highly skilled apprentices who are the future of the electrical utility industry."

Apprenticeship training for Certified Utility Arborists consists of two levels of hands-on classes at EITI followed by hundreds of hours of on-the-job work before a UA can be certified. Once they get their ticket, these skilled workers are in high demand locally, across the continent and world-wide. "The job itself involves working in close proximity to high voltage power lines as CUAs prune and clear vegetation as well as managing trees that could come in contact with energized power lines," said Troy. At EITI, the classroom component includes learning about arboriculture, trimming, felling trees and other vegetation, climbing, safe chipper and aerial lift operations as well as falling/bucking and rigging.

Companies where IBEW members work in BC as utility arborists include Davey Tree and Asplundh.

For more information about EITI, visit their website at www.eiti.bc.ca, or visit them on Facebook.

EITI is wholly owned by Local 258 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. 

Senior ABM Jim Greenwell appointed to the Board of the Resource Training Organization

Local 258 IBEW Senior Assistant Business Manager Jim Greenwell has been appointed to the Resource Training Organization (RTO) as a Board member.

The RTO oversees the management and development of apprenticeship training for the resource sector in British Columbia, including the Powerline Technician trade.

Brother Greenwell joins with a number of both union and industry representatives in serving as volunteer Board members.

Overseeing requirements for apprenticeships in a number of trades, the RTO is sanctioned as an Industry Training Organization by the Industry Training Authority and works to create and maintain an effective, efficient and responsive industry training system in the province. The Board is independent of government, ITA management and RTO management and its members are drawn from diverse sectoral backgrounds and have a wide range of industry, labour and training-related experience.

Long time office secretary Judith Haugen retires



The Local 258 office in Burnaby won't be the same as long time secretary Judith Haugen retired in July.

After serving IBEW members, officers and staff at the head office for more than 27 years, Sister Haugen is looking forward to stress free mornings that don't involve a commute as well as spending more time with her husband and grandchildren.

"It has been a long time coming but all of a sudden retirement is here" said Judith the last week of work. "I know

I'm going to miss the routine and especially the people I work with, but I am so looking forward to my retirement."

Local 258 staff held a Retirement Luncheon for Sister Haugen where they wished her well in her new life of retirement.

Local 258 office welcomes Becky MacDonald



With the recent retirement of office secretary Judith Haugen at Local 258, Officers, ABMs and staff are pleased to welcome the newest office staff member, Becky MacDonald. Becky has already stepped into action as she began working full time at the end of July.

Members attending the Safety Rodeo Banquet, sponsored by IBEW Local 258, in September met Becky as she welcomed them at the registration desk.

Becky joins Lesli McBratney, Janice Krieger and Geri Watson who work as administrative and office staff at the union hall, all members of the Canadian Office & Professional Employees Union, Local 378. ☑

Former Unit 6 Chair Barry Bell passes away



Former Unit 6 Chair and IBEW Local 258 member Barry Bell passed away suddenly in August of this year.

Brother Bell was active in his union and took his commitment to social justice and concerns for working people onto the local political stage as a candidate for the NDP in a number of provincial and federal elections.

He was a frequent contributor to The Hotline, writing most recently of his experiences as a student at the 2010 Harrison Winter School.

Unit 6 Chair Karen Porter recalls Barry's soft spoken ways did not diminish his enthusiasm for taking on leadership roles.

She spoke on behalf of the union at Barry's Celebration of Life gathering that took place in Surrey on August 28.

Brother Bell was born in Vancouver and grew up on the city's downtown east side. He joined the union in 1996 and was currently working at the Bridge River Generating Station after working at Burrard Thermal for many years. He served as Unit 6 Chair from 2004 to 2008, when he stepped down.

Barry was also well known for his contributions to organizing the Units 5 & 6 Summer Social Picnic.

He is survived by his wife Barbara. ☑



Safety, skill and certainty – PLTs on the high wires

PLT Terry Clifford working on the high wires performing spacer replacements.

Barehand helicopter spacer replacement

By Don McLellan, Henkels&McCoy PEI

This spring and summer, a crew combined of Henkels&McCoy PEI Power Line Technicians (PLTs) and Haverfield aviation teamed up to replace spacers on the 3L2, 3L5 transmission circuit, Seton Portage – Rosedale substation.

Barehand work has been done in BC since the early 90's. The theory is to be the bird on the wire. To perform this work, conductive suits are worn by the PLT as well as the helicopter pilot. Electrical bonding ties the PLT to the platform which is bonded to the helicopter.

