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council **dc38** chronicle



THE NEWSLETTER OF
DISTRICT COUNCIL 38 OF
THE INTERNATIONAL
UNION OF PAINTERS
AND ALLIED TRADES
Spring 2007

North American Curtain Wall signs up with DC 38

New contractor shows union strength



North American Curtain Wall is DC 38's newest signatory contractor. While much of DC 38's organizing resources have gone into our successful Lathers campaign (see page 2), we've also brought on board this new glazing contractor. Members have worked so far on projects like the Shangri-La luxury tower in downtown Vancouver (see photos) and the BCIT facility at YVR. NACW's 16 employees are among the more than 200 new DC 38 members we added last year alone.

North American Curtain Wall is relatively new to Canada and DC 38, but the company has been an IUPAT signatory contractor in the U.S. for the past five years. The company is focused right now on high-rise commercial projects, but is working to move into residential projects as it has successfully done in the U.S. As Local 1527 moves into its 61st year, unionized glazing contractors in BC have a bright future.



Above, DC 38 signatory contractor North American Curtain Wall installed the podium windows at the Shangri-La in downtown Vancouver. Right, North American Curtain Wall employees at work on BCIT facility under construction at YVR.

2007 sees good news on Lathers campaign as DC 38 continues to grow



By Dave Holmes
Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

Welcome to the Winter/Spring 2007 edition of the Council Chronicle.

It's beginning to look like 2007 will be another positive year for District Council 38 and all our members. The construction industry is booming, and there doesn't seem to be any signs of it slowing down in the short term. But we can't let ourselves become complacent. We need to use the boom to increase the market share for unionized construction workers in BC. Today there are more non-union construction workers in the industry than ever. We must reverse that trend.

That's one of the reasons why we began our campaign to add Lathers to our membership. For those of you who may not already know, in recent years the carpenters' union (now called CMAW), which currently represents Lathers, has allowed its union general contractors to use non-union lathers. This in turn, has put pressure on our Taper members, with our drywall contractors losing business to non-union companies.

So, in October and November, we asked unionized Lathers to join with us to save the unionized wall-and-ceiling industry. And they have responded positively.

So far, we've been awarded all-employee certifications at Gallagher Brothers in the Lower Mainland, and Tedford Acoustics of Prince George. We're now waiting for the Labour Relations Board – which has dismissed all of CMAW's arguments against our applications – to count the ballots at the remaining five contractors. I will keep you all up to speed as we work at the LRB to get to that point.

I hope you get a chance to read all the articles in this edition of the Chronicle. Please let us know what you think. This is your newsletter, and I want your ideas on how we can keep making it better.

Dave Holmes

Pension Plan Update



The Chronicle asked Canadian General Vice President Robert Kucheran to give DC 38 members an update on our plan.

“Over the past three years, we have seen the Plan bounce back from some unfavourable investment performance in the early 2000s and yield healthy returns of 14.1% in 2003, 11.0% in 2004, 13.4% in 2005 and 8.5% in 2006. The market performance of the Plan has helped to raise the going-concern funded ratio (the ratio of the value of assets to liabilities) from 100% in 2005 to 101% in 2006.

The fully funded status of the Plan is clearly a very positive financial position to be in.

By any standard, the Plan continues to offer great value given the additional investment return achieved by professional investment managers, the sharing among all members of the mortality risk (the risk that members outlive their finances), and the expense economies of scale associated with a very large group.

In addition, the level of benefits provided upon retirement is known, not unpredictable and subject solely to market performance as with other retirement savings vehicles such as RRSPs.

The Plan has remained strong and stable among Multi-Employer Pension Plans in Canada.

Ultimately, as Plan Trustees, we will pursue the best course of action to preserve your benefits, today and in the future.”

Robert Kucheran

Trustee
IUPAT Industry Pension Fund Canada



Best benefits package gets even better

DC 38 members on our health and welfare plan got good news at the beginning of the year – the \$50 annual deductible for extended benefits has now been eliminated. For those members not yet covered by the plan under their Collective Agreements, one of our priorities as we head into negotiations will be to extend coverage to more members.

New Shop Stewards' Committee

Business Manager/Secretary Treasurer Dave Holmes has announced the formation of a new Shop Stewards' Committee, bringing shop stewards together from throughout the District Council's Local Unions..

"The idea is to give our shop stewards new tools to help them better serve our members," says Holmes. "We're starting the process by providing our stewards with copies of a periodical aimed at providing shop stewards with up-to-date information about the work

shop stewards do on behalf of members throughout North America."

District Council 38 President Dan Jajic will chair the new committee.

"I'm looking forward to establishing this committee," says Jajic. "As a former shop steward myself, I know how difficult the job can be. We hope that by bringing stewards together we can all do an even better job of supporting our members."



"The union has done more for me than I ever did for it." 30-plus year member Clive Bollerup reflects on a lifetime of trade unionism.

Clive Bollerup

dc38
member

profile

Clive Bollerup might have retired from the tools, but he hasn't retired from active membership in Local 138. A member for more than 30 years, Clive still attends regular meetings and stays involved as chair of the Retirees Committee.

