

THE SENTINEL -

STANDING WATCH FOR OUR MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

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Mark your calendar:

- Nominations for Union officers take place at your Unit meetings in April - be sure to attend
- Don't forget Earth Day - April 22nd
- April 26th is "Take your daughter to work day"



Tell me, and I'll forget. Show me, and I may remember. But involve me and I'll understand.

FIGHT FOR THE LIVING, MOURN FOR THE DEAD - LABOUR PAUSES TO REMEMBER

The year was 1914 and the place was Ontario. On April 28th of that year, Canada's first comprehensive Workers' Compensation Act passed third reading.

Today, this is the date that has been declared as an annual day of remembrance for workers killed or injured on the job around the world.

We often think that safety is someone else's concern. However, recent statistics show that on average, one worker out of thirteen in Canada is injured on the job.

This has resulted in an average of approximately **one million** occupational injuries being reported to Workers' Compensation Boards annually. Think about it - this means that every seven seconds of every working day a worker in Canada suffers a compensable injury.

Even more disturbing is the fact that there are approximately 800 work related deaths each year (an average of 4 each working day or 1 every two hours) recognized by

Workers' Compensation Boards.

This number would be significantly higher if occupational diseases - such as cancer - were



more readily acknowledged by these Boards.

For example, according to the National Cancer Institute (1999), there are an estimated 130,000 new cases of cancer diagnosed in Canada each year. Research has indicated that 20% - 40% of such cases are occupationally related ('Workplace Roulette', 1997).

In fact, there are some 60,000 deaths caused by cancer each

year - in Canada alone; it is suspected that approximately 5400 (or more) are directly related to the workplace! It may surprise you to learn that only a couple hundred claims have been approved for benefit entitlement. Obviously this fight has only just begun.

You can help raise awareness in these simple ways: encourage your employer to lower the flag to half mast; encourage your employer to observe one minute of silence at 11:00 a.m. on April 28th and lobby your local politicians to official proclaim April 28th as a Day of Mourning.

In communities across Ontario people will gather on Sunday April 28th to share their memories of the past and their hopes for the future.

Let's plan to be there and show our support as we fight for the living and mourn for the dead.

A DAY WORTHY OF CELEBRATION

On **February 12, 2002** Local 636 of the IBEW reached a milestone as we celebrated eighty (80) years of service. From humble beginnings, our Local has grown into a most diversified organization with more than 3800 members in the electrical, utility, manufactur-

ing, clerical, alarm & signal and healthcare industries. We are truly proud to have had the privilege of representing these working men and women. We thank each of you for your continuing support and for entrusting us with this responsibility. Today we renew our

commitment to this partnership and look forward to standing in solidarity with you and with others in the labour movement as we march ahead.

THE SENTINEL is a publication of Local Union 636 of the IBEW and has been printed by members of OPEIU.

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The views and opinions expressed are intended for information and entertainment purposes only.

We welcome your views, comments and (constructive) criticisms. Please let us know what you think - by contacting us via fax (519 - 967 - 9224) OR e-mail

(pvlanich@sympatico.ca)

For help with your questions on issues such as pension, our group insurance plan or labour legislation - check out these web sites:

OMERS - www.omers.com

Ministry of Labour - www.gov.on.ca

Canada Customs & Revenue - www.ccr-aadrc.gc.ca

Unity Group Insurance - www.unitygrouponline.com

EUSA - www.eusa.on.ca

Canadian Labour Congress - www.clc-ctc.ca

TABLE TALK

ADT Security Services

(Cambridge): With overwhelming support from the membership, a tentative agreement was ratified to give the folks in this Unit a new three (3) year contract. In addition to improvements in language and benefits, members will enjoy wage increases of: 2.75% ATB (plus a \$200.00 signing bonus) in the first year and; 2.75% ATB in each year thereafter. Many thanks go out to the negotiating committee for a job well done.

Nexans Canada Inc. (Fergus): Congratulations are



in order for the benchmark agreement negotiated by this bargaining committee. Highlights include: significant improvements to the pension plan in the first year plus; a wage increase of 50 ¢/hour ATB in the 2nd and 3rd year ; increased coverage for Vision and Dental services and; benefit continuation for the surviving spouse and eligible dependents (for 1 year following the date of death of an employee).

Windsor Utilities Commission: On the heels of an agreement with their affiliate

(Enwin Powerlines) this Unit was pleased to achieve their own (39 month) settlement that provided: language improvements; benefit continuation security for retirees and annual ATB wage increases of 3%, 2.5% and 2.5%. Good work!

Windsor Regional Hospital: On the eve of interest arbitration, a three year agreement was reached that will provide ATB wage increases of 3% in each year. We salute the efforts of the bargaining team.