The PLT has a 4 foot lanyard, attached to his dorsal D ring that it is attached to the main frame of the helicopter. The lanyard is also bonded electrically. The PLT wears a lap belt that holds him in a fixed position on the platform beneath the helicopter. The PLT and the pilot wear flight helmets equipped with communication capabilities as the PLT and pilot are in constant

communication - confirming distances, limits of approach and always evaluating anything that does not look right.

A brief description of a typical spacer replacement

Daily tail board starts the day in the landing zone. The tail board discussion covers all the potential challenges facing the crew in our effort to work as safe as possible in a hostile environment. Weather, limits of approach distances, helicopter safety and clearances, equipment and fall arrest are a few of many topics addressed.

Three PLTs rotate the working position on the heli platform. When not in the air, one of the linemen is designated safety watcher during hot fueling and unloading old spacers and hardware and loading of new spacers. Twenty to twenty five spacers are taken for each flight, depending on the flight distance. Flight distances are kept to a minimum by constantly moving LZ locations while the bird is in the air.

The pilot flies the PLT, who is secured to the helicopter platform, to the location and levels and hovers the helicopter 20 feet away on the outside of the circuit. The PLT holds a 4 foot wand in his left hand and a bonding clamp in his right. The pilot maneuvers the helicopter toward the wire, flying sideways and the PLT extends the wand to make contact with the wire, electrically energizing the helicopter. Maintaining contact, the PLT connects the bond clamp with his right hand, establishing an equal potential zone. The wand is then stowed behind the new spacers located behind the PLT on the platform. Electric impact is used to remove the old spacer and the new spacer is installed and torqued. The PLT then wands on with his left hand, removes the bond with the right, the pilot flies away sideways and the PLT wands off, breaking the connection.

The crew who worked on the Seton Portage – Rose-dale spacer installation is well seasoned and have built



Lineman Don McLellan is shown here working on spacer replacements on the 3L2, 3L5 transmission circuit, Seton Portage - Rosedale substation.

on their experience from the 2009 2L2 spacer replacement project. The crew is always looking to improve on our safety and work practices. 🚧



Workers on the spacer replacement project were, from left to right, kneeling: Milo Rusimovich, in charge of hot fueling; Glen Morrison, Sub Foreman Lineman; Kurt Rogers, Apprentice Lineman. Standing, left to right are Gene Dickerson, Lineman; Don McLennan, Lineman Trades Training Instructor; Laurence Perry, MD 500 Pilot and Terry Clifford, Foreman Lineman. Missing from the photo are Jim Keys, Safety Officer and Bob Johnson, Project Manager.



BC Hydro Employee's Committee Services Fund **HYDRECS 2011 Campaign Runs November 1st to 30th 2010**

The BC Hydro Employee's Committee Services Fund (HYDRECS) is holding its 2011 Fundraising Campaign from November 1 to November 30, 2010. All IBEW members working at BC Hydro are eligible to make their charity donations through HYDRECS. BC Hydro employees have a long history of generously supporting their communities and this year is no different. Last year the HYDRECS campaign raised \$970,000 for over 600 charities.

HYDRECS is led by an employee and retiree volunteer committee that encourages all BC Hydro employees to take advantage of the convenient methods of giving through payroll deduction or time bank allocation. BC Hydro covers the administration costs so 100% of your donation goes to the chosen agencies and you receive a tax receipt.

In addition to selecting your favorite charity to support, each spring, registered charities across the province apply to become one of the annual HYDRECS Special Projects. The committee then selects the provincial project and four regional projects, to become part of the HYDRECS Fundraising Campaign.

The 2011 Special Projects are:

- Provincial - The BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre – purchase a new 3 dimensional high resolution ultra sound machine
- Lower Mainland - The Union Gospel Mission – purchase two tilting steam kettles and one broiler
- South Interior - The Kootenay Lake Hospital Foundation – purchase a CT scanner
- Northern - The BC Children's Hospital Foundation – fund two patient examination rooms at the Child Health BC Prince George Clinic
- Vancouver Island - The Denman Health Centre Society – purchase an emergency electric start generator

For IBEW members working at BC Hydro, remember to make your donation by November 30th, 2010. Watch for your personal pledge package to arrive in early November, or contact your local canvasser for more details. Thank you for supporting your local communities! 📧



11 Districts...

11 Winners...

.....

