

The Forward Look

LOCAL 592, PORT ALBERNI



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING HANSEN HALL, AFTER SPECIAL MEETING

Editors Note:
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 Lube & Vibe
Joan Race 724-3223 pager 289
 Area 2: E & I Maint. Carp. Paint,
 rebuild shop, cranes
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Dal Gulstene 723-3143 pager 073
 Area 3: Mach. Pulp, Wdr. Yard
 Shipping, Machinists
 Mark St. Thomas 724-2716 pager 075
 Area 4: P.P.O, Stores, Janitorial,
 Auto, Steam Plant
Phil Guild
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Please have any articles for the
 Forward Look into Linda Sorensen at the
 Union Office no later then the first week of
 the month.

Thanks
 Randy Teichman

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Pete Rayburn, President



COMMUNICATIONS

This article is going to be a very tough one to write. It's hard to find any words that might bring comfort to those people that will lose their jobs in September. There's not much one can say that will make this situation any more palatable. The finger pointing as to who is to blame is rampant.

When Ron Buchhorn made the announcement to the Wage Caucus in Vancouver at 7:30 AM on May 30th, he cited a number of issues that made up the rationale for this decision:

- High Canadian Dollar
- Newsprint market and pricing
- Fibre supply
- Profitability of the Company
- Economic environment (taxes)
- Labour relations

Mr. Buchhorn stated that it was a toss-up between Alberni #4 and Powell #9 as to which machine would go down. He went on to say that both Local 1 and Local 76 had "come to the table and worked with them". I can only assume that by that statement that he is accusing us of not coming to the table. The facts are that this Local made every conceivable attempt to work with our management. We addressed each and every one of their concerns and every time we thought we might be getting close to an agreement they would throw in another item off their wish list. We did everything short of tearing up our collective agreement. I honestly feel that even if we had reached an agreement to achieve the proposed enhanced severance packages back in March that it would not have secured the future of #4 machine. I believe

that the decision had already been made and no matter what kind of agreement we may have arrived at that the fate of that machine was already written in stone. So where the blame may fall is totally up to you as individuals but I will not make any apologies for myself, the Wage Delegates or the Executive for the final outcome. Our job is to protect as much of your negotiated rights and benefits as well as our Collective Agreement and we did our job.

The Company has chosen to title this shutdown as an "indefinite curtailment" and as such are not obliged to offer severance until they have decided to announce it permanent or your recall rights expire, which ever happens first. I have met with Ron Buchhorn and asked him for some answers on when we might expect to hear when the future of #4 machine will be announced. I also asked Ron about the left over Ground Wood severances and would they be putting those out to the rest of the mill population. His response was that they would not be offering these to the mill general and that this mill had its chance and we could not come to an agreement. But Ron did throw out some suggestions and options for our consideration and we will be discussing his statements with you the membership and decide which direction we may go. We hope to meet with Ron Buchhorn again soon to explore the specifics of his suggestions.

Wage Caucus Report

The Wage Caucus meeting in Vancouver on May 30th to June 1st was for the most part dedicated to the sub committee's recommendations for the Wage Caucus Rules

of Order for the upcoming negotiations next year. Some of these recommendations include an assessment of all members in the caucus to build a health and welfare fund as well as a supplemental strike fund. It is most important that you the membership be fully informed and involved in the discussion on these recommendations. We will be dealing with the Rules of Order at the General Meeting so please make every effort to attend.

Seniority Posting Arbitration

As most of you are aware, we were successful and the Arbitrator ruled in favor of the Union. This means the employer must adhere to "Article XXI Seniority" when awarding postings. This is a huge decision and rectifies the misinterpretation of Item 10 in our local agreement.

40 Hour Work Week

We will be holding 2 Special Meetings on Monday June 18th at 2 and 7 PM to discuss and vote on the implementation of the 40 HR Work Week. The Wage Delegates have been going over the advantages versus the disadvantages of the 40 HR Week. We have discovered that 1 week every 6 months will not work. It puts some people at a greater financial disadvantage over others. Also the 1 day every 6 weeks does not guarantee anyone getting hours. Because departments do not carry DURs unless they are working a posted job and most of them have the seniority to be working somewhere in the mill, the Company will just reschedule them back to their own departments for relief and not replace them. We cannot guarantee that this will create any work. But the final decision to implement the 40 HR Week will ultimately be yours the membership.