"Joining the union has been one of the best experiences of my life," says Clive. "I got to meet some of the best people in the world on the jobs I worked." And that's saying something, given the number of jobs Clive worked on during his long career as an industrial painter.

Given how long Clive worked as a painter prior to retirement, it's a little surprising to learn that he started his working life as an apprentice textile mechanic at his

family's necktie manufacturing company in Vancouver, Spider Looms Ltd. It was in August, 1973 that Clive joined the Painters Union as a residential and commercial apprentice at Done Right Painting in Vancouver. He eventually moved into industrial painting, and worked at jobsites all over the province. For the last 6 years of his painting career, Clive worked at the Vancouver School Board.

Since his retirement, Clive has spent time travelling with his wife Noreen, and enjoys flyfishing in his bellyboat whenever he gets the chance. One of the highlights of his retirement so far was attending the Sitka Chamber Music Festival in Alaska. Clive's daughter is an ICU nurse in Prince George, and his son is

a second-year plumbing apprentice. Asked if he has any memorable moments from his career to share with Chronicle readers, Clive summed up by saying, "I would encourage anyone to get into painting, and to join the union for sure. Like I said earlier, it's been one of the best experiences of my life, and I wouldn't trade it for anything. I've been able to work hard, make a decent living, raise a family, and now I can enjoy my retirement. And it's all thanks to the union. What more could anyone ask for?"

If you know of a retired member you'd like to see profiled in a future edition of the Chronicle, please let us know!



joint trade board update



Our friends and colleagues at the DC38 Joint Trade Society Training Centre in Surrey are prepared for a busy year. Programs for the Painting Apprenticeship, Hazardous Waste upgrading and Wall and Ceiling training have kept the facility and instructors fully booked. The need for additional classrooms and instructional space has never been more evident as well as the need to develop more instructors around the Province.

Training at outside facilities is also on the rise as we reach out to high schools to attract new apprentices for the trades we represent.



Photos: Doug Routley, (right) BC NDP Official Opposition Skills and Training critic, recently toured the Training Centre to see how we've adjusted to the demands of the increased training needs for our industries.

Training centre renovations underway



DC 38's Joint Trade Board staff are gearing up for the long-awaited renovation and expansion of the Training Centre, now that all the necessary permits for construction are in place.

Graham Young, the school's new Director of Training, is chomping at the bit to get the renovations completed.

"We're all really excited about getting work underway," says Graham. "Once this project is completed, we'll be able to offer training in painting, glazing, lathing, drywall finishing, hazardous waste and industrial training, all under one roof. There isn't another training facility like it in BC to my knowledge."

In addition to managing the renovations, the staff at the Training Centre are still training apprentices and new workers in the finishing trades (see new schedule, page 5.)

DC 38 Joint Trade Board Director of Training Graham Young shows a visitor around the new lathing/drywall finishing modules.

Gordon Searle Scholarship

The IUPAT DC 38 Gordon Searle Scholarship Award Program is an annual opportunity for the dependents of the members of the IUPAT District Council 38 to acquire financial assistance for continuing their education beyond the high school level.

Three scholarships in the amounts of \$1500, \$1000 and \$750 may be awarded to those applicants submitting the three best essays on this year's topic. (The Scholarship Committee reserves the right to reject or disqualify any and all essays submitted based on the quality of writing or for lack of participation in the program).

Awards will be presented to the winners once they are in attendance at the college, university, vocational/technical, trade school listed on the application.

For further information and details about the rules, contact the District Council office.



Calendar of training

SUMMER 2007

(dates may be changed without warning)

April 21	Saturday	WHMIS Respirator	8:00am-10:30am 11:00am-2:00pm
April 23	Monday	Level 1 painting & decorating	7:30am-3:00pm
May 12	Saturday	Aerial lift	7:30am-5:30pm
May 16	Wednesday	WHMIS	5:30pm-8:00pm
May 19	Saturday:	Respirator Fall arrest	8:00am-11:00pm 11:30am-3:00pm
June 06	Wednesday	WHMIS	5:30pm-8:00pm
16	Saturday	Aerial lift	7:30am-5:30pm
30	Saturday	WHMIS Respirator Worksafe BC c/w rights & responsibilities	8:00am-10:00am 10:30am-1:30pm 2:00pm-3:00pm
July 18	Wednesday	WHMIS	5:30pm-8:00pm
July 21	Saturday:	Respirator Fall arrest Aerial lift	8:00am-11:00am 11:30am-3:00pm 7:30am-5:30pm

Please call the Trade school to register at 604-580-3112. There is no cost for Union members.



update on the regions

vancouver island

Just like the rest of the province, Vancouver Island is booming with construction activity. Most, if not all, of our members are working, and the projections for the rest of the year look good for all the trades.

Silvester Glass is very busy with a big push on right now to finish off the Upper Harbour project, while Allied Glass has kept a core crew of six glaziers busy, and have just taken on a new apprentice.

Wescor Contracting as well as Benton & Overbury have work secured right through to the end of the year and beyond for our taper members and recruitment is ongoing.