This is your chance to showcase your talent at the 2011 IBEW Convention in Vancouver

Introducing the IBEW Has Talent Competition
 Each International Vice Presidential District will sponsor a winner from the area for a chance to compete at the 2011 International Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Are you or is someone in your family talented?
 Start preparing now to showcase that talent at the July 2011 All Canada Progress Meeting that will take place in Quebec City.

Rules and information will soon be available on the IBEW website at www.IBEW.org

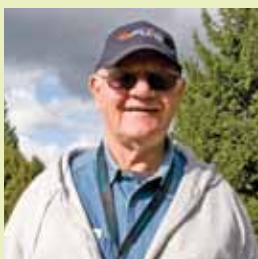
Raising funds for the MS Society of Canada

LOCAL 258 ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

The rain managed to stay up in the sky for an afternoon of golf as supporters of Local 258's annual charity event came out to play golf at the Burnaby Mountain Golf Course in September. Major sponsors included BC Hydro.

After playing 18-holes, the golfers enjoyed an awards banquet and dinner where Local 258 ABM Dan Klassen, who organized the annual event with Mark Davison, former Chair Unit 5, estimated close to \$10,000 was raised from the day's event. These funds will be donated to the MS Society of Canada.

Many thanks to the Power Pioneers who came out in droves to help make the tournament be the success it was! 🏌️‍♂️



Inspiring tomorrow's workforce



Building solar Lego cars



Soldering circuits



Building robots

With the growing demand for electricity and the need to replace Canada's current aging electrical infrastructure, the need for an adequate supply of workers in the electrical utility industry is imperative on all levels of the Canadian economy.

A significant portion of the current workforce is retiring and competition from other industries for skilled workers is signalling an even greater demand for this sector's immediate and future needs.


It is within this context that Local 258 of the IBEW is supporting Canada's Electricity Sector Council's efforts to attract workers to meet the future demands.

A week long day camp took place this summer in Prince George where Aboriginal youth had the opportunity to discover how electricity works and engaged in a fun and hands-on experience intended to attract them to future careers in the electricity and renewable energy industry.

The kids learned about how electricity is created and where it goes and what it's used for. Fun and interactive activities included building Lego solar cars, lighting up light bulbs using a bicycle generator and creating toys that work using circuit boards. They had visits from PLTs and BC Hydro workers who showed them various aspects of the work they perform on a daily basis.

The camp was intended to stimulate awareness of possible future career choices in the electrical utility industry and reinforced the importance of taking math and sciences in school.

"The kids were having a ball and were learning with each other while having a load of fun," said Local 258 President Michelle Laurie, who attended the closing ceremonies and has been working with representatives of the Electricity Sector Council on meeting future workforce demands in the electrical utility industry. "It was an excellent day camp and Local 258 is proud to be one of the sponsors and supporters of educational events like these."

The Bright Futures Camp is a component of the ESC Aboriginal Workforce participation Initiative project which focuses on increasing the participation of Aboriginal people (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) in the electricity and renewable energy workforce. 



Building rockets



BC Hydro workers



Camp Mascot



Building rockets



Camp Mascot



Electricity



Learning about circuits

RUMINATIONS OF A RETIREE

By Ken McEwen

Retired Local 258 member

Once again summer is over. Oh I know that officially summer hangs around until September 21st or so but in real life summer ends with the PNE and return to school for the kids. When I was a kid (it's odd that I can remember back that far yet have trouble remembering what I had for breakfast this morning) I hated to hear that it was PNE time because that meant school was soon to follow. At any rate summer is gone and I don't know what happened to it. In late spring and early summer we had a couple of batches of guests come and stay with us. Then we travelled to parts of the United Kingdom for a while. On our return to North America two more batches of guests arrived (at different times) and that was it. Summer had fled.