LUNCH BOX LAW

Members at the **City of Orillia (Operations)** have contacted the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities after learning of their recent amendments to the Trades Qualification and Apprenticeship and the Apprenticeship and Certification Act. There will be compulsory training (and certification) requirements for persons

responsible for the installation and service of residential water meters (that are 25mm in diameter or less). The Ministry of Labour will be responsible for ensuring that apprentices are registered as **Water Meter Installer Trainees**. In order to work on meters in excess of 25mm in diameter, individuals will be required to hold a

Plumber's Certificate of qualification or be a registered Plumber apprentice. These changes will impact other Units as well - we will be sure to keep you informed on developments as they unfold.

STATE OF THE UNION

From the desk of Rick Wacheski, BM/FS - As previously reported, the I.O. has been facilitating Strategic Planning sessions with Locals across Canada. The goal is to work together in developing a blueprint for the future. An integral part of this exercise is to identify potential (viable) organizing targets within our jurisdiction.

Additionally by critically examining not only what we do

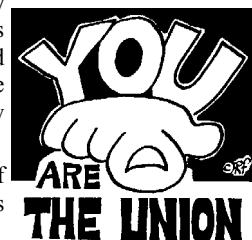
but also how we do it, we can begin to see the organization's strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for improvement.

Thanks to the guidance and support offered by International Reps Peter Routliff and Tom Reid, the groundwork has now been completed.

The next phase of this project involves

crafting a written plan that details our success plan. This should provide us with a most valuable tool. Once complete, the draft will be presented to the Executive Board for review.

More to follow.



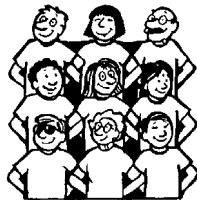
FRONT LINE NEWS

While most of us have many dreams, there are few who are who are lucky enough to live them. On April 15th, **Peter Von Euw (of Oakville Hydro)** will do just that as he joins runners from around the globe to compete in the Boston Marathon - the second largest sporting event in North America. We applaud his accomplishment and wish him all the best in this (42 Km) test of the human spirit!

Thanks goes out to **Sister Cheryl Vangrootel of Aurora Hydro** for her dedication and commitment as a Steward. The members and our Union have benefited from her leadership.

We wish Cheryl all the best as she moves on to greener pastures.

After many years of service **Brother Eric Rozeboom of Richmond Hill Hydro** has accepted a (management) position as Safety Officer. The Union and our members appreciate the contributions that Eric has made and wish him well in his new endeavour.



Congratulations are in order for the members at **Festival Hydro** who, as of March 6th, had achieved a record of two years without a lost time accident.

Keep up the great work!

Finally, at our most recent Executive Board meeting, two members of the staff were honoured for their dedicated years of membership. Service pins were awarded to: **Business Manager Rick Wacheski (35 years)** and **Business Representative Harold Vance (25 years)**. Congratulations – and thanks for your loyalty and service.

THE STREET CORNER PSYCHOLOGIST

There was once a young pilot who fancied himself a ‘top gun’. One day, while flying a mission as an escort for a B-52 bomber (in his two engine fighter), he was being exceptionally cocky and generally a nuisance. As the old bomber lumbered along he was acting like a real hot dog - flying rolls around her, buzzing the cockpit

and making it very well known that he was the king of the sky.

During one of his stunts, the young gun contacted his colleague over the radio and suggested to him - “anything that you can do, I can do better!”

To this, the veteran replied - “oh yeah, try this hot shot.”

Perplexed, the young gun asked

- “so, what did you do?”

The veteran replied - “I just shut down two engines kid!”

Just a gentle reminder for those of us who sometimes get a bit too big for our britches.

NOTES FROM THE BLACKBOARD

KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL STEWARDSHIP:

- Well developed organizational and communication skills
- Compassion, understanding and the ability to provide supportive encouragement to all - be approachable
- Well developed (proactive) listening skills;

don't simply *hear* the words but *listen* for the ideas of others

- Show respect for others and treat all members with equal fairness and objectivity

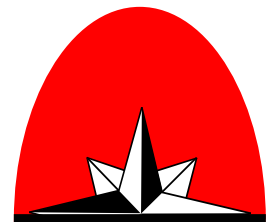


- Recognize (and accept) that others may not always agree with your ideas, actions or decisions

- Be motivated, enthusiastic and energized in your support of the Union - lead by example

- Be receptive to feedback - including (constructive) criticism - and encourage open communication

- Honesty, trust & integrity



“If you don't know where you are going, every road will get you nowhere”

Henry Kissinger