The federal government dockyard remains steady for our cleaner/scaler and painter members. As in all other work sectors, they have an aging workforce and we have had several members retire in the last year. The cleaner/scalers have hired more people than have retired, and they have just signed up a new apprentice. Victoria Shipyard and Canadian Maritime Engineering got off to a slow start at the beginning of the year but have now almost cleared our dispatch board of painters.

Acme Painting is slowly becoming a bigger presence in the commercial



Lower Island members celebrate their Christmas party at Goldstream Park.



Retired member Frank Strasdas receives his pin from Dave Holmes while member-at-large Vince Hobbs looks on.

sector and we expect them to continue to grow as they bid work from Victoria to Nanaimo. Clark & Pattison are keeping their core crew busy and have another Concert Properties project secured and due to start later this year.

Royal Jubilee Hospital has kept a crew of 8 painters working steady, as well as a crew of 3 glaziers.

Our Port Alberni contractors, Watsons and Vis Painting were able to keep their core crews busy over winter and are both looking forward to better weather to tackle exterior work.

Finally, as many of you are aware, Maureen Allen has been promoted to Business Agent/Organizer to improve our services to the membership.

Maureen will be devoting a major portion of her time to coordinating local training for our members. The most recent course was the Painter Journeyman TQ Refresher Course, which was well attended.

If any Vancouver Island members have suggestions on courses you'd like to see, please call the Victoria office at 385-8312.



update on the regions

the north

The big news in the North recently has been the addition of Tedford Acoustics as an all-employee unit certified to Local 2009. We're hoping to add more members at another contractor very soon (see Dave Holmes' update on Page 2.)

Members completed an asbestos removal contract at Prince George Hospital, which had begun in 2005. Work has now begun on a mould removal contract on more than 200 homes.



Prince George members worked on the \$29 million doctors training facility.

Drywall finishers and tapers have just completed work on two new buildings at the University of Northern British Columbia as well as a new car dealership. DC 38

members have now started work on the \$32 million University Sports Centre and several other commercial projects.

Industrial fibreglassers have started shutdown work at the pulp mills, and signatory painting contractors are bidding work at the coal port, grain port, and pulp mills.

In Prince Rupert, members are sandblasting and painting structural steel for the new casino. In Kitimat, members have been busy sandblasting and painting structural steel for the Prince Rupert container port, while other members were working at Alcan, Eurocan Pulp Mill and at a Smithers car dealership.

Seaside Painting and Sandblasting

employer profile

Seaside Painting President Rick Pazdzierski takes obvious pride in his company's facilities in the Port Kells area of Surrey as he takes a visitor on a tour to demonstrate the projects DC 38 members are working on.

A signatory contractor for more than 30 years, Rick sits as an employer Trustee on the Canadian Pension Plan, and is an active member of the International's Labour Management Cooperation Initiative. He's a firm believer in the idea that management and labour need to have mutual respect and trust in order to thrive.

"Over the past ten years, and particularly in the last couple of years, working with the Painters Union has gotten progressively better," Rick says, pointing to the Union's Market Recovery Fund in particular as an example of how the Union is changing with the times.

Seaside has between 16-18 employees in its shop when both shifts are running, and an additional 8-10 members work on the outside. The shop does a high volume of work for BC Ferries and BC Hydro, and has a wide variety of other customers from many different sectors. Rick is rightfully proud of Seaside's unique status as the only SSPC QP3 certified shop in Canada after having been evaluated on management procedures, technical capabilities, quality control and safety.



This is the first Employer Profile in the Chronicle. If you'd like to see your workplace featured in a future edition, please let us know.

Photo: This massive section of BC Ferries loading ramp with its non-skid coating applied is being readied for shipment to the customer on Vancouver Island.

dc38

around the province

District Council 38 supports member volunteers

"DC38, on behalf of the membership, has always supported charities in our communities such as cancer research, Children's hospital, the Variety Club, and juvenile diabetes, just to name a few," assistant Business Manager Patrick Byrne told the Chronicle in April. "At our last DC 38 regular meeting, all delegates enthusiastically supported a new initiative that will see a portion of our charitable funds being donated on behalf of individual members volunteering in their communities. We all know brothers and sisters who give of their time to assist charitable organizations so as to build a stronger community.

The labour movement has always played a strong role in the communities in which we live, and we think it's important that we encourage our members to get involved. That's why we decided to create this initiative."

Any DC 38 members who volunteer for non-profit associations, charities or other community-based groups are encouraged to submit donation applications to the District Council. Successful applicants will be featured in a subsequent edition of the Chronicle.



Retirees Spring Luncheon

All District Council 38 retired Members are invited to attend our Spring Luncheon, May 17. For details, please call Toni at 604-524-8334.

Bulldogs hit the ice



Every Sunday night from September to March, DC 38 members have been playing 3 on 3 hockey in Surrey. The regular season ended with two challenge games against the Plumbers Union, with the Bulldogs going undefeated. Next season we hope to enter charity tournaments to raise funds for good causes and to promote the District Council. If you're interested in playing next season, give Marv Magnison a call at the District Council office.

7621 Kingsway
Burnaby, BC V3N 3C7
Tel: (604) 524-8334
Fax: (604) 524-8011
Web: dc38.ca

dc38.ca