Over the years we have travelled on several occasions to the United Kingdom. Catherine Dear was born in England and so has many relatives that need visiting from time to time. As we hadn't been there for five years or so it was apparently time to go again. We always rent a car so we can motor around on our own and in our own time. Cars with automatic transmissions are the exception rather than the rule when renting a car in England. I

have always performed quite well with manual transmission automobiles. However, this time Catherine Dear determined that I might be too old to swing a gear lever and so booked a car with an automatic transmission. I reluctantly admit that there were a couple of occasions when stuck in massive traffic jams that having the automatic transmission made life somewhat easier. The car we had was a Volvo station wagon kind of thing with a Diesel engine. It was a bit large for two people but did provide lots of room for luggage and other travelling sundries. It seems that cars are like storage areas at home. Stuff will expand to fill the allotted space. I sort of jokingly remarked, to anyone who would listen, that there were three things wrong with the car, 1) I don't speak Swedish, 2) It had a Diesel engine, 3) They fitted the steering wheel on the wrong side if the car. Everything got resolved. The instructions for the car were in English. Diesel fuel is the fuel of choice over there and, unlike here where you have to search for a service station with Diesel, every service station in the United Kingdom has Diesel fuel available. Last but not least, all the cars over there had the steering wheels fitted on the wrong side. Having sorted that all out we managed to record a little more than 2000 miles on the odometer travelling about England and Wales.

One thing I noted, particularly in England, is that there seems to be a lot more people there than the last time we visited.

A lot of those people wanted to be on the road at the same time as us. The rest of them were crowding the sidewalks in the various towns and villages we visited. For a boy from the colonies it could be a little daunting at times. I also marveled again at the survival rate of the British motoring public. The national speed limit there is 70 mph on motorways, dual carriageways and some "A" roads. Quite often, on 70 mph dual carriageways there will be a sign saying "Caution, horses, pedestrians and bicycles crossing". All I can say is that I wish them the best of British luck. On the other roads the speed limit is 60 mph unless otherwise posted. Those other roads are narrow and generally windy with limited vision because of hedges. Sometimes the road is that narrow that there is only room for one car at a time. It is not always possible to squeeze into the hedges because most hedges cleverly conceal a stone wall. All of this maneuvering is commonly carried out at around 60 mph. Then there are the streets and roads in the cities, towns and villages. A whole bunch of the cities, towns and villages are old. They are very old. So the streets and roads are very narrow. I guess when they were built there only had to be enough room for a horse to get by. In some villages a car driver has to be careful of his side mirrors with regard to houses, fences, walls and every now and then, parked cars. At times I felt



less than comfortable with the width of the Swedish station wagon thing we were driving. I have nothing but admiration for the bus drivers and truck drivers who navigate these roads in the course of their daily lives.

A cause for rumination while in Britain had to do with the measurement system. When I went to school we learned the Imperial (or British) System of measurement. There were things like yards and rods and furlongs and chains and gills and pecks and bushels etc. to deal with. Now we have the metric system or System International and we deal with grams and metres and litres and such. In Britain, where the whole Imperial System started they sell petrol (gasoline) by the litre, road signs are in miles, temperature is in Celsius and beer is sold by the pint. It seems the British can't decide which system to use so they use a mixture of both.

(cont'd on p. 17)

Your website: www.ibew258.bc.ca



Check the union's website for updated membership meeting information!

Visit your Local 258 IBEW website, located at www.ibew258.bc.ca on the internet, to find current updates on union issues.

Your union website features information about the Local and also includes a number of links for important union information, including downloadable pdf files of your member magazine, The Hotline.

You will also find a number of resources for members such as a Membership Application Form, Unit Meeting Schedules and Applications for Training Assistance.

We hope you enjoy the website and look forward to receiving any suggestions on how we can improve your website, including information that you would like to see on the site. Contact the union's president, Michelle Laurie, at mlaurie@ibew258.bc.ca with your suggestions.

Attention all Local 258 IBEW *A* members

This is a reminder to all *A* members to update your beneficiary information for your International Pension when there is a change in your personal status.

Please contact Janice at the Union office in Burnaby for further information or if you have any questions.

Phone: 604-520-3305
Toll Free: 1-877-520-3305

HAVE YOU MOVED?

If you have recently moved, make sure your local union office has your new mailing address.

Contact Local 258 IBEW and let us know your new address so we can make sure you continue to receive news alerts, The Hotline newsletter and be notified of current events.

Your employer is not responsible for forwarding your new mailing address in a timely fashion, so please let your union know where you are.

Call the office at 604-520-3305, fax us at 604-522-3371, or e-mail us at info@ibew258.bc.ca

Do you have photos, original artwork, cartoons or poems for The Hotline?

The Hotline knows many of you have an interest in photography and sometimes take photos at your workplaces. We also know there are some of you are very creative. We would like you to share your photos and creative works — and your stories too — with your union's member magazine, The Hotline!