Looking Into the Future

There has been a lot of talk and discussions about what the future of this Local may look like. The Executive is actively working on things like Executive structure, per capita

representation, reduced committee numbers, the future of Hansen Hall and all other aspects of our local that may reduce our financial output and be more representative of our actual membership numbers. As we go forward we will be coming out with recommendations on just how we get there and again it will be you the membership that will make the final decision.



EDITORIAL

Well Third Avenue Management finally showed their true colours by announcing the curtailment of #4 paper machine. This is a group that will do anything to maximize profits. By buying into Catalyst, Canfor, Abitibi, they can pick and choose how much of a “product”, and what “product” to put on the market. Driving up paper prices at whatever cost to make a profit is their game.

Who cares that people and families are part of that equation! Shame, shame.

There will be no publishing of the Forward Look for July and August. Many people are on vacation, and getting articles submitted is quite a challenge. If anything important develops, we will put the info on our blog, (Local592.blogspot.com)

Finally, I hope you all have a healthy, happy summer.

In Solidarity
Randy Teichman; Guard/Editor

RETIREE NETWORK



The Good Ole Boys get together held on Tuesdays will be taking a break for the summer.



IN MEMORIAM

We are sorry to have to report that Jim Connell has passed away.

Jim worked as a painter for 20 years. He was the sign painter for the mill and many of those signs can still be seen as you walk around the mill.

Our condolences, thoughts and sympathies go out to his family.

Also passing was Karl Sterlinko. He worked for many years in the Groundwood and retired while we were still Alpulp M.&B.

Our condolences, thoughts and sympathies go to the family.

Safety Report

June Juggle

The month of June is a very busy one with the onset of better weather and the opportunity to plan a few summer activities, travel and vacation. Many young people will be finishing the school year, and hoping to get a summer job or take advantage of their youth, by indulging in favorite summer fun.

High school, College and University's across the province will be holding graduation ceremonies, and many proud people will attend to support their loved ones. The local high school students have worked hard all year to prepare for Dry Grad, and the students will be selecting special clothes to wear and getting spiffed up for the big occasion. Hopefully, they will have the cash for safe rides home, cab fare in an envelope is a good gift to give and United Cab has gift certificates in \$5.00 dollar nominations, good to use for any occasion or party, call 723-2121. Graduation is not just for young people starting out on their careers, many middle age and older folk have set an educational goal to achieve as well.

Remember to take time to have good discussions with the young people in your life that are entering the work force, to ensure they have made good arrangements for travel or lodging, financial status and people to contact in the event of emergency. Review the type of contractor or company they will be working for or seeking employment, how much experience and physical ability they possess, including the standard of training they will receive and necessary equipment or PPE required.

I truly enjoy heating up the old credit card to buy Office clothes for my daughter, and logging PPE for my son. I scored some good Welding boots for my friend's son who is starting this trade in the fall. Not only does it help them with their work and self

esteem, it makes me feel like super mom. So you don't have to have your own kids, there is always someone who appreciates the help, even if you drop off a decent pair of steel toes or old cork boots never really worn at the Salvation army.

We recently traveled to Vancouver to a joint Union/Management Safety Conference with the other DSB reps and I would like to thank the membership for the opportunity to attend the training. I was there for two days and the first night I went for a very long walk, and noticed a lot of changes in the downtown area. Granville Street was open for shopping but some of the stores had changed and the road was blocked off as it was under construction. Many more areas along the main stretch were under construction as well and I noticed at least three new sky scrapers going up. There was also a lot of construction close to the ferry depot for the over pass of Eagle Ridge. After noticing how expensive the stores were I was quite happy to actually find some summer shorts at a reasonable price. Most stores I observed that were hip or well attended by the younger people I had to walk back out, a pair of jeans was \$150-\$250 and the sun glasses I like were \$360.00 so I was pretty relieved to find a store with shorts for \$15.00.