You are welcome to send in photos from your workplace, and if you have a bit of writing ability, we are also interested in any stories, poems or articles you have written about a work-related issue. Cartoons and drawings are also welcome.

Send your items via e-mail to hotline@shaw.ca, or mail to:
Local 258 IBEW
Attention, The Hotline
7535 Sixth Street
Burnaby, BC V3N 3M2

RUMINATIONS OF A RETIREE

(cont'd from p. 15)

At least they got the money switched to a decimal system and I don't have to figure out shillings and farthings and the like anymore.

There have certainly been a lot of local subjects worthy of rumination this summer. Unfortunately, because of my busy schedule, I have not been able to devote the time required to give these subjects the pondering they deserve. Issues like the HST, new bridges and increased penalties for speeding will have to wait for quieter times to be fully explored. I did manage to ruminate to some extent on this year's Fraser River sockeye salmon run. Over the past three years the climate change people have been saying, "Ride a bicycle because too many cars have resulted in no fish in the river". This year a lot of us must be riding bicycles because there has been an abundance of fish in the river. So many, in fact, that some "scientists" are saying, "Catch more fish or there will be too many fish on the spawning beds". So, will we now hear that climate change is also responsible for there being too many fish for the spawning beds? It gives one pause to wonder and ruminate on who decides how many fish are enough and how many fish are too much. Like, how did the poor salmon ever cope with crowded spawning beds before there were people to catch them and experts to count them?

Well, look at that. I have run out of time and space again. I hope you and the editor will note that I didn't whine about deadlines this time. Please continue to work and play safely. ☑



Union members' glossary of terms

Every union member needs to know the common terms used in organized labour.

Arbitration

A method of settling disputes through the intervention of a third party whose decision is final and binding. Such a third party can be either a single arbitrator, or a board consisting of a chairman and one or more representatives. Arbitration is often used to settle major grievances and for settling contract interpretation disputes. Voluntary arbitration is that agreed to by the parties without statutory compulsion. Compulsory arbitration is that imposed by law. Governments sometimes impose it to avoid a strike or end one.

Bargaining Agent

Union designated by a Labour Relations Board or similar government agency as the exclusive representative of all employees in a bargaining unit for the purpose of collective bargaining.

Bargaining Unit

Group of workers in a craft, department, plant, firm, industry or occupation, determined by a Labour Relations Board or similar body as appropriate for representation by a union for purposes of collective bargaining.

Certification

Official designation by a Labour Relations Board or similar government agency of a union as sole and exclusive bargaining agent, following proof of majority support among employees in a bargaining unit.

Collective Agreement

A contract between one or more unions acting as bargaining agent, and one or more employers, covering wages, hours, working conditions, fringe benefits, rights of workers and union, and procedures to be followed in settling disputes and grievances.

Collective Bargaining

Method of determining wages, hours, and other conditions of employment through direct negotiations between the union and employer. Normally the result of collective bargaining is a written contract which cov-

ers all employees in the bargaining unit, both union members and non-members.

Mediation

A process which attempts to resolve labour disputes by compromise or voluntary agreement. By contrast with arbitration, the mediator does not bring in a binding award and the parties are free to accept or to reject its recommendation. A mediator is usually a private individual appointed as a last resort, sometimes even after the start of a strike.

Fringe Benefits

Non-wage benefits, such as paid vacations, pensions, health care provisions, life insurance, etc., the cost of which is borne in whole or in part by the employer.

Grievance

Complaint against management by one or more employees, or a union, concerning an alleged breach of the collective agreement or an alleged injustice. Procedure for the handling of grievances is usually defined in the contract. The last step of the procedure is usually arbitration.

Seniority

Term used to designate an employee's status relative to other employees, as in determining order of lay-off, promotion, recall, transfer, vacations, etc. Depending on the provisions of the collective agreement, seniority can be based on length of service alone or on additional factors such as ability or union duties.

Shop Steward

A union official who represents a specific group of members and the union in union duties, grievance matters and other employment conditions. Stewards are usually part of the workforce they represent.

Yellow Dog Contract

An employer-employee contract, now illegal, by which an applicant for a job must agree not to be a member of a labour union while employed. ☑

2010 IBEW Membership Development Conference, Los Angeles, California

By Nicole Biernaczyk, IBEW Local 258 Organizer



I was recently given the opportunity to attend the IBEW Membership Development Conference in Los Angeles with Business Manager Doug McKay where over 1100 IBEW members from the US and Canada attended at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in downtown LA.