After hiking around I made my way back towards the hotel and then took myself for dinner at the Bay Side on the corner of Denman and Davie Street. It was a nice pub with good food and good service at a reasonable price, with a wonderful view of English Bay. Six large cargo ships were anchored in the Bay. While eating my dinner I made some notes on a napkin for the Forward Look so I could share with you all how nice an area this was to visit. Within an hour the yacky people next to me had all introduced themselves to each other, and some people were from Quebec, Manitoba, Toronto, and Europe.

The streets were totally alive with people, very multi cultural and many people were enjoying the

beach and taking pictures. 7—8 p.m. and all the places were very busy. Although a mixture of ages, predominately 20—35 years old. A very popular and clean area with quaint shops and an endless selection of different food restaurants, Japanese, Mexican, African to name a few.

Close to Stanley Park and the marina and walking distance to up town Granville and Robson Square. It took me 30 minutes at a fast pace, including traffic lights. On the way back from dinner I was walking near the hotel, when I saw an older woman about 65—70 years old using the bank machine and being harassed by a panhandler. The mega time I have spent in Vancouver attending different colleges I have come accustomed to this type of pest, and don't let them bother me. I stood patiently by to ensure he wasn't going to try to snatch her wallet out of her hands as she nervously tried to complete her transaction. She gave him a Toonie but he continued to stay close and babble at her. Boy was I getting pissed off! Could have been anyone's mother. Finally she left around the corner while looking back over her shoulder to make sure he wasn't following as she hurried down the street.

Fortunately I didn't see him there again, or I would have had the hotel call the cops to move him along as it was right next to the hotel. So a word of caution I suppose for those of you carrying or getting money in any town or city, there will always be some skanky panhandler trying to suck some money from some poor undeserving soul, so look out for one another. In conclusion I enjoyed the training and meeting the different union representatives.

Many motorcycles on the road now and although some venture out sooner than others we all ride as individuals regardless what model you own. May was the month to celebrate motorcycle awareness, but all drivers need to pay extra attention all year long. Cars turn or stop without notice, and some nut will always try to squeeze between yourself and the shoulder if you don't centre yourself in the lane. Most accidents occur when the vehicle is turning left in front of the motorcycle, and speed or following too close is a sure risk. Remember to shoulder check and use hand signals not rely on some dinky signal

light, watch out for drivers cutting in between your personal driving space, slow down for corners, wet pavement is slick with oil, and gravel is like marbles. Wear protective riding equipment, unfortunately for those who have laid it down "shorts" will allow you a wicked burn to the leg from the exhaust pipe, if you have leg left, pavement has a way of ripping all the meat off the bones. Running shoes have no protection, and I know of people who have lost most of a foot. Ankle support and grip is just as important, to balance a heavy bike on uneven ground. Ensure your helmet is in good condition and fits snug, wear enough clothes for sudden weather changes, you can always remove extra and bungee cord a bag to your ride if you don't have saddle bags. Good to check the battery condition and safety check all other components, pack extra tools and padlock. Clear glasses for darker and rainy days, tinted for the sun and fit to shed the wind. Don't forget riding is defensive driving it demands to be alert and quick to react, so don't drink alcohol, stop often enough to give the body a break and stretch, and bring snacks and refreshments that will ensure you will feel warm and satisfied.

Try to pay extra attention in the month of June with so much going on and people getting excited about the warmer weather, holidays, vacations, travel and new employment opportunities it's hard to slow down in such a fast pace environment. My goal is to spend some leisure time hiking and camping with a picnic lunch and ice cold beer.

Graduates and kids out of school increase the likelihood they will be running across a street or hanging out without supervision and this is always a fear when visiting a beach or trail, that perhaps someone rides their Dirt Bike, ATV or Mountain Bike into a tragic accident, takes a fall without help or gets caught in a current while swimming. Please use caution, supervise the young, and find ways that you can all enjoy the summer and remain safe, season after season.

Wishing all people a good healthy and safe summer.
Area 2 Safety Rep. Joan Race.
Safety Health and Wellness, Family Recreation
Leisure Activities.