International President Ed Hill opened the conference with some very inspiring words. Using the theme of the conference, "Mission Possible", Brother Hill emphasized that even though times are very tough for working families in the current economic climate, organizing is possible if we concentrate on the basics.

Over the course of the next two days, we listened to an array of guest speakers from politicians in powerful positions expressing their admiration for the IBEW and the solidarity that is evident throughout both the US and Canada to a motivational speaker who had us all questioning our thoughts and perceptions.

The motivational speaker was quiet enlightening and led us into teams for a "Notice and Imagination" exercise. My Brother Adam from Local 213 and one of my Brothers from the US and I were a team in this exercise. My US Brother said to me, "I notice that you are from BC - so I imagine that you have a grow-op". No

feedback was allowed. Suffice to say, I no longer let my imagination control my perception of things quite the same way!

I also had the opportunity to attend a number of training sessions where we learned more about some of the barriers we often encounter in our endeavor to make the working world a better place for all. The Canadian Locals held a Caucus meeting where we worked on building further skills to help break down some of the barriers we face. We also identified the need to get in touch with "young workers" and educate them on the benefits of union membership in today's unpredictable world.

On the last day of the conference, as we all sat pondering over everything we learned and what lies ahead, there was a slide show presentation up on the big screen. It was time for the numbers that would tell us how well we are doing in our organizing efforts so far this year. It was the "Top Ten" list!!! I sat and thought to myself, "Wow, it would be nice to see Local 258 up there". The first screen showed the "Top 5"... I waited... the screen changed... OMG! There we were - #8 in organizing amongst all the Locals in the union! I almost jumped out of my seat! At that moment Business Manager McKay looked over at me, raised the infamous eyebrow and gave me a thumbs up. That right there made this Organizer know that all the hard work and long hours does pay off! Next year's goal... Top 5! 📈

WCB Teleclaim service for injured workers

1•888•WORKERS

(1•888•967•5377 or #5377 on your Telus, Rogers or Bell cell phone)

Injured workers can now file time-loss claims more quickly and easily through the WCB's Teleclaim Contact Centre.

Workers who are injured at work and miss time as a result can report their injuries to WorkSafe BC by calling the Teleclaim Centre. By doing so, you will be connected with a WCB representative who completes an injury report on your behalf.

The Teleclaim representative will help explain the claims process in an average 30 minute discussion, and can help obtain services to assist with recovery and return to work.

Teleclaim is available to workplaces throughout BC, Monday through Friday, from 8 am to 4 pm.

Upcoming IBEW Local 258 Meetings

	Date & Time	Location
Unit 1 - North Coast Unit Chair: Klaus Kraft		
Prince Rupert	Wednesday, October 20 @ 4:30 pm	Line Room
Masset	Thursday, October 21 @ 4:30 pm	Line Room
Smithers	Tuesday, November 9 @ 5:00 pm	Line Room
Terrace	Tuesday, October 19 @ 7:00 pm	Best Western Inn
Unit 2 - Central Interior Unit Chair: Gerry Pope		
Prince George	Tuesday, November 16 @ 7:00 pm	Royal Canadian Legion
Dawson Creek	Official Meeting - Thursday, December 16 @ 7:00 pm	George Dawson Inn
Fort St. John	Official Meeting - Wednesday, October 13 @ 4:30 pm	Line Room
Fort Nelson	Thursday, October 14 @ 7:00 pm	Woodland's Inn
Quesnel	Thursday, November 18 @ 4:30 pm	Line Room
Williams Lake	Official Meeting - Wednesday, November 17 @ 4:30 pm	Elks Hall
Unit 3 - Southern Interior Unit Chair: Colin Kenney		
Bridge River	Tuesday, November 9 @ 5:30 pm	Lunch Room B2
Kamloops	Wednesday, November 10 @ 7:00 pm	IBEW #993 Hall
	Wednesday, December 15 @ 7:00 pm	IBEW #993 Hall
Vernon	Official Meeting - Thursday, December 16 @ 7:00 pm	Army & Navy Club
Mica	Official Meeting - Monday, November 15 @ 6:00 pm	Curling Rink
Revelstoke	Tuesday, November 16 @ 4:15 pm	Hydro Dam Conference Room
Castlegar	Official Meeting - Tuesday, October 12 @ 7:00 pm	Fireside Inn
Cranbrook	Wednesday, October 13 @ 4:30 pm	Labour Temple
Invermere	Thursday, October 14 @ 4:30 pm	Legion Hall
Unit 4 - Vancouver Island Unit Chair: Tom Greenwell		
Victoria	Tuesday, November 9 @ 7:00 pm	Line Room
Ganges	Wednesday, October 13 @ 4:00 pm	Line Room
Duncan	Wednesday, December 15 @ 4:00 pm	Cowichan Valley Inn
Qualicum Beach	Tuesday, October 12 @ 4:00 pm	Line Room
Port Alberni	Official Meeting - Wednesday, November 10 @ 4:00 pm	Clutest Haven Marina
Nanaimo	Tuesday, October 12 @ 6:30 pm	RC Legion #256
Courtenay	Tuesday, December 14 @ 4:00 pm	Line Room
Campbell River	Official Meeting - Tuesday, December 14 @ 7:00 pm	Maritime Heritage Centre
Unit 5 - Greater Vancouver Unit Chair: Cathy Tagseth		
Burnaby	Thursday, October 14 @ 5:00 pm	Local 258 Union Hall
	Official Meeting - Thursday, November 10 @ 5:00 pm	Local 258 Union Hall
	Official Meeting - Thursday, December 9 @ 5:00 pm	Local 258 Union Hall
Unit 6 - Fraser Valley Unit Chair: Karen Porter		
Langley	Tuesday, October 12 @ 7:00 pm	Steelworkers Hall, 9292 200th St., Langley
	Official Meeting - Tuesday, November 9 @ 7:00 pm	Steelworkers Hall, Langley
	Tuesday, December 14 @ 7:00 pm	Steelworkers Hall, Langley
Chilliwack	Official Meeting - Wednesday, October 13 @ 7:00 pm	Best Western, 43971 Industrial Way, Chilliwack
	Official Meeting - Wednesday, December 15 @ 7:00 pm	Best Western, Chilliwack



PHOTO OPPORTUNITY LU 258



Congratulations to two generations of IBEW members - on left is father Richard Bogle who was recently awarded his 55 year service plaque and his son Bill who was awarded his 25 year membership pin.



At Ruskin GS, Sean McDonald was presented his graduating papers upon successful completion of the Apprentice Mechanic program. He has secured a FTR position at Ruskin GS. From left are Chris Dahl (Management representative on the Mechanic Sub-Committee), Sean McDonald and Dave Mengerling (IBEW representative on the Mechanic Sub-Committee).



Senior Assistant Business Manager Jim Greenwell, left, congratulates Brother Dave W. Reid on his retirement as an electrician.



At a recent Unit 6 meeting, Brother Rick Gerrard won the draw for a watch, presented by Chair Karen Porter.



At Peace Canyon GS, Davin Mayrhofer was presented his graduating papers upon the successful completion of the Apprentice Mechanic program. From left are Dave Mengerling (IBEW representative on the Mechanic Sub-Committee), Davin Mayrhofer and Chris Dahl (Management representative on the Mechanic Sub-Committee).



Local 258 President Michelle Laurie congratulates Rob Andersen on his retirement from BC Hydro as a Cableman.

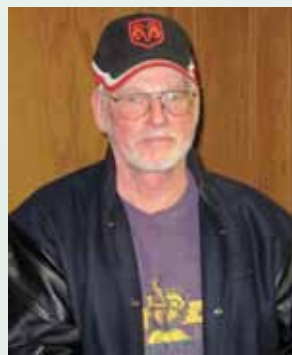


Local 258 Assistant Business Manager Dan Giesbrecht and his wife Sue joined Paul and Wendy Daniel at the Chilliwack Lions Club putting tournament to help raise money for the guide dog project.



Local 258 Business Manager Doug McKay presents Brother Jason Marsh from Arrow Installations the Apprentice Lineman of the Year (2010) award for the Line Contractors.

UNIT 6 PHOTO COLLAGE



**PHOTO
OPPORTUNITY
LU 258**

Many thanks to all the members who come out to the Unit 6 Meetings in the Fraser Valley.



PHOTO OPPORTUNITY LU 258



Although the turn out was small but intentions were overwhelming, IBEW members Ken Walters, Bill Dalling and Brian Durand rode out on July 24th for the day in memory of our late friend and Brother, Kel Ladyka.

Kel loved to ride. For those who ride, there is the saying that applies to all of us... LIVE TO RIDE, RIDE TO LIVE.