CHAIRMAN STANDING COMMITTEE
REPORT

John Young, Vice President

I have not been following our blog until just recently. At a meeting with the company last week (June 8, 2007) it was mentioned by a senior executive of the company that he enjoyed reading our blog when he needed entertaining. This in it self is not a surprise, however, upon checking out the comments on the blog a number of things struck me. I guess I was too slow to duck, sorry, couldn't resist. Anyway, the rhetoric to say the least was interesting. I don't know if you all realize how public a forum it is that you are conversing on, but the content is very disturbing. First, it brings to mind a story that transpired a number of years ago in our local paper (and a few others); does the name Warren Betanko mean anything to you? He was the Mayor of Port Alberni a few years ago and felt he had to bolster his image in a public way. The company isn't trying to bolster it's image with us but I wouldn't put it past them to include comments to stir up our members. A lot of verbiage is spent relating the nature of anonymous installments, and the difficulty in assessing its contributor. Day worker, shift worker, senior or junior etc. But also I noted one comment about locals. This is where I took off on the tangent to consider who may be contributing to the mass of opinions on the blog. It also brought to mind Paul Reitsma, who made the contributions under the name Warren Betanko (and others maybe). I have no problem with the anonymous contributions and we are all allowed our opinions, however, before we start to eviscerate each other publicly, consider, who this anonymous person you are reacting too is, and what is their ultimate goal. The things that come up look to me like they could be answered at the hall and if this blog is going to take the place of coming to meetings it is the wrong forum.

As a vice president, along with Dan Rogers and Bob MacAdams it is our job to defend the contract and our members. I realize in situations like we are going through today that the interests of our members is to keep their jobs. But the premise of the Union is "what I want for myself I want for my brother or sister". There have been comments of late about the contract and how it reads "mill seniority" and there are questions around that. There was a time when our locals (592 and 686) could apply the seniority from the mill in either local. That was changed in or around 1981 and I am searching for the minutes to confirm this change. Where the contract reads mill seniority I ask that you read the cover of the contract and specifically it reads "LABOUR AGREEMENT 2003 – 2008 BETWEEN NorskeCanada Port Alberni Division and COMMUNICATIONS, ENERGY and PAPERWORKERS' UNION of CANADA LOCAL 592. The key words here are LOCAL 592, and the contents are specific to this local. The main wage may be the same as the other pattern locals but again it may not. Supplemental agreements will definitely be different. Also in question are the interpretation and application of seniority upon lay off. I was caught up in this change in 1993 to its application today. I can tell anyone how it was applied to me then and didn't care to hear of the change when told how it would work when PM3 went down. I have changed my opinion since then, after seeing how it works; I now realize that it closer resembles the true use of seniority when applied to cut backs, like we have just had and are about to go through. When I went through a cut back in 1993, I had the seniority to remain in the mill, but out of my trade. Today there are people in the trades that are junior in the department, but senior in the mill. To look at just department seniority, these people would bump into the mill and displace mill personnel with up to 30 years service. All the while, there are

people in the trade working with less than 10 years service. When we look at an individuals qualifications, it makes more sense to keep the 30 plus year seniority tradesman in the trade and bump out the junior tradesman. This makes for an upset junior tradesman but looking at seniority in a mill context it makes its application more correct. I realize in making changes someone will not be happy, but we do strive for as close to the perfect model as we can get. The people that lost their jobs in the Kraft shut will be using the seniority from the mill as they are displaced from the jobs they undertook after the closure (if any exist). They have the right to be in the mill under that seniority and line of progression and department take affect after a member is scheduled in the mill before Friday at 4:30 for the coming week. For trades it will work the same. The company has allowed for X number of a specific trade. If one of the junior (department) tradesmen is in the trade and a junior (mill) is out, but scheduled in for the coming week, the junior (mill) employee will bump out the junior (department) into the GLP pool. This will of course only happen if the laid off junior (mill) tradesman is not working and out of the mill. So far we have only had one tradesman laid off (by the legal definition), and there is a grievance on the application of his seniority rights at this time. If there are questions about seniority and its application feel free to enquire at the Union Hall or talk to a Shop Steward or Vice President in your area.

We will get through this even if the outcome is not what we envision. It will at times, not be pleasant and it will test all of our patience I'm sure. Please bring your concerns and questions to the next regular meeting and be aware that it is the membership that drives this Local and the Executive will steer the course YOU set.