Ken and Bill will keep his and our love of riding going, and plan to make this an annual event. We will get the word out to all the IBEW members, somehow, for next year.

Thank you, Ken Walters

Editors Note: Brother Kel Ladyka passed away suddenly in April of this year. He worked as a lineman for over 30 years with BC Hydro and lived in the Okanagan since 1993.

Thank you Local 258 IBEW...



To whom it may concern;
Thank you very much for choosing me to be a recipient of this year's Tom Forkin Scholarship; it is a huge honour. I am currently enrolled and scheduled to start taking classes at the University of British Columbia – Okanagan, in September of this year.

Sincerely
Rachel Throop



To the Local 258 Executive Board; I would like to send a huge thank you your way for this scholarship. It will be put to great use as I will be going to school in January for the nursing program. Before that I plan on going to Worlds for Kick Boxing in Portugal then to go traveling. It would be a great help if this scholarship could be held for a max of two years.

Thank you kindly
Krista Cline



Dear IBEW Local 258,
I am so happy to have been selected as one of the scholarship winners. Thank you so much.
Serena Franz

Following in his Granddad's Footsteps...

Kenny Brandon's grandson Jacob - the next Hydro Lineman!



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Time to get out the long pants and find the socks - the kids are back in school and ALL the traffic is back on the roads. The summer was a busy one, with much learning to cram in this old brain. You sent me to two conferences below the border in July - the IBEW Utility conference, and the IBEW Women's conference. Both were eye-openers in a few respects, but the impact of the struggling economy in the USA was evident throughout; staggering unemployment, utilities closing, being bought out and merging means attacks on collective agreements, pension plans and staffing levels.



Michelle Laurie, shown above on right, attended the IBEW Utility Conference with Local 258 Business Manager Doug McKay and Assistant Business Manager Greg Fanning. They are shown above with IBEW International President Ed Hill.

Union density in the USA is only 10% (compared to 30% here in Canada), and unemployment levels rose above 10% in late spring (in BC, our unemployment rate was 7.5% in July). The recession also means that many of our brothers and sisters are working longer than they had anticipated because their retirement funds were ravaged by the market crisis. As well, concerns about what might happen next in the global economy has led to delays for some in planning their retirement as it simply seems too risky. On the positive side, I also had the opportunity to meet and talk with many young apprentices and journeypersons that are excited about their trades and about our union.

Here in Canada I participated in the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum, and our own IBEW national conference. A key issue at both was the Red Seal program, and the current review of its structure. There have been consultations across Canada on proposed changes to the certification model, though we in labour are concerned the consultations have been too quick, and not always appropriately inclusive. Here in BC, we were not initially invited to the table for these discussions, but when we found out about them, six representatives from various trade organizations found their way in. I encourage you to go to <http://strengtheningtheredseal.ascentum.com/en/> and read about the proposals. Workable

From the Back Corner

Report from
Michelle Laurie,
President, Local 258 IBEW



national standards for certification are, of course, desirable, but not if they water down or fracture our trades. We do not want partial tickets, or mini-trades, which would undermine the value of our trade certification.

The prime focus of our national conference was engaging younger members and ensuring that our local unions are communicating effectively and actually adapting our processes to accommodate the very different expectations of the distinct generations we all have in our memberships. We'll carry on this discussion locally in February when our own Local 258 elected members come together to map out our way forward. In the meantime, give us your feedback about how we communicate (info@ibew258.bc.ca). Attendance at union meetings continues to be dismal, and while we maintain our website and mail the Hotline out to each of you four times a year, it is one-way communication, and it is important to know if you find value in it, or have ideas for improvement. 📧



The Red Seal

For 50 years, Canada's provinces and territories have worked together to build the Red Seal Program, a system of common standards for the skilled trades. A Red Seal certificate signals excellence to employers, instills pride in skilled workers, and promotes geographic labour mobility.

PROBLEMS AT HOME OR AT WORK? NEED TO TALK WITH SOMEONE?



Trained union counsellors are now available to help you with issues that may be affecting your well-being, home life and/or work performance.

*To arrange a completely confidential phone call to talk with someone who can help, call IBEW Local 258 at 604-520-3305 (Lower Mainland), or Toll Free at 1-877-520-3305, during regular business hours.
Or call Dan at 604-312-5929 anytime.*

IF WE CAN'T HELP YOU, WE KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN.