

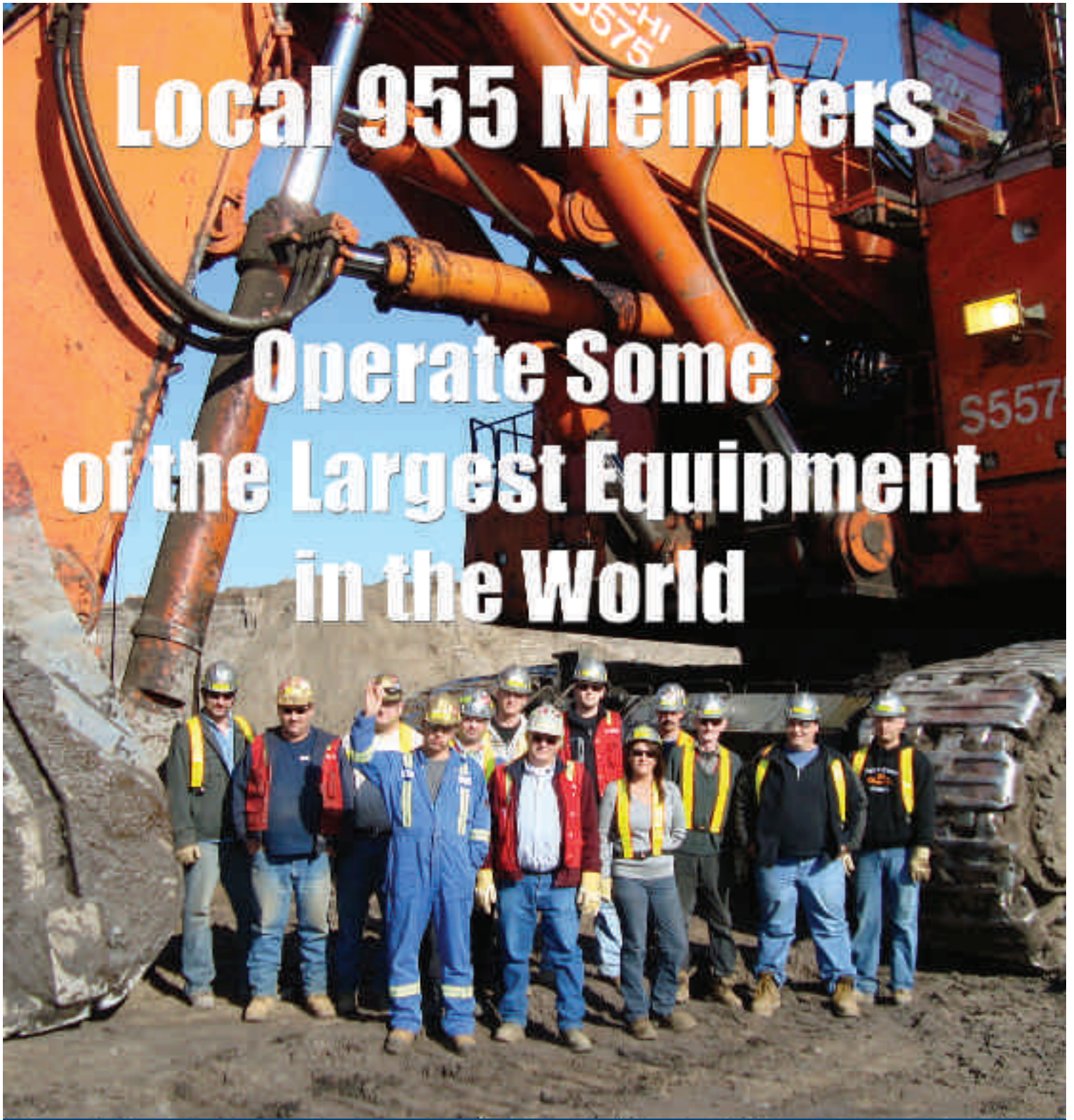
955 *Engineers News*



Winter 2008

Local 955 Members

Operate Some of the Largest Equipment in the World



LOCAL 955 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Paul Bokowski	Business Manager
Bruce Kosmack.....	President
Mike Bourgeois	Vice President
Leroy Nippard	Financial Secretary
Bruce Kiryluk.....	Recording Corresponding Secretary
Victor Banfield	Treasurer
Frank Araneda	Conductor
Ken Cohen	Guard
Nick Semchuk	Trustee
Raemonde Bezenar	Trustee
Wayne Clawson.....	Trustee
James Dawson.....	Auditor
Doug Cook	Auditor
Rod Slobodian	Auditor
Casey Grant	Member at Large Central District
Paul Weaver	Member at Large Southern District
Gerald Bourassa	Member at Large Northern District

TRAINING FUND TRUSTEES

Union Trustees

Paul Bokowski, Co-Chairman
Leroy Nippard, Trustee
Jay McGeough, Trustee
Bill Stewart, Trustee

Employer Trustees

Bruce Stewart, Chairman
(Lampson Canada Ltd.)
Bob Morrison
(AGRA Foundations Ltd.)
Leo Ziehr
(Canadian Pipeline
Association Representative)
Vacant - (Roadbuilders Sector)

HEALTH, WELFARE AND PENSION FUNDS TRUSTEES

Union Trustees

Ron Macdonald, Chairman
Paul Bokowski
Bruce Kosmack
Bruce Moffatt

Employer Trustees

Lyall Nash, Vice-Chairman
(Pipe Line Contractors
Association of Canada)
Terry Gale
(Standard General)
Bob Picken
(Sterling Crane)
Len Tucker
(Construction Labour Relations)

OFFICE LOCATIONS

CENTRAL DISTRICT Edmonton

17603 - 114 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5S 2R9
Phone: (780) 483-0955
Fax: (780) 483-1998

SOUTHERN DISTRICT Calgary

#201, 1212 - 31 Avenue N.E.
Calgary, Alberta T2E 7S8
Phone: (403) 250-3840
Fax: (403) 250-3916

NORTHERN DISTRICT Fort McMurray

#200, 9905 Sutherland Street
Ft. McMurray, Alberta T9H 1V3
Phone: (780) 790-1713
Fax: (780) 743-2582

Edson

#201, 4924 - 1st Avenue
Edson, Alberta T7E 1T6
Phone: (780) 723-5955
Fax: (780) 723-7540

Health & Welfare and Pension Trust Funds

17603 - 114 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5S 2R9
Phone: (780) 483-9550
Fax: (780) 483-1958

Training Trust Fund

17603 - 114 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5S 2R9
Phone: (780) 483-8955
Fax: (780) 489-1325

MEETING INFORMATION

Central District Meeting

4th Wednesday of each Month
O.E.'s Union Hall
17603 - 114 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
Commencing at 7:30 p.m.

Southern District Meeting

First Tuesday of each Month
UA, Local 496 Union Hall
5649 Burbank Road S.E.
Calgary, Alberta

(around the corner from the Blackfoot Inn)

Commencing at 7:30 p.m.

Northern District Meeting

1st Wednesday of each Month
The Sawridge Inn & Conference Centre
530 Mackenzie Boulevard
Ft. McMurray, Alberta
Commencing at 8:00 p.m.

Edson

Meetings as posted on Worksite
Bulletin Board.

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Ron Macdonald

Retired Business Manager



AN OPEN LETTER TO THE MEMBERS OF LOCAL 955, 955B AND 955C

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

In the fall of 2006, after 44 years of working life, my wife and I had decided to retire in the spring of 2007. In November, 2006 circumstances changed and I was asked to assume the position of Business Manager of IUOE, Local 955. It was felt that because I was the senior person at the Local, and that I had been involved in the negotiations of the Roadbuilders, the Crane Rental and the CLR Collective Agreements a number of times, this experience would be helpful in the upcoming rounds of bargaining. On November 27, 2006, I was subsequently elected, by the Table Officers, to the position of Business Manager, as per the provisions of the Constitution.

Negotiations for those Collective Agreements have now been completed and the agreements ratified. The Local is fortunate to have a good team of Business Representatives and Business Agents who are competent and work well with our equally competent administration staff. The membership of the Local is steadily growing and there seems to be an abundance of work for them.

I am now in my 46th working year, and my wife and I have decided to slow down and “smell the roses”, so to speak. For these and other personal reasons, I wish to inform the members that I will be retiring from the positions of Business Manager and Financial Secretary of IUOE, Local 955 at 4:30 p.m., September 30th, 2008.

Subsequent to my informing the Table Officers of my intention to retire, they met and, as per the provisions of the Constitution, elected Bro. Paul Bokowski to the position of Business Manager. I was pleased with their selection of my successor because I believe Paul has the credentials and track record to do a good job. His years of experience in the field as both a Journeyman Heavy Duty Mechanic and a Journeyman Crane Operator give him a good understanding of the needs of the members. Add to that his 9 years as the Administrator of the IUOE Training Trust Fund, 10 years as Business Agent and Business Representative and the fact that he holds a Master of Business Administration Degree from Royal Roads University, stand him in good stead to run the Local, which, in essence has become a multi million dollar corporation. I, in fact, admit that many times during my time as Business Manager sought and accepted his advice in many business decisions for the Local.

It has been an honor to work almost 19 years for the members of an organization that I so strongly believe in and that has bettered the lives of so many people and their families. I would like to thank all of you who gave me help and support along the way, and yes, even those of you who gave me a hard time, because that kept me on my toes.

In closing, I would ask you to support your Executive Board, especially those officers who daily are faced with making tough decisions on your behalf, and defend your Union in any way that you can because there are those who would destroy it and all of the Health & Welfare, Pension and Collective Bargaining benefits that it gives you.

Fraternally,

Ron Macdonald

Business Manager



Paul Bokowski

Business Manager, M.B.A, C.E.O.

Seasons Greetings to my fellow Brothers and Sisters of Local 955, the year end holiday season is upon us again. As you know there have been some changes in your local union office.

Brother Ron Macdonald's retirement letter to the members is reprinted on the adjoining page as information for new members or members that may not have received his letter by mail. We will miss Brother Ron Macdonald's knowledge, patience and humor – they contributed greatly to the efficient operation of the office.

However the work of the Union goes on and all of us must step forward and do our part.

Fortunately our Local Union is in good shape. Our members are working and it looks like they will be for a while. Naturally, our prime concern is keeping our members employed at good union jobs with good union benefits. **I believe that Local 955 can and will move forward, that our members will prosper with good wages, benefits and working conditions.** As part of that process:

I believe that members must know that the decisions and actions of the Union Staff, especially those of the Business Manager must be based on the premise – “Do that which is best for the Members and the Local, today and in the future. Always work as per the Constitution and Bylaws (as per the rules) of the IUOE”.

My total focus as Business Manager will be on doing what is good and right for the Members of the Local. All of the officers and employees of the Local are paid to look after the interests of the Members and the Members expect us to do so.

Most things in the Local will not change! When things are working well – They do not require modification. Only necessary changes will be considered.

As a multi-term member of the Local 955 Executive Board I find the duties and responsibilities of the Business Manager position familiar and acceptable (I was first elected to the Executive Board in 1990 and have been re-elected to Executive Board positions in all subsequent elections).

Since leaving field work I have worked with or for 5 (five) different Business Managers and with numerous Representatives and Agents. I learned from all of them. Naturally any Business Manager **must have knowledge in the two major areas of action – 1st – what should be done in numerous circumstances; and 2nd what absolutely must not be done.**

Both describe important day to day actions and decisions. The 2nd - knowing when not to act or proceed – is the more difficult decision – but possibly the most important - because proceeding when you should be still, often results in losing previous accomplishments. It takes years of work to accomplish some goals and **we never want to loose what we have.**

A prosperous and successful future for the local and our members requires a multi-purpose business plan and a budget. The plan and the budget must meet the requirements of the day while maintaining ongoing efforts at improvement for the future.

Also - we all recognize that stability is important; that **Teamwork** in the Union office is essential and both are expected by the membership. The union has some long term, very capable Business Agents and Business Representatives. We also have new Agents who are learning daily. These people can be the core of an excellent team that will serve the membership well, in all sectors of our organization.

Service to the membership is of prime importance and that can always be improved.

In response to member suggestions and comments, I have instructed these small changes affecting business planning and the day to day operation of the Local.

- We will access a Business Agent Training course through another Canadian Local as soon as it becomes available (it is in development). Business Agents and Business Representatives will be supported by the Local towards completing various job related training courses.
- We will be updating our website to make it easier for members to access job postings and help the Hall communicate with members.
- Wherever possible Business Agents will have primary responsibilities in areas of their expertise (their personal expertise counts). Agents will be cross trained for holiday replacement and needed flexibility.
- The Ethics Training prescribed by the International will be accessed as soon as possible. Past happenings make that a necessity.
- Local 955 will publish more frequent newsletters – almost like we used to. Member communication is an essential part of open operation – the members need to know what is happening. The newsletters may not be as thick or as fancy – more like our B.C. Brothers and Sisters receive.
- I am examining the possibility of a Member Trustee (not an Agent) on the H&W and Pension Boards of Trustees. More on that later. As a note of interest, Brother Ron Macdonald has agreed to stay on as a Trustee on those Plans (for a short while – as a fill in) towards that initiative.
- Negotiations of collective agreements are continual in our Local. We are such a diverse organization that some negotiations are always happening. New Agents will be involved as observers in those negotiations. Excellent and necessary experience in negotiation will be gained in that manner.

That is a bare bones vision of the immediate path forward for Local 955 – as we all work to improve our Local Union.

OTHER INFORMATION

Many of you know me as a long term member of Local 955. I have worked with you on numerous sites.

Still, I realize that members want to know about their Business Manager. Now, as our numbers are approaching 10,000 (ten thousand); it is reasonable that **each** member should know some things about me. A work/union history (a rather condensed version) is in order.

I have been a member in good standing since 1971 (I was fortunate to join Local 955 almost directly out of school). Like many others I started in earthmoving (a packer operator) – in road building and heavy construction.

I moved to industrial construction in search of year round work and expanded my operating skills; learned to run hoe and became a licensed crane operator.

With the work slowdown in the early 80's I moved to the Crane Rental Sector. That brought the opportunity to gain certification as a Heavy Duty Mechanic. Crane Rental was a great place to work, but after 7 ½ years I went looking for another challenge.

I was hired as Local 955's Training Administrator in late 1988 and stayed until 1997. The Administrator's job was interesting – nothing at all like working for the Local – but interesting. When I was hired it was a one room enterprise with no permanent staff, no equipment, no training site, and no ongoing or really viable programs. The Training Fund finances were extremely tight, with a small reserve fund. Member usage had been decreasing. Fortunately the Trustees running the plan were excellent people, I learned from all of them – both the Union Trustees and the Management Trustees. To perform the tasks of Administrator I completed courses on computers, business communication, business law and some train the trainer courses.

I proposed hiring permanent staff, buying a training site, purchasing heavy equipment and establishing a core of supported programs – the Trustees agreed. The training site and equipment was purchased, core programs were implemented. Some of the core programs are still in use or supported today. At that time the Training Trust Fund became an ongoing functioning entity, able to supply training effectively and expand training programs in response to need and resources. Between 1988 and 1997, even with some tough economic times, we achieved approximately a 500% (five hundred percent) increase in **member** usage. Over the same time, by operating in a frugal manner, approximately a 50% (fifty percent) increase in the reserve fund was accomplished.

During that time period I served the members in numerous unpaid positions. For instance, on both the Local Advisory Committee (LAC) and Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) for Crane and Hoisting - first as a member of the committees and later as their Presiding Officers (chairman). I also worked on committees for Crane and Hoisting course and test development. I was on the selection committee to choose the **first** instructors NAIT hired to teach the crane and hoisting apprenticeship courses. I also served a term on the advisory committee for Keyano College (for construction equipment training courses). I declined a second term with Keyano to concentrate on the needs of 955. In all, the Training Trust Fund was running well - it was time for a change and another step.

I was hired as an Agent in 1997 – it is a big step to Business Agent (BA) – the requirements of numerous collective agreements and the Labour Code changes your focus. At that time I served a short time as Trustee on the Training Trust before leaving that position to concentrate on Business Agent duties. I gained experience in member representation, jurisdictional requirements and jurisdictional disputes and was appointed Privacy Officer of the Local. I fought and won numerous jurisdictional disputes at both the Alberta and National level. I gained experience in collective agreement negotiation and grievances (filing, processing and resolution).

I have been very fortunate to represent members in numerous sectors of our Local - in Roadbuilding, Industrial Construction, Industrial Plant Maintenance, Crane Rental, members in County work and City work, a School Division, a Canning plant, even employees and Agents of another union. I was back-up Agent for the Overburden/Mining sector. Over the years I progressed from Business Agent, to Business Representative, Assistant Manager and now Business Manager.

From 1990 until recently I have served the Union and the Membership in the unpaid positions on the Executive Board. I have been an Auditor, the Treasurer, the Vice President, and the President. Serving on the Executive Board has been an excellent (and necessary) learning experience. With the support of two previous Business Managers I completed a Masters Degree in Business Administration.

That university degree has been a great help in the administration of the local office, in business planning, in negotiation strategy and in recognizing the present and future needs of the Local.

It is also of great value in my other unpaid positions. I am a Trustee on the H&W and Pension Boards and have recently returned as a Trustee on the Board of the Training Trust Fund. I am President of the Operating Engineers Local 955 Real Estate Corporation. I also represent Local 955 on the Northern Alberta Building Trades (recently renamed the Building Trades of Alberta) as Vice President of that Council and as a member of the Executive of the Canadian Conference of Operating Engineers.

Fellow members of 955, I am confident that the long term prospects of our Local are positive. Our prospects will remain positive - because we will plan ahead. The Local can and will succeed in our competition with the non union and the unions of convenience. Local 955 will grow in the future and therefore **provide more and better opportunities for our members.**

2008 has been a year filled with positive happenings (and the usual bumps in the road) that I feel are the precursor to **continuing good times** for the members of our Local.

Once again, I am asking you to help me keep our Local Union on the path to better jobs, better wages, better benefits and better working conditions. I look forward to working with you.

Thank you for your patience - best wishes for a great holiday season and an even better New Year.

Bruce Kosmack

President / Business Representative



"Seasons Greetings, Brothers & Sisters"

I hope this letter finds everyone well for the holiday season. Another busy year has come and gone, busy is a definite understatement. Crane operators (Mobile & Tower Crane), heavy duty mechanics, excavator operators are just to name a few voids we have been busy trying to fill and recruit for our contractors. Have we been successful, given the supply and demand in industry today? We have not fared too badly, given the fact that more baby boomers are retiring every year and the voids that are being created are becoming more difficult to fill with each passing year. The fact that we have a back log in our crane (Mobile & Tower) apprenticeship school vacancies does not help, although Keyano College in Ft. McMurray is trying to alleviate some of the pressure being put on NAIT. This will definitely help with the apprentices that reside in the Wood Buffalo region, but how do they expect someone on E.I. that resides in the rest of the province to access any kind of reasonably affordable housing accommodations given the outrageous rates in Ft. McMurray. Well, they have helped to subsidize the cost to students; based on the availability through Keyano College, students from outside of the Wood Buffalo region can acquire single apartment dwellings for approximately \$367.00 per month, that's right per month. Apprentices now have another option, but it is up to the student to contact Keyano College with regards to the availability of housing. There are also government grants, not student loans, which are accessible to students and if you qualify, you do not have to pay back a grant. You are encouraged to contact our Training office for more information with regards to booking your schooling through Keyano. So having said all that, there are still some of you that may wish to challenge one of the three years of your mobile crane apprenticeship, I strongly suggest that you look into taking both certified courses, Chart Reading and/or Basic or Advanced Rigging courses. They are provided for you through our Training department in Edmonton, or in your local district areas, providing there are enough members registered to set up a course. Usually it requires a minimum of ten registrants in order to run the course. These courses are intended to provide you with both the information and knowledge you would have otherwise attained had you attended technical training through NAIT or Keyano College.

Now on the other side of the crane and hoisting craft, Tower Crane in particular, we have a course outline that has been developed through numerous hours of sub-committee work that I participated in with other PAC members, yet we wait for further approval through A.I.T. (Apprenticeship Industry Training) and continue to use one of the oldest tower cranes in the industry known to man for the testing of our members, that being the Potain in the Ledcor yard just off the QE II north of Nisku. So currently anyone that is a Tower Crane apprentice, you need to acquire two thousand (2000) hours operating a tower crane in a twenty (24) four month period, then you may challenge both the theory and practical parts of the exam at no cost to the student. There are other options available to individuals with out of province certifications or individuals who have operated without certification, for those candidates please go to www.tradesecrets.gov.ab.ca for more information pertaining to Tower Crane apprenticeship. Also as a reminder to all apprentices, no matter what trade you are designated to, if you are inactive at your trade for a year or more, the A.I.T. (Apprenticeship Industry Training) can and will cancel your apprenticeship. Remember when you signed on to become an apprentice with your employer; you accepted the terms and conditions by way of contract. The contract is the apprenticeship agreement between you and your employer, your ability to remain employed with them as an apprentice depends on whether or not you fulfill your end of the agreement and complete all technical training that is required of you. Those of you who are Mobile Crane Apprentices may have already experienced such a cancellation. Not to worry, if it was no fault of your own, your apprenticeship can be re-initiated. To become a journeyman will require you to set some goals, in order to achieve those goals will require some sacrifices, put your mind to it and you can achieve anything you want.

In closing I would like to give a special thank you to the Executive Board Table Officers for their vote of confidence in nominating me as President to fill the vacancy created on the Executive Board. My wish and main goal is to continue to provide the membership of Local 955 with the representation and respect you all so greatly deserve. I would also like to thank Bro. Ron Macdonald at this time for putting aside his own personal life to lead Local 955 in its time of need. I wish both Ron and his wife Myra nothing but happiness in their new life of retirement. I look forward to working with our new Business Manager, Paul Bokowski and serving in the capacity of President for the future of Local 955. With that in mind I would also like to wish all of our members and families, friends, contractors and co-workers, peace, prosperity and happiness over the Holiday Season. Remember to stay alive, don't drink and drive.

"TIME"

To realize
The value of ten years:
Ask a newly
Divorced couple

To realize
The value of four years:
Ask a graduate.

To realize
The value of one year:
Ask a student who
Has failed a final exam.

To realize
The value of nine months:
Ask a mother who gave birth to a stillborn.

To realize
The value of one month:
Ask a mother
Who has given birth to
A premature baby.

To realize
The value of one week:
Ask an editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize
The value of one minute:
Ask a person
Who has missed the train, bus or plane.

To realize
The value of one-second:
Ask a person
Who has survived an accident.

Time waits for no one.

Treasure every moment you have.

You will treasure it even more when
You can share it with someone special.

To realize the value of a friend or family
member:

LOSE ONE



**AGRA FOUNDATIONS LIMITED – CALGARY AIRPORT
COMPACTO PILING CREW WORKING ON NEW PARKADE FOR
AIRPORT EXPANSION**

(L-R) Corey Logan, Richard Grenier, Colton Kosmack,
Robert Cote (in crane), Ray Gunter



**BURNCO ROCK PRODUCTS LTD. - LETHBRIDGE, AB PIT
FATHER AND SON TEAM LOADING OUT COMPONENTS
BOUND FOR CARESLAND, AB PIT**

(L-R) Kyle Worden, Clyde Worden (Job Steward)



**LAMPSON CANADA LTD. – BEISEKER YARD
TEAM LAMPSON, TAKING CARE OF THINGS AT THEIR SHOP.**

(L-R) Paul Berry (Job Steward), David Patterson, Dale Chevrier,
Dale Godfrey, Joe Kelly, Gary Appel



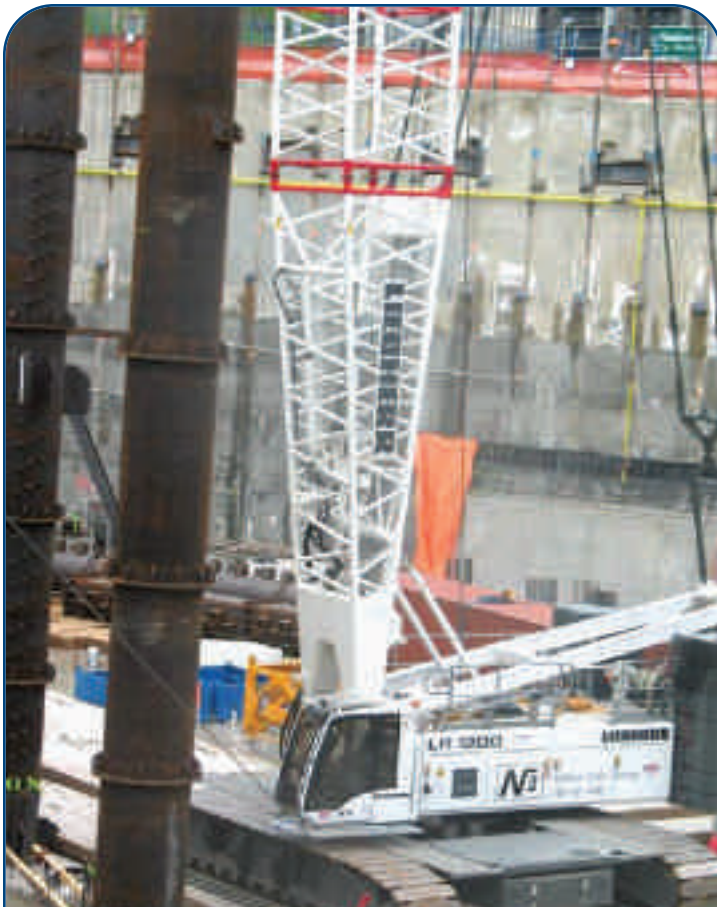
**SIMMONS CANADA INC. – MEMBERS HOME
PRESIDENT BRUCE KOSMACK PRESENTED MARIJA KOLONIC
WITH A CLOCK FOR RETIRING AS A 30 YEAR MEMBER**
(L-R) Marija Kolonic & Bruce Kosmack
(Business Representative/President)



**SIMMONS CANADA INC. – PLANT LUNCHROOM
MARIJA KOLONIC’S RETIREMENT PARTY ACCEPTING
FLOWERS FROM CHARLENE AS A SMALL TOKEN**
(L-R) Marija Kolonic & Charlene Leroux (H.R. Manager)



**AGRA FOUNDATIONS LIMITED – 20TH AVE & 4TH STREET
S.W. CALGARY**
**TWO OF AGRA’S MORE EXPERIENCED DRILLERS
AT THEIR FINEST**
(L-R) Terry McIntosh (Job Steward), Bruce Kosmack
(Business Representative/President), Joseph (Clark) Degenstein



**NORTHERN CRANE SERVICE INC. – CALGARY/CENTRE ST. & 6TH AVE. S.E.
SETTING BASE COLUMNS AND BEAMS FOR THE “BOW PROJECT”**

Operator: Vern Doak

**ELLIS-DON/OXFORD BUILDERS – SOUTH CAMPUS HOSPITAL
ALL FIVE RUN THE TOWER CRANES ON SITE.
GUY DAWSON ALSO RUNS THEIR MOBILE (DEMAG)**

(L-R): Greg Edlund, Jason Brister, Derek Waltman, Kevin Malhiot,
Guy Dawson



MAMMOET CRANE INC.,

Oxford Builders site; Union Square
Todd Webber 500 ton - dismantling Tower Crane



**MAMMOET CRANE INC. – CALGARY SHOP
MECHANICS THAT KEEP THEIR FLEET IN TUNE**

(L-R) Mark Zisoff, Joe Sim, Norm Mckenzie, Justin Mc Kervey



**STERLING CRANE @ CARESLAND SHUT-DOWN
DAY SHIFT CRANE OPERATORS ALL GATHERED FOR LUNCH**

(L-R): Casey Tishauer, Orla Mortensen, Gerry Kruhlak, Trevor King
(J.S.), Brady Drader, Don McHarg (Supervisor),
James Trimble, Tim Saunders, Jim Motyer, Bruce Kosmack
(Business Representative/President)



**BASIC RIGGING COURSE, GREENWOOD INN, CALGARY AB,
OCTOBER 4 & 5, 2008**

Back Row (L-R): Don McNabb, Dusten Huebner, Bruce Larsen
(Instructor), Richard Linster, Tyson Novak,
Rob Fugiel, Keith Brodie

Front Row (L-R): Mike Podwinski, Brad Maitre, John Milner,
Trevor MacDonald, Colton Kosmack



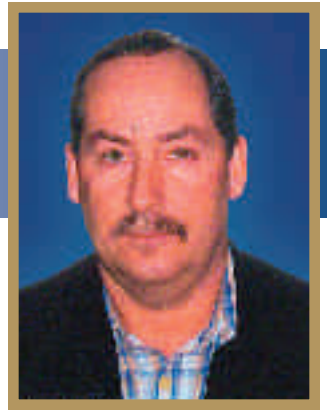
**MAMMOET CRANE – CALGARY
90 TON GROVE GETTING READY FOR TOWER CRANE
COMPONENTS**

AT OXFORD BUILDERS SITE; UNION SQUARE

Ron Hendry

Leroy Nippard

Financial Secretary /
Business Representative



Hello Brothers & Sisters;

As 2008 comes to an end, we can reflect on what has been a busy and prosperous year for our Members working in the Northern District. All indications are that 2009 will be no different.

The Mining sector continues to provide long-term employment with several projects at the Syncrude, Aurora, Suncor, Fort Hills, Albian Sands, Jackpine and CNRL sites.

The Industrial sites remain busy, especially at the Suncor, Syncrude, Opti-Nexen and Voyageur sites. The MNU Project at Suncor should be completed by late 2009 and MVU by the end of 2008. The SEP Project at Suncor is expected to finish by November, 2009. The \$11.6 Billion Voyageur Upgrader will continue through 2009 and beyond.

The Project Labour Agreement (PLA) provides an innovative way to deal with the labour shortage, by providing flights for our Members anywhere in the country.

The Piling Division remains busy with Agra Foundations working at the Suncor Firebag and Fort Hills sites and North American Caisson at the Voyageur Upgrader and Albian Sands sites.

Crane Rental companies are also busy on sites including fifty cranes on the Voyageur site.

Our Surveying companies are extremely busy on all sites, working Industrial and Mining.

Organizing has been and remains a top priority for the Operating Engineers. Brother Jorma Torkkeli has done an excellent job organizing. I would like to thank all of the Members who have assisted Bro. Torkkeli and would ask for your continued support.

Contract negotiations with North American Mining, KMC Mining and Liebherr will commence in 2009. I encourage everyone to get out and take part in the proposal meetings.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish former Business Manager, Ron Macdonald all the best in his retirement and congratulate Bro. Paul Bokowski, the new Business Manager for the Operating Engineers on his appointment.

In Closing,

I wish you and your family the best of the Holiday Season and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.



Mike Bourgeois

Vice President /
Business Agent

Well the Holiday season is creeping upon us once again and in the past year there have been a few changes within Local 955. Our Business Manager retired on September 30, 2008 and in the transition I have been appointed as Vice President for the remainder of this term. My duties as Vice President allow me to continue working in the best interest of the Operating Engineers and I look forward to doing so.

With all the benefits of a boom economy come an equal number of issues for our members. Young people have unlimited opportunities in a competitive labour market. Make your choices wisely with a focus on your long term goals. All training and experience become valuable assets for future growth. While the younger generation plays an important part in this boom economy let's not forget about our more senior workforce, some of our members are coming out of retirement getting back into the workforce and some are continuing to work a little longer than planned. These members are the leaders and mentors in our industry, their years of experience become invaluable in such a competitive labour market. Their years of dedication and commitment to the Local Union are very much appreciated.

I sometimes feel that Job Stewards do not get enough recognition for the important work they do, they are a very important link between the members, management and the Local Union office. I would like to take this opportunity and thank all of the Job Stewards working in my units. The work you do for the Union and the members is very much appreciated. Working as a Business Agent is definitely challenging but without the help of good Job Stewards it would make the job very difficult. So thanks again to all Job Stewards and keep up the good work.

I am now sitting on the Bylaw Committee. I am sure this will bring some new challenges but with the members on this committee I am confident that the issues will be resolved in a professional and fair manner, keeping the members best interests in mind. The committee members are, Bros. Bruce Kosmack, Wayne Clawson, Brian Brown and myself.

The toughest job working as a Business Agent is trying to hang onto the work that is already ours. I know this has been going on for years but it seems like some of the other trades would prefer doing our work rather than their own, it must be tough to be working in a trade that you really do not like doing. It is very important for all members to contact their Job Steward or designated Business Agent when something like this is observed in your workplace. The sooner we are made aware of the problem usually the easier it is to get resolved.

Absenteeism seems to be a huge problem for many of our contractors. I know that Operating Engineers are more dependable than some of the other unions in the Building Trades and I think that is great. It is very important for us as Operating Engineers to show professionalism and continue being leaders in the industry. Show up for work.

I feel that congratulations is in order for Bro. Ron Macdonald on his retirement. Bro. Macdonald did a great job serving the membership during his time in office with Local 955.

Congratulations to Bro. Paul Bokowski on his appointment as Business Manager. Bro. Bokowski has a lot of experience and knowledge with Local 955 and I am sure his leadership abilities will be appreciated by both the members and the staff while serving as Business Manager for Local 955.

We have an election coming up in the new-year, I encourage all members to exercise their right and obligation as members in good standing to participate in the upcoming election and vote for the candidates you feel will serve you best.

Wishing all members and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Any day as an Operating Engineer is a "Good Day"



ALSTOM POWER CANADA INC.
KEEPHILLS SITE
Blaine Dahlseide operating a Zoom-Boom



STERLING CRANE
KEEPHILLS SITE
Al Bordeleau operating Crane



STERLING CRANE
KEEPHILLS SITE
(L-R): Jason Cain, Dale Clelland and Phil Baker



BFI GRAHAM
KEEPHILLS SITE
(L-R): Klaus Semke and Jason Hughes operating the Concrete Trucks
and Mike Reynolds operating the Concrete Pump



Bruce Moffatt

**Business Representative /
Director of Arbitration**

Fall is a time to reflect and adjust to change, and at the time that I am writing this article; there is cause for much reflection. Changes have occurred in our organization. It is also a time of profound change in global economic markets.

Local 955 has experienced another change in leadership, with Brother Ron Macdonald retiring after almost 19 years of working for Local 955, and 43 years of membership. Ron had previously postponed his plans to retire when he was appointed as Business Manager, and provided Local 955 with a much-needed period of stability during the negotiation of a number of our major collective agreements in the construction sector. Congratulations Ron in your retirement, and I hope that you and your wife Myra have many happy years together.

A major change that will affect all of us is in the economy. We have seen major government interventions in the banking system in the U.S. and around the world. I am an optimist, so I am expecting that by the time you read this article, those interventions will have averted the threat of a major recession. It is likely that there will be a period of settling and readjustment before the world economies start building another head of steam for further growth. A short slowdown will give Alberta a breather to train and develop our workforce to meet the growing demands that further development here will require.

There is some good news out of this time of economic challenge. The OE Local 955 pension plan was in a better position to weather the economic storm than almost all pension plans in Canada. This is because of forward-thinking decisions made in 1995 by your Board of Trustees to invest the assets of the plan in a manner that was then considered excessively conservative. This unconventional path has since been recognized as a prudent approach to pension

plan investing. Your Pension Plan successfully weathered both the dot-com bust in 2001, and I expect will experience only minor difficulty, if any, in our most recent downturn. Having been a member of the Board since 1994, and continuing as a member now, it is satisfying to see that this conservative and practical approach has in fact paid off for all members of that Plan.

With successful bargaining completed for HSAA, Smoky Lake County, and Lafarge Villeneuve Aggregates earlier in the year, I have been active this Fall negotiating collective agreements at the Town of Stony Plain, Parkland School Division, Caritas Hospital Group, Camrose County, Wetaskiwin County and Fort McKay Services (Trucking Division). I anticipate that we will reach successful agreements, locking in gains that are reflective of the strong economy that Alberta has experienced over the last few years.

HSAA, Smoky Lake County, Beaver County, KBR Mod Yards, Lafarge Villeneuve Aggregates continue to be busy. There is an emphasis on completing projects, but there are a few storm clouds on the horizon, particularly in the aggregate area. Hopefully the rebalancing in the residential construction market in Edmonton will allow for a better season next year.

I encourage all members to take an upcoming Job Steward course to give you a better idea of how your union works for you. This course will also help you gain some new skills that will further your success in the workplace. There is a listing of scheduled courses in this magazine, or call your local office for the next available dates in your area.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year.



**JOB STEWARD COURSE HELD IN FORT MCMURRAY
OCTOBER 15, 2008**

In attendance: Michael Lutz, Ian Rice, Byron Hutchcraft, Steve Cormier, Bill Bartlett, Vince Anstey, Christian Mazerolle, Patrick Lefebvre, Tom Coulthard, Bill Breadner, Dave MacIntyre, Tim Perteet, Shawn Parsons, Lisa Hilchey, David Hotton, Eugene Strickland, Mark Gildart, Ron Knoedler, Brad Ross, Wayne Cormier, Darcy Moore, Jacquie Daley, Brian Antler, James Tobin, Dave Gillingham, Bryan Kelly, Ryan Giles, Alfred Smith, Norm Buchanan, Ralph Costain



**JOB STEWARD COURSE HELD IN EDMONTON,
MARCH 15, 2008**

In attendance: Orville Kaasa, Fred Power, Paul McMillan, Daniel Charbonneau, Wayne Eleniak, Declan Regan, Meril Martin, Mathias Graefe, Ursala Wolfe, Bruce Kosmack (Instructor), Bruce Moffatt (Instructor)

Frank Araneda

Conductor / Business Agent



Seasons Greetings Brothers and Sisters

It has been another busy year and as with the past few years there have been some difficult situations to face and overcome. Thinking about the multitude of issues which arise in Alberta's ever changing work environment, I cannot stress enough the importance of supporting your Job Stewards and Safety Representatives for the great work they do on a day to day basis representing you.

Coal Valley Mine commenced negotiations in September and preparations are underway to begin negotiations at the Paintearth/Sheerness Mines as well. All these mines are very busy and manpower increases occurred throughout the year.

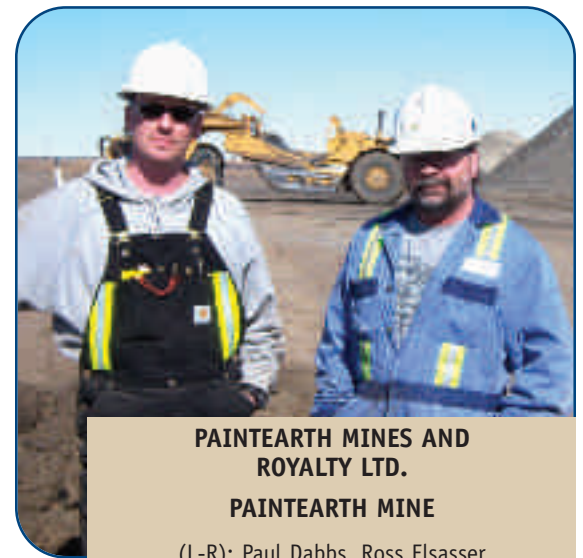
Brazeau County has been doing well and has seen another busy year. Negotiations will also be commencing here at the time this article is being printed.

The Evergreens Foundation has seen its share of changes throughout the year and the staff at these lodges are to be commended as their concern for the seniors is first and foremost when dealing with any issues which may arise.

Wild Rose School Division #66 maintenance and custodial 955 members are always under the public microscope and do a great job maintaining good facilities and cleanliness to the 20 plus schools in an area covering from Drayton Valley in the north and Rocky Mountain House in the south.

Garry Last M.Ed., R.Psych. (AB) retired this year after fourteen years as the psychologist working for the Employee Family Assistance Program in the Drayton Valley, Edson, Hinton and Grande Cache areas. On behalf of all 955 members, I wish him all the best on his retirement. Francine Wilson Symbaluk, M.C.PSY has replaced Garry and we wish her well!

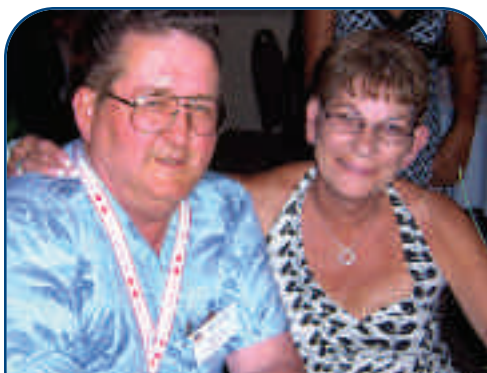
Best Wishes, Happy Holidays and a prosperous 2009 to all the members and staff of Local 955, from my family to yours.



PAINTEARTH MINES AND ROYALTY LTD.

PAINTEARTH MINE

(L-R): Paul Dabbs, Ross Elsasser



COAL VALLEY RESOURCES INC.

(L-R) Dale Dunlop and wife Shirley



BRAZEAU COUNTY

(L-R): Bill Gillies (Job Steward), Mike Kwirant



PAINTEARTH MINES AND ROYALTY LTD.

SHEERNESS MINE

(L-R): Conrad Corry, Dean Girodat (Job Steward)



Gary Vegelis

Business Agent

We all talk about the future and how things cannot keep going the way they are. The market meltdown in the USA is a sharp reminder. A slowdown in the housing market has already affected the volume of work for our own members. Hopefully this downturn is a short one.

Oil is still the main driving force of the economy in Alberta. Reasonable stability in this sector will keep our members employed in the north as well as sustaining the growth in the south. This is definitely a time for caution but also an opportunity for those who tried to buy a home in a hot economy.

Two years sounds like a long time, unless you are talking about negotiations. We are back to the bargaining table for the Roadbuilders, Inland Aggregates, Inland Concrete and Lafarge (Shop) Agreements early next year. The members will be notified as to the dates of Proposal Meetings. The input and participation of the members is vital if we are to achieve a good settlement.

There are also many changes within our own organization. Bro. Ron Macdonald is starting to enjoy a well deserved retirement. We all thank Bro. Macdonald for his many years of devoted service on behalf of the members of Local 955.

Our new Business Manager, Paul Bokowski, as a 36 year member, brings a broad knowledge and depth of understanding of our industry to the table. With his determination and our support he will keep Local 955 as a leader in the industry.

Our new President, Bruce Kosmack, has taken on this role showing his strong commitment to our members.

As the year ends I wish all members and their families Health and Prosperity for the Holidays and the coming year.



CHART READING COURSE HELD IN EDMONTON, OCTOBER 25 & 26, 2008

(Front Row L to R): Justin McKervey, Wes Howe, Julien Grant, John Milner, Ray Gunter, Victor Zarinsky

(Back Row L to R): Butch McNabb, Cody Armstrong, Jon Christopher, Jeryd Miller, Gary Weich, Trevor MacDonald, Rob Hennebury, Ian Hennebury, Mike Podwinski, Jack Downey



INLAND AGGREGATES, CALGARY - DAWES PIT
Cliff Lewis



LAFARGE CANADA INC. - SPY HILL
John Wadden



STANDARD GENERAL INC. (CALGARY) - 32ND AVENUE
Eric Wilson



LAFARGE CANADA INC. - QUARRY PARK
Mike Millan



STANDARD GENERAL INC. - GLENMORE TRAIL
Jenny-Ann Vaux



Bill Stewart

**Business Agent /
Director of Marketing and Recruiting**

Recruiting has been going well, we have been attracting crane operators from across Canada. Our union contractors seem to be reluctant to bring in crane operators from the USA. It may be due to the fact that there is a lot more work required to get their qualifications recognized by the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training (AAIT) to allow U.S. citizens to work here. It may be that the waiting period to obtain clearance takes too long and that it is costly. We have an opportunity to bring in members from other IUOE Locals in the south. I talk to many of these crane operators daily. I let them know what information they need to put together and provide them with the contact information of the contractors who have done a Labor Market Opinion (LMO) to bring in temporary foreign workers.

We have had a meeting with The Crane Owners' Association to discuss a plan to process more crane apprentices through their schooling. N.A.I.T. has a limited number of enrolment spaces for crane operator. Recently Keyno College in Ft. McMurray has been awarded funding and the authorization to proceed with the schooling. Just one problem, if you do not live or have family in Ft. McMurray, where does a student stay? There are no student dorms. There is no affordable housing for students. Maybe they are supposed to live in tents, if you can find a place to put it. Ft McMurray is not where the rest of Alberta crane operators should be expected to get their schooling. The Alberta Government has dropped the ball on this one.

All of the crane rental companies are very busy in all parts of Alberta.

Northern Crane has been acquiring companies, Parkland Crane in Stony Plain and A1 Crane in Grande Prairie. A1 is a nonunion company. I have had meetings with the company and their employee's. Tentatively November 1, they hopefully will be running this branch union. Northern has also acquired Trans Tech Contracting, a heavy hauling company.

Mammoet has recently moved into it's much needed, new head office and maintenance shop building at 12920-33 Street.

There is still a shortage of experienced AT crane operators.

United Rental St. Albert shop employees have ratified a new three year agreement voting 83% in favor. We were able to achieve increases of 6.5%, 6%, and 6%. We were also successful in achieving wage adjustments for the drivers and the cost of their drivers medicals will be covered by the employer.

The MD of Provost and the County of Paintearth will be going in to bargaining this fall. We should be able to achieve some good increases in both these units.

Congratulations to Bro. Ron Macdonald on his retirement and good luck to Bro. Paul Bokowski in his position as Business Manager.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

Victor Banfield, B.Comm

Treasurer / Business Agent



Another construction season is coming to a close after one of the most dramatic slow downs in residential road construction in years. This has had a far reaching affect on many of our Members and signatory contractors. With new housing construction at a standstill, the need for new subdivisions, residential roads and arterial roads is non-existent in some areas. Very little new underground construction has taken place over the summer, which means new residential road construction will start very slowly at the beginning of the 2009 season. This directly effects aggregate production, asphalt production, concrete production and road construction personnel. What makes it even harder on our Membership is the fact that the 2007 season was the busiest year in the history of these sectors. Our Union contractors have weathered this better than many of our non-union competitors. Large City of Edmonton infrastructure projects have kept many of our Members working. South LRT, Whitemud Drive, Edmonton International Airport, and the Fort Road Rehabilitation projects to name a few. The City of Edmonton wants to spend billions on future infrastructure projects which if it happens 'might' help offset the slowdown in the residential areas.

In my units negotiations for numerous Collective Agreements will begin in the very near future. These include the Alberta Roadbuilding & Heavy Construction Association, Inland Aggregates Villeneuve, Lafarge Edmonton Concrete Operations, Burnco Rock Products and the County of Wetaskiwin. Please take part in the negotiation process. Attend proposal and information meetings and VOTE. I would like to thank the negotiating committees and voting Members working for Direct Transport who volunteered their time to take part in this important process. We need greater participation by all Members in future bargaining rounds.

I have new responsibilities at the office and I am pleased that the Table Officers of the Executive Board have appointed me to the position of Treasurer. I have also been assigned part of the Jurisdictional Assignment duties for the Operating Engineers, Local 955. I look forward to these new challenges and to the very bright future of Local 955.

I would also like to thank all the new Job Stewards that stepped up to the plate. This is such a vital part of our Union and the work they are doing is crucial to our overall success.

In closing I would like to send best wishes to all Members and their families throughout the holiday season.



INLAND CONCRETE LIMITED

(L-R): Ronald Burletoff, Harold Nordin, Clinton Harnish



STANDARD GENERAL INC.

(L-R): Dave Sanderson, Bruce Underhill, Orville Kaasa (Job Steward), Nathan Froning, Andrew Neal, Murray Cheston

Mine Rescue - 2008

The 28th Annual Mine Rescue Competition hosted by Syncrude Canada and the Oil Sands Discovery Center in Fort McMurray on June 21, 2008 proved to be a well organized event. Teams competing this year had to be at their best as each required event looked very difficult as with past years.

The approving audience was provided with the best entertainment Fort McMurray had to offer that weekend. The weather again this year was also very hot and the judges and volunteers are to be commended along with the competitors and coaches on their endurance.

Congratulations go out to Syncrude Canada 501 as the 2008 overall winners. On behalf of the Operating Engineers Local Union No. 955, a special thank you to the members of the Sheerness, Paintearth and Coal Valley Mine Rescue teams for the dedication involved in the overall aspect of Mine Rescue and Safety.

Next years event will be in Edmonton, hosted by Prairie Mines and Royalty Ltd., Highvale Mine in the month of June.

Frank Araneda
Business Agent



PAINTEARTH MINE RESCUE TEAM

(Front Row L-R): Dallas Bendfeld,
Marty Rowland, Shari Dempster
(Back Row L-R): Chris Chapman,
Greg Blumhagen, Robert Cook,
Joey Boxma, Jim Hauck, Frank Araneda
(Business Agent)



COAL VALLEY MINE RESCUE TEAM

(L-R): Bert Beaupre, Jennifer Klesse, Adam Seitz, Stan Murry,
Kerry Parnall, Daryl Ord, Gary Conger, Dale Cole

PAINTEARTH TEAM DURING FIREFIGHTING EVENT



PREPARING FOR THE MAIN EVENT (COAL VALLEY MINE)



PREPARING FOR THE MAIN EVENT (SHEERNESS MINE)



SHEERNESS MINE RESCUE TEAM

(Front Row L-R): Dean Girodat,
Tyler Walton, Jeff Dalwood
(Back Row L-R): Chris Chapman,
Jayson Andrews, Roger Derbyshire,
Kent Gladdish, Layton Rosin,
Frank Araneda (Business Agent)



Pat Meloche

Business Agent

A year has passed already since I last had to do this. A lot of pipe has been buried, 400 km in Alberta alone. The year has changed but the same questions remain - will we be able to man the upcoming winter jobs? Last year it took all Operating Engineer Locals from across Canada, Contractor resources and word of mouth to fill the seats.

Aside from one unfortunate fatality (Brother Gosselin from Local 905), the jobs were completed with minimal incidents. With management, veteran pipeliners and retirees alike hopefully we learn from them and pass these lessons on to the future of the industry so these incidents do not happen again.

The year has changed but the hurdles are the same. With Clipper running three spreads this winter, and Trans Canada doing Keystone, it will make it tough again to get qualified people to go to our camp jobs in Northern Alberta.

**Louisbourg 150 km 42" N. of Manning
O.J. 55 km 36" N. of Wabasca**

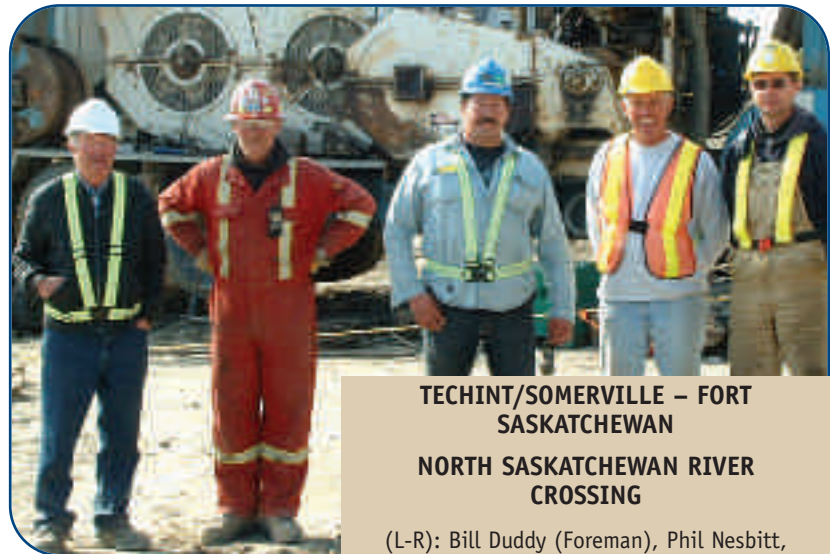
We should get the hands we need coming off jobs finishing in New Brunswick and Manitoba. It will be another prosperous winter for our members in the pipeline industry.

Remember, when working out of province on a travel card your out of work dues still need to be paid at your home local to stay in good standing.

P.C.S.T is a requirement for pipeline work.

Congratulations to Bro. Ron Macdonald on his retirement and Bro. Paul Bokowski on his new position as Business Manager.

It's been a very busy year for everyone. Enjoy your Christmas break with your families. Happy New Year!



**TECHINT/SOMERVILLE – FORT SASKATCHEWAN
NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER CROSSING**

(L-R): Bill Duddy (Foreman), Phil Nesbitt, Armand Chartrand, Don McInnis, Martin Martinson



**AECON INDUSTRIAL
MOD YARD – EDMONTON**

Top Row (L-R): Rich Onyskiw, Charlie Fagan, Ron Desrosiers, Tim Malloy, Tom Kemsley, Jeff Chernish (Foreman), Cory Symons (Job Steward)

Bottom Row (L-R): Maurice Bilsborrow, Jake Penner, Marcel Barriault, Larry Handsaeme, Dale Watt, Wallis Wetzel, Gord Handsaeme, Tony McIsaac, Glen Domsy (General Foreman)



**TIC CANADA (2002) ULC
MOD YARD – EDMONTON**

(L-R): Craig LeBlanc, Shane Navrot, Al Nolan, Max Graefe, Craig Flight, Ken Ingram, Neil Counsell, Mike Garies (Foreman)



TECHINT/SOMERVILLE – FORT SASKATCHEWAN JOB

(L-R): Randy Hesselink (Job Steward), Dave Stadnek, John Zacharuk, Cody Jamison

Barry Bradford

Business Agent



Hello Brothers and Sisters,

Another year had come and gone and the construction industry is still going very strong. I would like to thank all my Job Stewards and all of the other Local 955 Job Stewards for the great work they have done for our Union. I firmly believe that all Job Stewards deserve recognition and praise for the work they do for our membership.

I have attended several management courses during this past year and have learned a great deal from them.

Lockerbie & Hole is making big changes in their modification of the mod yard. They are starting out with 247 mods.

Hardisty Tank Farm – the tank project is coming to an end but the piping is ongoing.

The Shell Scotford site has been on the go for two years now. We have over 450 members on that project alone. I spend at least two days per week at Shell. If anybody has any questions or concerns, please feel free to call. As the modules are going up daily, the skyline is really changing!

I also would like to thank all of my Brothers and Sisters for their support during this past year. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Bro. Ron Macdonald a great retirement and Bro. Paul Bokowski the best in his new role as Business Manager.

I would like to wish all Brothers and Sisters of Local 955 and their families a very Merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year!



PACER MANAGEMENT SERVICES CORP. — SHELL SCOTFORD UPGRADER EXPANSION 1 PROJECT

Back row (L-R) John Laming (Job Steward), Dan Korrey, Brad Bandura, Gordon Sawchuk

Centre row (L-R) Gordon Martiniuk, Roy Brenneis, Gilles Begin, Brian St. Croix, Paul Bryks

Front row (L-R) Dale Brenneis, Jim Osborn, Michael Markey, Kevin Palset

Missing from photo: Randy Pollock & Paul Korrey



VOICE CONSTRUCTION LTD. – HARDISTY, HUSKY OIL

(L-R) Joseph Mongrain, Mike Stratychuk, Jim Yuskiw, Darren Green (Job Steward), Bert Groves, Alvin L. Jamieson, John DeJong, Shawn Moncrieff, Fern Turgeon, Stephen Larose, Glen Corbett, Brent Beese, Robert Flett



KELLOGG BROWN & ROOT (SRC UNIT) SHELL SCOTFORD

(L-R) Todd Springstein (Job Steward), Wilson Chambers, Darren Willman, John Maschke, Nick Deis (Foreman)
(Front) Helene Davis and Lloyd Brown



KELLOGG BROWN & ROOT (A&V UNIT) SHELL SCOTFORD

(L-R) Gary Ochitwa, Gary Swirski, Chris Cernes, Angel Mateo, Ron Lloyd (Foreman), Dave Alldis (Job Steward)
(Missing from photo – Peter MacFarlane)



Jay McGeough

Business Agent

Well another year and the economic boom in Alberta continues to create lots of job opportunities, faster than the manpower needed to fill those jobs can be supplied. There is, however some uncertainty due to the sub prime mortgage crisis south of the boarder and the subsequent government buy-out plan which could have some ripple effects on our economy.

While the shortage of skilled labour presents some difficulty for our union contractors, it provides a great deal of opportunity for our membership not only for continuous work but also for additional training and upgrading.

Many of our journeymen have been taken from their operating positions and put into supervisory roles. Some without having sufficient training, especially in dealing with employee issues.

I urge those supervisors who have not already done so, and any other members who wish to be supervisors at some point, to take supervisory training courses available through the union Hall and in some cases, through the employer.

These courses can equip you with the information necessary to fulfil your responsibilities to the company while maintaining a mutually respectful relationship with your union Brothers and Sisters under your supervision.

Cooperation and respect for each other as union members will ultimately make the workplace environment more enjoyable and productive. At the end of the day everyone looks good.

As I write this article the Petro-Can RCP conversion project is nearing completion and though many of our members prospered over the past 2 years of the project, we are left with the unpleasant memory of an accident that claimed the life of our Brother Richard Majcan. Rick was a friend to all that knew him, as evidenced by the huge outpouring of contributions to his estate from all trades on numerous job sites. A special thanks from Local 955 to everyone that organized the fund drive and to everyone from the various trades and companies that contributed.

In closing, thank you to all of our Job Stewards for your time and effort in trying to maintain an open and positive relationship with both the membership and our union contractors.

I would like to wish you and the rest of our membership and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.



**PCL INDUSTRIAL CONSTRUCTORS INC.
PCL MOD YARD #1**

(L-R): Bob Giddings, Art Engelhardt (Job Steward), Richard Salmon, Dave Buttrey, Paul McDonald



**BANTREL CONSTRUCTORS CO.
PETRO CAN**

(L-R): Tref Godbout, Bev Morton, Steve Fendelet, Cody Fleck, Jason Webber (Job Steward), George Muise, Theo Raafs, Robert Simpson, Wes Bilodeau, Phil Kasawski, Doug Parrill (Job Steward)

**BANTREL CONSTRUCTORS CO.
PETRO-CAN
RCP CONVERSION**

(Back Row L-R): Keith Sandmaier, Bill Onyschuk,
Mark Diduch, Ryan Macdonald, Brad Wyllie,
Kevin Weber, Jay Bodner, Johnny Mazzuca,
Dean Henkel, Dustin Emmerton, Trevor Carey,
Bob Mulholland, Chris Unger, Larry Saunders,
Kurt Ranger, Grover Harper
(Front Row L-R): Ray Weber, Robert Nichols,
Peter Hughes, Luke Weber, Doug Parrill
(Job Steward) Urban Medeiros, Barry Hardie



**BANTREL CONSTRUCTORS CO.
SHOP & FIELD SERVICEMEN & MECHANICS**

(Back Row L-R): Paul Arbour, Dick Veenstra, Brian Navrot, Dan Way,
Randy Hamaliuk (Job Steward), Ray Hamilton, Merv Melnychuk,
Raemonde Bezenar, Tom Regan, Dan Baker
(Front Row): Jerry Self



**EDMONTON EXCHANGER
PETRO-CAN RCP CONVERSION**

(L-R): Wes Brooks, Jim Flett, Bruce LeBlanc, Tony Gouveia,
Nathan Machtaler

Kids Forever

**OPERATING ENGINEERS, LOCAL
955 PRESENTED A CHEQUE FOR
\$31,872.00 TO THE KIDS
FOREVER FOUNDATION. THE
FUNDS WERE RAISED AT THE
2008 ANNUAL LOCAL 955
NORTHERN DISTRICT JIGGS
DINNER AND DANCE.**

(L-R): Cheryl Nickel, John Foy
(co-founder of Kids Forever),
Jorma Torkkeli, Brian Hatfield
(co-founder of Kids Forever),
Terri-Lynn Strickland, Jody Walters,
Jim King, Bryan Kelly,
Leroy Nippard





Verna McNabb

Dispatcher

There have been many changes in our dispatch office over the last year. Not the least of which is our completely new system for sending members out to work. Overall the new system is very effective at getting our members dispatched. As the pace has increased during the past few months we have experienced a few situations that have inspired us to make adjustments in our daily routine. I cannot imagine accomplishing all that has been done in the last year if our system of dispatching had not been updated. In the near future the dispatch office in the Ft. McMurray area will also be implementing the new system. Members who have had no experience with the new system should take some time to familiarize themselves with the changes. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the new system please call either Karen or myself in the Edmonton office and we will do our best to help you. Please try to call in the afternoon as we tend to be very busy in the mornings taking bids.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ron Macdonald, Paul Bokowski and Bruce Moffatt for having the faith in me to give me the chance to be the dispatcher for Local 955. I also greatly appreciate the continued support I have received from all of the Business Agents and the office staff. It has been a very challenging and demanding year and I have enjoyed every minute of it. I wish Ron and Myra all the best for their well deserved retirement.

On behalf of Karen and myself, I wish you all a joyous holiday season and continued prosperity in 2009



Rod Slobodian

Trustee / Business Agent

I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to Business Manager Paul Bokowski for offering me the position of Business Agent here at Local 955. In a short time it has been an incredible change from the field of work I have been in for the last 18 years. As being a 10 year member, I have worked with and met many outstanding people associated in our trade.

I have much to learn and many many more people to meet. It is a new and exciting field and I anticipate doing well for my Brothers and Sisters alike.

I would like to wish all Members of Local 955 and their families a very Merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year!

IMPROVEMENTS TO IUOE LOCAL 955 DISPATCH SYSTEM

The International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 955 will be changing the operation of the Edmonton dispatch office to a bid system effective **October 1, 2007**. This change is being implemented due to the increased volume of manpower requests.

THE SYSTEM WILL OPERATE AS FOLLOWS:

- All available jobs will be placed on the recorded information line **(780) 930-4711** and posted on our website @ www.iuoe955.com after **4:30 p.m.** daily. Each job will be given a job bid number. This information will be available 24 hours a day.
- It will be the **Members** responsibility to check the information line for work availability and job bid numbers.
- If there is a job that the Member is interested in, he or she must call the Dispatch office **(780) 483-0972** between **8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.** to bid on the job by talking directly to the dispatcher or assistant dispatcher and quoting the job bid number. Dispatch will not be taking any other calls during this time. If a Member wants to check-in or has any other general inquiries during this time, our Administration staff, or a Business Agent will be available to assist that Member.
- The Member who has bid on a job who has the lowest number on the out of work list will be awarded the job and will then be dispatched accordingly.
- No jobs will be filled until after **11:00 a.m.** daily. After all jobs have been filled, Members who have been awarded the job will be contacted and given the necessary information pertaining to the jobs they have been awarded. **Only** Members successful in their bid will be contacted.
- There will be no changes to the out of work list; it will operate the same as always. Members must continue to check in once monthly to maintain their position on the out of work list.
- All Employers must have their manpower requests in to the Union Dispatch before **2:00 p.m.** each day if they want their jobs to be recorded that day.
- Currently local dispatches for Calgary and Fort McMurray will continue on a non-bid (call-out) basis. Future plans include implementing the new dispatch system in the Fort McMurray office.



Jim King

Business Agent

Hello Brothers and Sisters:

This has been a very busy year in Fort McMurray. We have members on just about every site working endless hours. From Long Lake to Fort Hills the Operating Engineers' Union is being represented by our members. Our members are doing an excellent job at pleasing our contractors and client owners. Why? Simple; because we have the best Operators. Our members are proud to be part of an organization that represents them in the best way possible, a pension plan second to none and a health and welfare plan that takes care of the members and their families.

The Suncor Voyageur project is the newest job on the go. Right now most of the workers on site are Operators doing the dirt and piling work. This is a massive job. Suncor has guaranteed a large portion of the work to a number of trades with the signing of a Project Labour Agreement that allows our members working the ten and four shifts, flights around western Canada and flights to eastern Canada for members on the six and one - five week rotation. This has been and will continue to be a good deal for our members because it keeps them off the highways and gets them home to their families quicker and safer.

Also at this time I would like to give my kindest regards to former Business Manager Ron Macdonald who recently retired from our organization and also congratulate Brother Paul Bokowski who has taken his place. I feel we are in good hands as he has always had the best interests of the members at heart. Paul is a good man and at the end of the day, Brothers and Sisters, that's what really counts.

All my bargaining units are very busy doing various industrial contracts on many sites especially Syncrude and Suncor. Commonwealth has a contract at Suncor Millennium Naphta Unit (MNU) and the Naphta Hydro Treater at Voyageur. Jacob's will be doing most of the work on Syncrude's Sulphur Emissions Project (SERP) and the Sulphur Plant at Voyageur. Lockerbie and Hole have jobs at the Suncor Expansion Project (SEP) and the Gas/Oil Hydro Treater and Diesel Hydro Treater at Voyageur. North American Site Development is doing the civil work for the coker and sulphur plants and also outside battery limits work at Voyageur. These are just some of the bigger jobs and there are many smaller jobs such as shutdowns and the like.

Many thanks to the Job Stewards who worked so hard for the Local throughout the year. I cannot thank you enough for all you have done for the membership. Keep up the good work!

In closing, I would like to wish all my Brothers and Sisters and their loved ones a very Happy Holiday Season and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Take Care and Stay Safe.



**JACOBS INDUSTRIAL SERVICES LTD.
VOYAGEUR, SUNCOR**

Lyle Lesmeister



**LOCKERBIE & HOLE INDUSTRIAL INC.
SUNCOR**

(L-R): Jim King (Business Agent),
Philip Baker (Job Steward) and
Rocky Seaboyer (Job Steward)



**COMMONWEALTH CONSTRUCTION
CANADA LTD.**

MNU PROJECT, SUNCOR

(L-R): Rod Challoner (Job Steward) and
Jim Grosul (Foreman)



**NORTH AMERICAN SITE
DEVELOPMENT LTD. OSBL CREW
SUNCOR VOYAGEUR**

(L-R): Keith Bailey, Jeff Bilous,
Lloyd Murphy, Anthony Noseworthy,
Mike Carew, Joel George (General Foreman),
Eric Warren (Job Steward), and Jim King
(Business Agent)

Jorma Torkkeli

Organizer



Brothers and Sisters

For the past two years Local membership has grown very substantially from 7,200 member to approximately 10,000 members.

There are many reasons for such growth. One could very easily say that our unionized companies have gained a greater market share in the Oil sands Industry.

I would say that the client owners have noticed that we, the Operating Engineers are doing quality work. We are a safe and professional workforce and our leaders tend to negotiate with a view to fair bargaining the issues at the negotiating table to benefit the members.

Our recruiting efforts and organizing have come to play a major part of our union operation, and I will continue working full time as an Organizer in Fort McMurray office.

I would like to extend a sincere welcome to all of the following companies and their employees who have joined us this year- Aqua Industrial Ltd., Foresite Geomatics Ltd., Fort McKay Services LP/trucking division and Wil-Con Steel Works Ltd.

Finally, I would like to remind everybody that organizing is every members business and I am here working for you.

UNIONS WHO DO NOT ORGANIZE DO NOT GROW

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



**FORT MCKAY SERVICES LP/TRUCKING DIVISION
EMPLOYEES SIGNING IN TO VOTE ON THEIR FIRST
COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT**

(L-R): Michael Gaulton (Job Steward), Brian Bennett signing in, Matthew Spurrell, Cody Illson, Greg Walsh



FORT MCKAY EMPLOYEES READY TO VOTE

(L-R): Perry Grimes, Ken Wiseman, Denika Humphries



FORT MCKAY SERVICES LP/TRUCKING DIVISION

(L-R) Jorma Torkkeli, Organizer, congratulating Job Steward Michael Gaulton on their first agreement



Sheldon McKenna

Business Agent

Greetings Brothers and Sisters of I.U.O.E. Local No. 955. Another year has passed bringing many changes and lots of work.

After a brief absence, I returned to the Fort McMurray office as a Business Agent. (Many thanks to former Business Manager, Ron Macdonald, and former Business Representative Don Philpott). Upon my return, renovations were underway in the Fort McMurray office to accommodate more staff and Business Agents as we were quickly running out of space.

I would like to welcome to the Fort McMurray office new Agents Bryan Kelly, David Gillingham, and Kevin Thomas. Their knowledge and expertise will be greatly appreciated.

Earlier this summer, Business Agent Leroy Nippard, took over as Business Representative when Bro. Don Philpott left office and returned to Newfoundland. I wish the best for both in their endeavors. In late summer, we received news that Bro. Ron Macdonald would be retiring and Bro. Paul Bokowski would be taking over as Business Manager. I want to thank Bro. Macdonald for all the good things he has done for the Local, and I am looking forward to working with Bro. Bokowski.

This year brought the completion of some large projects; CNRL Horizon, Opti Nexen Long Lake, and the start of some others; Suncor Voyageur, Petro-Can Fort Hills, and Albian Jackpine. As well, there was a lot of maintenance and up grade work at Albian Sands, Syncrude, Suncor, and Aurora.

We have had several Job Steward courses this year in Fort McMurray and I wish to extend many thanks to all the Steward who work relentlessly out on site to make sure our Brothers and Sisters are treated fairly.

In closing, I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season and I look forward to serving you in the New Year.



SYNCRUDE COKER SHUTDOWN 2007

(L-R) Sheldon McKenna (Business Agent), Steve Vowles, Darryl Halvorson, Doug Becker, Rod Bird, Jim King (Business Agent)



MAMMOET CRANE INC. ALBIAN - JACKPINE

L-R : David Lavalle, Mike Petersen (Job Steward)



JOB STEWARD COURSE FORT McMURRAY

Standing L-R: Kevin Matheson, George Moores, James Worth (Job Steward @ Suncor), Mike Petersen, Mike Hopper, Bruce Moffatt (Business Representative, Instructor) Sitting L-R: Bill Duplisea, John Cook, Wallace Stone



NORTHERN CRANE SERVICES INC. - OPTI-NEXEN LONG LAKE

L-R: Jay Hrominchuk, Rob Klynsoon, Dave Larrivee



MAMMOET CRANE INC. - ALBIAN SANDS

L-R: Glen Burkart, Gord Nielsen



MAMMOET CRANE INC. - YARD TRAINING

L-R: Steve Pushman, Ron Kwasnicia, Gord Nielsen, Barry Murphy, Lloyd Johnson



STERLING CRANE - SUNCOR S.E.P.

L-R: Ron MacDonald, Dave MacIntyre (Job Steward), Ken Hatch, Rob Scott, Rick Hall, Wyman Genge, Brad Manysiak



STERLING CRANE - SUNCOR FIREBAG

L-R: Lionel Losier, Alphonse Savoie

Northern District Jiggs Dinner







Geoff Wells

Business Agent

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all members and their families.

This is the time that we all look back at the year past and reflect on our accomplishments. Being a member is not only about being part of an organization, but being part of a family. We look out for one another day in and day out, and ensure that we get everyone home safely at the end of each day.

Congratulations go out to **KMC Mining** who reached new levels of safety once again surpassing 2,000,000 hours of LTI free and over 3,000,000 hours LTI free in extraction at Suncor. KMC Mining now employees nearly 500 Operating Engineers with their sites on 800+. I would especially like to thank the Job Stewards at KMC Mining, all 14 of them, who show dedication and professionalism everyday in the work they do as Operating Engineers and the passion they show in their duties as Job Stewards to make the best working environment they can for our members. They definitely lead by example.

Neegan Development has been a fixture in the industry for many years now and continues to grow, expanding into new areas thanks to Local 955 members in a wide range of professions. From Journeymen mechanics and welder's, to equipment operators, to service and lube technicians. Neegan gave out jackets, hats and gift certificates in recognition of reaching over 1.25 million hours LTI free. This is a huge accomplishment for Local 955 members at Neegan who are hard at work on 4 different sites in the area working together and getting things done and done safely....Good Job.

Cross Oilsands Contracting can only be described as WOW!!, what a difference a year makes. I became the Business Agent for Cross on October 15th of 2007. At that time Cross had a couple of backhoes, 7 or 8 trucks, a couple of small dozers, approximately 35 Local 955 members and 1 Operating Engineer

foreman (Tim). They had a small office at Syncrude. Today there are over 200 955 members, a complete management team in place and some really big plans for 2009. Plans for a fleet of over 50 trucks, some of the biggest dozers and backhoes in the world and 3 shovels to round off what is in store for just next year. Local 955 members at Cross should give themselves a pat on the back.

The guys at **AGRA Foundations** way out at Suncor's Firebag Project are some of the proudest Local 955 members you will ever meet. Right now there are 10 guys there and more to join them soon with another 12 or so Operating Engineers now up at Fort Hills. The AGRA guys are the first to talk about the things they have achieved and the world class safety records they continue to build upon. Roughly 5 years without a lost time incident, the highest quality of work has them looking to future projects. They should be proud of themselves because we are all proud of them.

North American Mining at Fort Hills is the leader of a Mega Project still getting off the ground. The Operating Engineer members there are working hard and showing great results. The dedication to make the nearly 100 KM drive everyday shows the type of stuff an Operating Engineer is made of, the right stuff!

I would like to extend my best wishes to Ron Macdonald who recently retired as Local 955 Business Manager and thank him for his unwavering dedication to the membership and for also giving me the opportunity to serve. I would like to congratulate Bro. Paul Bokowski on his appointment as our new Business Manager. Bro. Bokowski has shown tremendous leadership and clear vision as our President and I have every confidence that will continue in his new role, I look forward to working with Bro. Bokowski to achieve the service he demands and the members deserve.



**AGRA FOUNDATIONS
SUNCOR FIREBAG**

Joe McAskie next to a pile driver



**CROSS OILSANDS CONTRACTING LTD.
MILDRED LAKE SHOP**

L-R: Doug Haaland, Jason Taite,
Kevin Mercer (Job Steward), Merv Osborne,
Randy Antoine



**NORTH AMERICAN MINING INC.
FORT HILLS**

L-R : Alfred Wright (Chief Job Steward),
Shannon Rideout (Job Steward)



**NEEGAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
SYNCRUDE AURORA**

L-R : Verlyn (Shaggy) Crick (Job Steward), Chad Montague,
Dustin Webber, Jody Boutilier, Lar Ryan, Chris Power, Chris Connick



**KMC MINING
SYNCRUDE BASE MINE**

L-R : Kyle Oglivie (Job Steward), Lee Boyd



**KMC MINING
SYNCRUDE BASE MINE**

L-R : Daniel Theriault, Terry Lee, Mark Ball
Next to a Shovel Bucket



**KMC MINING
SYNCRUDE BASE MINE**

L-R : Mark Ball, Kyle Oglivie (Job Steward)



**AGRA FOUNDATIONS LIMITED
SUNCOR FIREBAG**

L-R : Lonnie Diener, Doug Lenko, Wes Hellyer, Joe McAskie,
Neil Leibel, Mike Davio, Rick Kowal, Kevin Diener, Marvin Schneider,
Blaine Anderson



**NEEGAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
AUGUST 17, 2008 PICKER TRUCK TRAINING**

(L-R): Bob Benedictson, Kurtis Rogne, Walter Janes, Darryl Tremblay,
Clayton Herman, Silas Kervian, Instructor, Wade Roberts



Kevin Thomas

Business Agent

I would like to thank Bros. Ron Macdonald and Paul Bokowski for the opportunity to work as a Business Agent and represent the members of Local 955. This has been both a challenging and rewarding experience at the same time.

At this time I am representing 955 members working at: North American (Syncrude Base Mine & Ruth Lake), North American at CNRL, Stalex Construction Ltd., Badger Daylighting, SMS Equipment (Town site), O.J. Industrial Maintenance, Liebherr-Canada Ltd.

Thank you to the Business Agents, Representatives and all staff in our offices for their assistance and guidance. I am looking forward to continuing to represent the interests of the Local 955 members as we move forward into 2009.

Thank you to all the Job Stewards for their time and dedication to the members of our Local, your commitment to the members of Local 955 makes our union stronger.

On behalf of myself and my family, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Local 955 members and their families, best wishes for the holiday season and a prosperous 2009.



BADGER DAYLIGHTING (FT. MCMURRAY) INC.

(L-R) Adam Willcott, Adam George, Steve Courtney, Jamie Hackett



NORTH AMERICAN MINING INC. SYNCRUDE BASE MINE

(L-R) Brian Tobin (Job Steward), Darren Baird (Job Steward)



FORT MCMURRAY (RUTH LAKE SHOP) NORTH AMERICAN MINING INC.

(L-R) Ron Knoedler (Job Steward), Bill Breadner (Job Steward), Ian Rice (Job Steward)



SMS EQUIPMENT (TOWN SHOP)

(L-R) Gilles Poulin, Chad Tardif, Roland Poulin, Geoff Griffin, Corey Buckley, Bill Lister, Gary Macleod, Kyle Hutchinson, Ryan Sturge, Dan Norman, Roy MacInnis
Front Christopher Sturge

Bryan Kelly

Business Agent



First of I would like to thank former Business Manager Ron Macdonald, current Business Manager and former President Paul Bokowski and Business Representative Leroy Nippard for giving me the opportunity to work and represent the members of Local 955 in the Fort McMurray area, as their Business Agent.

Since joining the team on July 1, 2008 my eyes have been opened to the challenges that face us on an ongoing basis with the Members, Companies, sites and other Unions. This has all been made easier through the excellent guidance and advice I have received from other Business Agents and Staff both here in Fort McMurray and at the Edmonton Office.

COMMUNICATION I feel has always been the key when dealing with such a diversified group. Without good avenues of communication we cannot begin to understand the needs of our members and how these needs affect them in their working and home environments. Without communication we cannot establish open pathways between all of the key players. I felt this was my biggest barrier and that I have bridged this obstacle with the assistance of a very dedicated group of Job Stewards. They have and are doing an exemplary job and should be complimented.

I bring with me a long background in Finance and Banking. Feeling a need for change I abandoned my Island roots to move across country to Fort McMurray, the mining capital of Canada. Since my arrival I have worked as a Laborer, Steamer, Serviceman, Maintenance Planner, Foreman, Operator and Yard Boss with several companies. This new position will bring me back to the work I love, helping others.

The future is ours with many opportunities and changes. In working together I feel we are up to the challenge and I look forward to assisting you in meeting those needs.

In closing I wish You and Your Families all the best throughout the Festive Season and into the New Year.



NORTH AMERICAN MINING INC.

AURORA

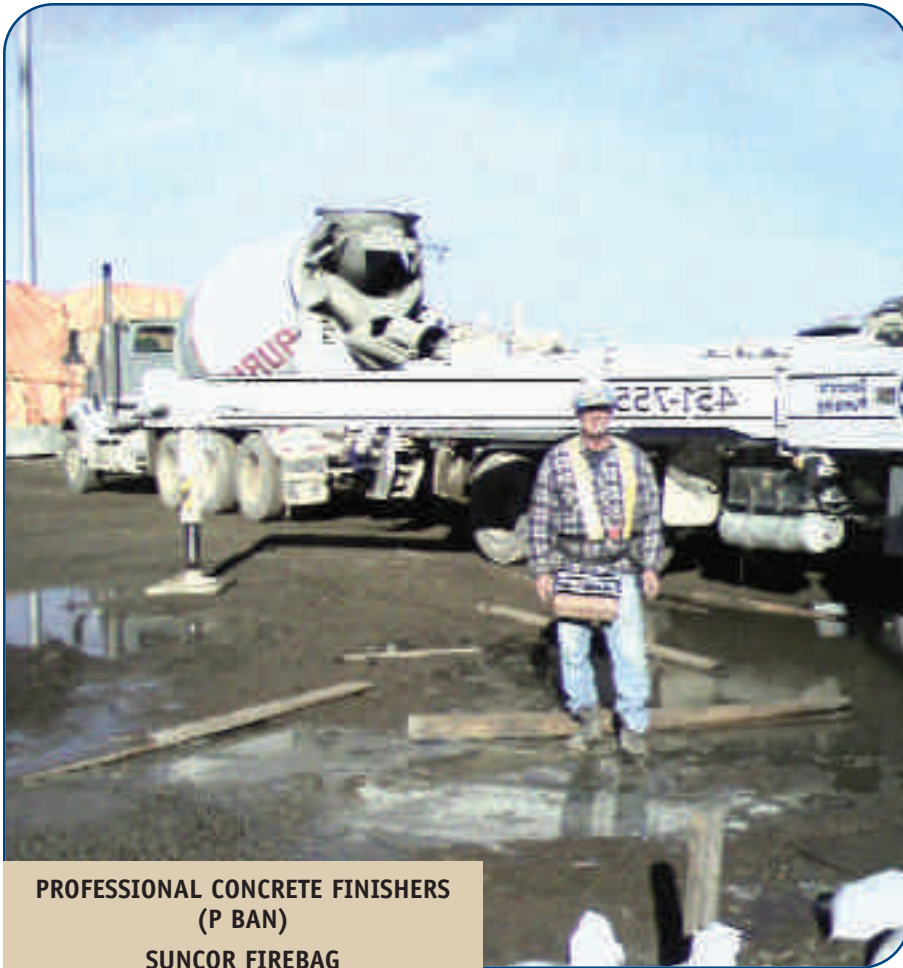
(L-R) Bart Meadus, Dan Stewart, Larry Rushfeldt, Paul Gabriel, Miles Payne, Conrad Fulton, Corey Giles, Sheila Haynes, David Deveau, Edwin Ellsworth, Wilson Chippett, Casey Flight, William Grigg, Travis Burton, Jason Harbin



NORTH AMERICAN MINING INC.

AURORA

(L-R): Wilson Chippett, Bart Meadus, Edwin Ellsworth, Conrad Fulton, Corey Giles, Miles Payne, Larry Rushfeldt, Dan Stewart, Sheila Haynes, David Deveau, William Grigg, Casey Flight, Travis Burton



**PROFESSIONAL CONCRETE FINISHERS
(P BAN)**
SUNCOR FIREBAG
Edward Michael



NORTH AMERICAN CAISSON LTD.
VOYAGEUR
DRIVING PILES AT VOYAGEUR

(L-R): Aaron MacKinnon (Job Steward),
Nathan Hart, Kyle Kerr, Adrian Kutz,
Bryan Kelly (Business Agent), Dale Morrison



MML
SUNCOR

(L-R) Eugene Strickland (Job Steward) and
Tom Coulthard (Working Foreman)

Canadian Conference Scholarship

**PRESENTATION OF CHEQUE TO
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
FROM THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE
OF OPERATING ENGINEERS**

(L-R) Paul Bokowski (Business Manager),
Sydney Brink, Bruce Kosmack
(Business Representative/President)



David Gillingham

Business Agent



Hello Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to introduce myself to those who do not know me. My name is Dave Gillingham, Business Agent in Fort McMurray. I have been an active member of the Operating Engineers, working as a loader operator over the last few years in Fort McMurray. Most recently I worked for M.M.L. as a Job Steward on the Suncor Energy site.

This new position has brought an assortment of challenges. I know it will take some getting used to but I am fully prepared to work with everyone as I enter into this learning curve. I look forward to working for you as we deal with the day-to-day matters together. I bring to this position a sincere commitment to serve all Local 955 members and provide with the best representation possible.

At this time I would like to thank Bros. Ron Macdonald and Paul Bokowski for giving me this opportunity to serve you, the members.

To all Local 955 members and their families, best wishes for the holiday season and for the coming year.

Yours in Unionism



COW HARBOUR CONSTRUCTION LTD.

AURORA

(L-R): Lanny Goosney, Don Leask, Tim Rhyno (Job Steward)



COW HARBOUR CONSTRUCTION LTD.

AURORA

(L-R): Reg Oliver, Jeff King (Foreman)



TOP NOTCH SURVEYS

(KRYSKOW CONSTRUCTION SERVICES LTD.)

VOYAGEUR

Robert Ouellette



Larry Goulet

Organizer /
Business Agent

Season's Greetings Brothers and Sisters and to your families

It's been a rewarding year for me as an Organizer for Local 955, full of challenges and learning opportunities. I have former Business Manager, Ron Macdonald and former President, current Business Manager, Paul Bokowski to thank for introducing me into the role of Organizer, which I have found to be a valuable experience for me, informing the non-union sector of the benefits of Local 955 and what the union has to offer companies and individual employees.

In September my responsibilities increased from Organizer to Business Agent, where I took on North American Caisson, and with the construction industry being steady, and the mention of North American moving some crews to the Edmonton area I have been kept very busy.

While learning the role of Organizer/Business Agent throughout the year I have had great help and support, thanks to Bros. Bruce Kosmack and Gary Vegelis.

I would like to wish the staff and members a very Merry Christmas, and all the best in the New Year.



NORTH AMERICAN CAISSON LTD. - CODA ATHLETIC AND ICE COMPLEX CANADA OLYMPIC PARK MEMBERS WORKING ON THE FUTURE HOME OF HOCKEY CANADA

L-R : Jason Jacques, George Power, Dale Forestel (Foreman),
Matt Pawluk



NORTH AMERICAN CAISSON LTD. CHINOOK CENTRE EXPANSION AT CHINOOK CENTRE

(Back Row L-R): Todd Gladeau, Darren Dumais (Foreman), Dustyn Ellingson, James Moore(Front Row) Matthew Paswisty



NORTH AMERICAN CAISSON LTD.(SHOP) - CANADA OLYMPIC PARK

L-R: Dustyn Ellingson, Tyson Novak, Richard Lacasse, George Novak, Don Grant (Job Steward)



NORTH AMERICAN CAISSON LTD. CANADA OLYMPIC PARK

L-R: Mike Podwinski, Rob Hennebury

Rainer Semler, Administrator Health & Welfare and Pension Trust

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE HEALTH & WELFARE AND PENSION TRUST OFFICE STAFF!

2008 has been another busy year for your Trust Office and we are pleased to share with you some of the enhancements that have been made to your benefits plan.

The Trustees have improved your coverage for weekly indemnity benefits, extended health, vision care, and dental benefits in 2008 in the following areas:

- Effective January 1, 2008, the Weekly Indemnity benefit was increased to \$435 per week;
- Effective July 1, 2008, the maximum yearly coverage for eligible prescription drugs was increased to \$3,000 per calendar year for single coverage and \$5,000 per calendar year for family coverage. In addition, cancer wigs were included as an eligible expense under the Extended Health Plan for medical services, supplies, and equipment, subject to the overall maximum of \$800 per calendar year per person;
- For Vision Care effective January 1, 2008, Laser Eye Surgery (as well as glasses and contact lenses) were added as an eligible expense. The maximum Vision Care coverage is \$300 per 24 month period per person;
- Dental Implants have been included as an eligible expense under the Dental Plan effective January 1, 2008, subject to the 90% reimbursement level and \$1,800 per year maximum (\$900 per year if your coverage begins after June 30th);

With these coverage improvements, your benefits plan can assist you and your family with a wider range of health, vision, and dental expenses and helps reduce your out of pocket costs for these services.

If you have questions about your benefits please call the Trust Office. The staff understands your pension and health & welfare benefits and is pleased to help you understand them.

As Administrator for the Trust Office, I have had the pleasure of talking and meeting with many members regarding their benefits and pension questions. I especially enjoy meeting with members when they come into the Trust Office regarding pension application or benefits inquiries. I extend an open invitation to you to visit our Trust Office so that we can assist you with your benefits and pension questions.

I would also like to acknowledge the Trust Office Staff for all of their hard work. Their dedication and professionalism is a part of our commitment to provide you with excellent service for the administration of your benefits and pension.

Again, the Trust Office Staff wishes you much health and happiness in 2009!



HEALTH & WELFARE AND PENSION TRUST STAFF

Back Row L-R: Erika, Wendy, Bonnie, Rainer, Vanessa, Philomena, Helen
Front Row L-R: Penny, Sarah, Marlene, Kathy

**INTERNATIONAL UNION OF
OPERATING ENGINEERS,
LOCAL 955**

Door Prizes!

Annual Awards Banquet & Dance

**Honoring Members with 20, 30, 40 & 50
Year Membership Achievements**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2009

Sawmill Banquet and Catering Centre

3840—76 Avenue, Edmonton, AB

**Tickets Available
at all offices**

**Cocktails
Dinner
Dance**

**5:00 pm
6:00 pm
9:00 pm**





IN

Memory

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>DATE OF DEATH</u>			
			Abraham	David	19-Jun-08
Morrell	Hilford	15-Nov-07	Junck	Clifford	19-Jun-08
Landels	John	4-Dec-07	Kuczma	Alexander	26-Jun-08
Trofymow	Alexander	7-Dec-07	Broschak	Frank	8-Jul-08
Peterson	Russell	11-Dec-07	Brady	Robert	20-Jul-08
Cook	Charles	7-Jan-08	Trosky	Lorne	24-Jul-08
Rosenthal	Walter	20-Jan-08	Kowalski	Kazimierz	27-Jul-08
Enright	Mark	28-Jan-08	Conlon	Robert	31-Jul-08
Henderson	Thomas	31-Jan-08	Sterling	Hudson	13-Aug-08
Richard	Dennis	10-Feb-08	Cole	Greg	15-Aug-08
Boutin	Robert	19-Feb-08	Gordey	Allan	23-Aug-08
Penney	Fred	4-Mar-08	Dowson	Bernie	25-Aug-08
Divjak	Antonio	10-Mar-08	LaBine	Ralph	26-Aug-08
Seymour	William	30-Mar-08	Poulsen	Robert	4-Sep-08
Berlando	Angelo	16-Apr-08	Gordon-Carmichael	Desmond	5-Sep-08
Blackmore	Martin	16-Apr-08	Smith	Tony	6-Sep-08
Gareau	Harvey	26-Apr-08	Halpin	James	7-Sep-08
Dyer	Bruce	27-Apr-08	Stepien	Stan	8-Sep-08
Kachkowski	Frank	13-May-08	Majcan	Richard	27-Sep-08
Shears	Brian	26-May-08	Ropcean	Leo	6-Oct-08
Hourd	Albert	27-May-08	Nolette	Armand	15-Oct-08
Hackel	Tibor	29-May-08			
Besseling	John	5-Jun-08			
Shoemaker	Harold	8-Jun-08			
Sergalis	Vik	21-Jun-08			
Staples	James	18-Jun-08			

Meeting Dates

Central District	Southern District	Northern District
<i>4th Wednesday of each month</i>	<i>1st Tuesday of each month</i>	<i>1st Wednesday of each month</i>
<p>Cancelled December 24, 2008</p> <p>**January 28, 2009</p> <p>February 25, 2009</p> <p>March 25, 2009</p> <p>April 22, 2009</p> <p>May 27, 2009</p> <p>June 24, 2009</p> <p>**July 22, 2009</p> <p>August 26, 2009</p> <p>September 23, 2009</p> <p>October 28, 2009</p> <p>November 25, 2009</p> <p>Cancelled December 23, 2009</p> <p>** General Meetings</p>	<p>December 2, 2008</p> <p>January 6, 2009</p> <p>February 3, 2009</p> <p>March 3, 2009</p> <p>April 7, 2009</p> <p>May 5, 2009</p> <p>June 2, 2009</p> <p>July 7, 2009</p> <p>August 4, 2009</p> <p>September 1, 2009</p> <p>**October 6, 2009</p> <p>November 3, 2009</p> <p>December 1, 2009</p> <p>** General Meetings</p>	<p>December 3, 2008</p> <p>January 7, 2009</p> <p>February 4, 2009</p> <p>March 4, 2009</p> <p>**April 1, 2009</p> <p>May 6, 2009</p> <p>June 3, 2009</p> <p>Cancelled July 1, 2009</p> <p>August 5, 2009</p> <p>September 2, 2009</p> <p>October 7, 2009</p> <p>November 4, 2009</p> <p>December 2, 2009</p> <p>** General Meetings</p>
<p>Meetings are held at The International Union of Operating Engineers - Union Hall 17603 - 114 Avenue Edmonton, AB Commencing at 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>NOTE NEW MEETING LOCATION Meetings are held at UA, Local 496 Union Hall 5649 Burbank Road S.E. Calgary, AB (around the corner from the Blackfoot Inn) Commencing at 7:30 pm</p>	<p>Meetings are held at The Sawridge Inn & Conference Centre, 530 MacKenzie Blvd., Ft. McMurray, AB Commencing at 8:00 pm</p>

Important Note: All Northern District Meetings will be held at the Sawridge Inn & Conference Centre, **EXCEPT** the **December 3, 2008** and **December 2, 2009** Meeting, which will be held at Thickwood Heights Arena, 110 Eymundson Road, Ft. McMurray, AB.

The 2009 Northern District Jiggs Dinner

will be held on
Saturday, May 2, 2009
at the
Sawridge Inn and
Conference Centre

**530 MacKenzie Boulevard,
Fort McMurray, AB.**

**All tickets will be advance sales.
No tickets available at the door.**

Inuvik Petroleum Show

NORTHERN PIPELINE PROJECT BOOTH AT 2008 INUVIK PETROLEUM SHOW

(L-R): Doug Anguish,
Pat Meloche
(Business Agent),
Paul Bokowski
(Business Manager),
Barry Brown, Greg Harris,
Neil Johnson



Arctic Gas Symposium

ARCTIC GAS SYMPOSIUM IN CALGARY, ALBERTA REGARDING THE MACKENZIE PIPELINE

(L-R): Greg Harris,
Pat Meloche
(Business Agent),
Lyall Nash,
Paul Bokowski
(Business Manager),
Doug Anguish





Martin McDonnell

Training Administrator
Training Trust Fund

Greetings once again from the Training Fund: Darcy Cole, Russell Killips and myself.

Your training fund has been busy this past year. In addition to the ongoing courses that we provide monthly, in the training schedule, we were involved in the three projects that pertain to training.

We were involved with Sterling Crane and Mammoet Crane, in a project to bring Steve Zatazalo from Tadano Cranes America, Houston, Texas, to deliver some training to Heavy Equipment Technicians. The training was specifically applied to the Automated Load Moment (ALM) other crane manufacturers refer to it as the Load Moment Indicators (LMI).

Two classes were held in Edmonton, at Sterling Crane's new classroom facility; which is an excellent facility. Each class ran for four days. Steve, took two weeks back home in Houston, Texas and then returned. This time he traveled to Fort McMurray and delivered one class there for Mammoet Crane at Fort McKay.

This project fell in our laps a little late in the game. We would really like to do this again, only, with enough lead time to organize. With enough lead time we could arrange to have people working on the projects take time to attend. Or, if we have a facility on a project, we could have Steve Z, come on site and deliver the training there.

Another project that we were involved with was for the Pipe Line Contractors Association of Canada (PLCAC). We have been conducting a sideboom school for their contractors for the past two years. They are experiencing shortages of the sideboom skill set. This year is the third year that we have provided the Sideboom School. Students for the course are mainly supplied by the contractors. They have people that they have been using on the sideboom and they want them to come to the school and get some instruction, four weeks, and improve their skill sets. When the students return, they start to use them in more skill demanding positions.

This year the PLCAC requested that we coordinate the training to include the other trades: Pipe Trades, Teamsters and Labourers along with the Operators, to deliver the training, each trade, at the same time and at the same location. The location was your training site near Thorhild, Alberta. The school ran for five weeks. First year guys did four weeks and then need to go out and log 1500 hours on the sideboom. The fifth week is for second year guys to come back and study for a stringent theory exam. Then, they are put through a stringent practical exam. They need to go out and log another 1500 hours in their log books and then they receive their Journeyman Ticket.

The PLCAC, requested that we hold an "Open House" while the school was in session. This request developed into a lot of work for your training department. Along with the "Open House", they also wanted to get the film footage needed to build a DVD, promoting the training and recruiting people. I do not think they realize how much work is involved in completing these requests. However, we set about doing what was requested.

The "Open House" required a lot of preparation work on the property. Hugh McInnes, Al Kneller and Rod Lupul, the three instructors at the site put in a lot of work getting the place ready. We experienced a timely stroke of luck..... we found a gravel deposit on the property. This allowed us to gravel the entire yard and to construct a large wide entrance to the property. The "Open House" was a huge success. We rented a big white tent and served lunch. We also started getting the film footage that we need to build the DVD. The PLCAC has been very pro-active in dealing with the looming skill set shortage.

The third project that we have been working on, is a project with the Alberta Government. Some of you will remember, around eighteen months ago, I attended membership meetings in Fort McMurray, Calgary and Edmonton to tell you that the Alberta Government, Department of Employment, Immigration and Industry (which has since had the name changed to Department of Employment and Immigration) had approached us to request that we head up a scoping project for them. They wanted us to engage the stakeholders involved: Government, Industry and Labour, both union and non-union, this was a challenge, and an education. To engage in discussion as to the need and the support that would be needed to have an earth moving equipment training institute established in Central Alberta. We agreed to head up the project for them.

There are three phases to the project. First phase was to conduct a "Symposium" bringing the stake holders together to discuss the topic. Through topic constructed break out sessions, a consensus was flushed out from the stakeholders. There was strong agreement among them that an earth moving equipment training center was needed in central Alberta. The Government got the confirmation that they needed. Alberta needs such a training center, in the central area of the province.

The second phase was to build a DVD for the Government. The DVD is to show what some of the uses are for earth moving equipment. We were greatly challenged in this phase. Because this DVD was for the Government, we had to show non-union contractors as well as union contractors. It was hard for us, but, we did it. The Government wants to place this DVD in their employment centers around the province. They also want to place the DVD in the libraries of the Junior and Senior High Schools around the province. They were adamant that we must show both union and non-union contractors. Also, we had to be non-sectoral in information that we provided regarding where young people can go to get more information about a career in operating equipment. It was a lot of work to get the film footage needed and to assemble the DVD.

Both of the above phases are completed. As you are reading this article, 2000 copies of the DVD are being stamped out and placed in jackets to be delivered around the province. There is also a text document that accompanies the DVD. The document has points and tips for contractors on hiring and retaining young people in their industry.

The third phase is to conduct a Feasibility Study, to put a final confirmation to the information gathered in the first two phases. The feasibility will help to ensure the success of the training facility when it is established.

Working with the Government on such projects is a rewarding experience for our organization. It allows us to build a relationship with the Government through the bureaucrats. I believe this is good for us.

In the photos you will see that we have newer pieces of equipment at our training site. The training site itself is becoming "a thing of beauty and a joy to behold" we have new additions on site in facility and equipment.

In the last year, we have added four new trailers to be used as classrooms. We also have added a washroom facility with a ladies facility included. The fenced compound area has been expanded and as mentioned earlier, a new entrance to the property has been constructed on TWP 584. The compound, entranceway and a large pad just inside the entrance, have all been graveled over from the gravel deposit found on the property.

We also have some new pieces of equipment. In the pictures you will see a new skid steer (JCB). It has one lift arm on it and you enter and exit through a door on the side with no arm. Also there is a JCB loadall. That's their name for the extending boom forklift. It is a 10,000 lb. machine. We are shopping for a 6,000 lb. machine as well. We would like to do the "zoom boom" courses at our own site. There is also a 140H Cat Grader that was purchased this summer. The training site is building and growing.

Darcy, Russell, Hugh, Al, Rod and myself wish all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL 955 TRAINING FUND JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL AND MAY 2009

TRAINING SCHEDULE

GENERAL INFORMATION

- The schedule is subject to change.
- Courses are free of charge to paid-up members of Local 955 in good standing.
- All courses have a minimum class size of 6.
- Class sizes are limited and registration is accepted on a first come, first served basis.
- Check on the specific requirements for each class at the time of registration.
- PLEASE CONTACT THE TRAINING OFFICE IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE COURSE. THERE ARE WAITING LISTS AND AN EMPTY SEAT IS A WASTE!

COURSE REGISTRATION

- EDMONTON classes call the Training Fund Office (780) 483-8955
- CALGARY classes call the Calgary Office (403) 250-3840

- FORT McMURRAY classes call the Fort McMurray Office (780) 790-1713

CALGARY AND AREA MEMBERS:

CSTS and Ground Disturbance are available by appointment.

At present, we have not scheduled classes to be held in Calgary. Members interested in the classes should leave their names with the Calgary office. When we have enough people, arrangements will be made to hold the course in Calgary and you will be contacted.

FORT MCMURRAY AND AREA MEMBERS:

At present, we have not scheduled classes to be held in Fort McMurray. Members interested in the classes should leave their names with the Fort McMurray office. When we have enough people, arrangements will be made to hold the course in Fort McMurray and you will be contacted.

JANUARY 2009

COURSE	DATE	LOCATION	TIME
CSTS Construction Safety Training System	Monday to Friday	Edmonton or Calgary	9 am or 1 pm
Ground Disturbance Level II	Monday to Friday	Edmonton or Calgary	9 am or 1 pm
Mobile Crane Safety Training	Monday to Friday	Edmonton	9 am
PCST Pipeline Construction Safety Training	Monday to Friday	Edmonton or Calgary	8:30 am
O.S.S.A. Fall Protection	Call the Training Office for information		
O.S.S.A. Regional Orientation	Monday to Friday	Edmonton or Calgary	9 am or 1 pm
Zoom Boom	January 10 Saturday	OE Local 955 Training Site	8:00 – 4:00
H2S Alive	January 17 Saturday	Edmonton	9:00 – 4:30
Standard First Aid	January 17 & 18 Saturday / Sunday	Edmonton	9:00 – 4:30
Introduction to Computers	January 17 & 18 Saturday / Sunday	Edmonton	9:00 – 4:00
Using Trade Math	January 17 & 18 Saturday / Sunday	Edmonton	9:00 – 4:00
Advanced Rigging	January 17 & 18 Saturday / Sunday	Calgary	9:00 – 4:00
Skid Steer Loader	January 24 Saturday	OE Local 955 Training Site	8:00 – 3:00
Zoom Boom	January ____ Saturday or Sunday	Fort McMurray	8:00 – 4:00
Microsoft Excel Level I & II	January 31 / February 1 Saturday / Sunday	Edmonton	9:00 – 4:00
Load Chart Reading	January 31 / February 1 Saturday / Sunday	Edmonton	9:00 – 4:00

FEBRUARY 2009

COURSE	DATE	LOCATION	TIME
CSTS Construction Safety Training System	Monday to Friday	Edmonton or Calgary	9 am or 1 pm
Ground Disturbance Level II	Monday to Friday	Edmonton or Calgary	9 am or 1 pm
Mobile Crane Safety Training	Monday to Friday	Edmonton	9 am
PCST Pipeline Construction Safety Training	Monday to Friday	Edmonton or Calgary	8:30 am
O.S.S.A. Fall Protection	Call the Training Office for information		
O.S.S.A. Regional Orientation	Monday to Friday	Edmonton or Calgary	9 am or 1 pm
Zoom Boom	February 7 Saturday	OE Local 955 Training Site	8:00 – 4:00
Microsoft Word Level I & II	February 7 & 8 Saturday / Sunday	Edmonton	9:00 – 4:00
Load Chart Reading	February 7 & 8 Saturday / Sunday	Calgary	9:00 – 4:00
Zoom Boom	February _____ Saturday or Sunday	Fort McMurray	8:00 – 4:00
Skid Steer Loader	February 21 Saturday	OE Local 955 Training Site	8:00 – 4:00
H2S Alive	February 28 Saturday	Edmonton	9:00 – 4:30
Using Trade Math	February 28 / March 1 Saturday / Sunday	Edmonton	9:00 – 4:00
Standard First Aid	February 28 / March 1 Saturday / Sunday	Edmonton	9:00 – 4:30
Advanced Rigging	February 28 / March 1 Saturday / Sunday	Edmonton	9:00 – 4:00

MARCH 2009

COURSE	DATE	LOCATION	TIME
CSTS Construction Safety Training System	Monday to Friday	Edmonton or Calgary	9 am or 1 pm
Ground Disturbance Level II	Monday to Friday	Edmonton or Calgary	9 am or 1 pm
Mobile Crane Safety Training	Monday to Friday	Edmonton	9 am
PCST Pipeline Construction Safety Training	Monday to Friday	Edmonton or Calgary	8:30 am
O.S.S.A. Fall Protection	Call the Training Office for information		
O.S.S.A. Regional Orientation	Monday to Friday	Edmonton or Calgary	9 am or 1 pm
Zoom Boom	March 7 Saturday	OE Local 955 Training Site	8:00 – 4:00
Zoom Boom	March _____ Saturday or Sunday	Fort McMurray	8:00 – 4:00
H2S Alive	March 14 Saturday	Edmonton	9:00 – 4:30
Introduction to Computers	March 14 & 15 Saturday / Sunday	Edmonton	9:00 – 4:00
Basic Rigging	March _____ Saturday / Sunday	Calgary	9:00 – 4:00
Basic Rigging	March 21 & 22 Saturday / Sunday	Edmonton	9:00 – 4:00
Skid Steer Loader	March 21 Saturday	OE Local 955 Training Site	8:00 – 3:00
Standard First Aid	March 21 / 22 Saturday / Sunday	Edmonton	9:00 – 4:30

APRIL 2009

COURSE	DATE	LOCATION	TIME
CSTS Construction Safety Training System	Monday to Friday	Edmonton or Calgary	9 am or 1 pm
Ground Disturbance Level II	Monday to Friday	Edmonton or Calgary	9 am or 1 pm
Mobile Crane Safety Training	Monday to Friday	Edmonton	9 am

PCST Pipeline Construction Safety Training	Monday to Friday	Edmonton or Calgary	8:30 am
O.S.S.A. Fall Protection	Call the Training Office for information		
O.S.S.A. Regional Orientation	Monday to Friday	Edmonton or Calgary	9 am or 1 pm
Zoom Boom	April 4 Saturday	OE Local 955 Training Site	8:00 – 4:00
Skid Steer Loader	April 18 Saturday	OE Local 955 Training Site	8:00 – 3:00
Microsoft Word I & II	April 18 & 19 Saturday / Sunday	Edmonton	9:00 – 4:00
Using Trade Math	April / TBA Saturday / Sunday	Edmonton	9:00 – 4:00
Zoom Boom	April _____ Saturday or Sunday	Fort McMurray	8:00 – 4:00
H2S Alive	April 18 Saturday	Edmonton	9:00 – 4:30
Standard First Aid	April 25 / 26 Saturday / Sunday	Edmonton	9:00 – 4:30
Microsoft Excel I & II	April 25 & 26 Saturday / Sunday	Edmonton	9:00 – 4:00

MAY 2009

COURSE	DATE	LOCATION	TIME
CSTS Construction Safety Training System	Monday to Friday	Edmonton or Calgary	9 am or 1 pm
Ground Disturbance Level II	Monday to Friday	Edmonton or Calgary	9 am or 1 pm
Mobile Crane Safety Training	Monday to Friday	Edmonton	9 am
PCST Pipeline Construction Safety Training	Monday to Friday	Edmonton or Calgary	8:30 am
O.S.S.A. Fall Protection	Call the Training Office for informationf		
O.S.S.A. Regional Orientation	Monday to Friday	Edmonton or Calgary	9 am or 1 pm
Zoom Boom	May ____ Saturday	OE Local 955 Training Site	8:00 – 4:00
Skid Steer Loader	May ____ Saturday	OE Local 955 Training Site	8:00 – 3:00
H2S Alive	May 2 Saturday	Edmonton	9:00 – 4:30

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ALBERTA OH&S REGULATIONS AND CODES AWARENESS COURSE FOR HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS

Learn how the Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Act, Regulation and Codes impact your career as an equipment operator. Know what your obligations, duties, responsibilities are when you begin work each day. Be aware of what is required to be in compliance with the law, and help prevent prosecution for yourself and fellow workers.

This course will introduce you to the major parts of the legislation that impacts you (the equipment operator) in the workplace. You will receive a workbook and your own copy of the Handi-Guide to Alberta's OH&S Act, Regulation and Code.

CSTS (CONSTRUCTION SAFETY TRAINING SYSTEM)

This is a seventeen-module generic safety course covering areas such as: WHMIS, transportation of hazardous goods, emergency response, environmental factors, personal protective equipment, and the law at work. A REQUIREMENT OF THE DISPATCH BOARD IS ALL MEMBERS MUST HAVE A VALID CSTS CERTIFICATE. At the present time, any member who has completed the course after January 1, 2004 does not have to renew their certificate. Students work at their own rate using computers. No computer experience is necessary and your instructor will assist you with its operation.

Edmonton, CSTS training is available Monday through Friday twice daily at 8:30 am and again at 1:00 pm. Please phone 780.483.8955 to make an appointment.

Calgary, there is one computer available, please call 403.250.3840 to make an appointment.

ADVANCED RIGGING (2 DAY COURSE)

This is a two-day course that deals with the duties and responsibilities of the rigger. Also involved will be the use of formulas to calculate the capacity of wire rope slings and the tensions imposed on them in relationship to sling configuration and load weight.

BASIC RIGGING (2 DAY COURSE)

This is a two-day course on basic rigging principles. Subject matter will include: six basic knots, construction of wire rope and its application, inspection of wire rope, different hitch configurations for different loads, the duties and responsibilities of the rigger, and reading a sling capacity chart and hand signals for hoisting.

CHART READING (2 DAY COURSE OR 2 EVENING COURSES)

The time for our Chart Reading classes will vary according to how and where we get to deliver the course. On site in camp facilities, we will give 6 hour courses over two evenings: 7 pm - 10 pm. Where we can deliver the course over a weekend, we will do two days: 9 am - 5 pm for Saturday and Sunday. Chart Reading classes will be limited to ten students per class.

COMPUTER COURSES:

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS (2 DAY COURSE)

This two-day class starts out with the very basic operations of a computer. Topics covered include: how to plug in the computer; on/off switch; features of the Windows program; using a mouse with no fear; creating and saving of files and more.

MICROSOFT WORD LEVEL I (1 DAY COURSE)

Prerequisite for this course is Introduction to Computers. This course provides 6 hours of instruction. Course material covers: letters, faxes, inventory lists, equipment lists, time sheets and more.

MICROSOFT WORD LEVEL 2 (1 DAY COURSE)

Prerequisite for this course is Microsoft Word Level 1. This course provides 6 hours of instruction for the advanced use of Microsoft Word.

MICROSOFT EXCEL LEVEL I (1 DAY COURSE)

Prerequisite for this course is Introduction to Computers. This course provides 6 hours of instruction.

MICROSOFT EXCEL LEVEL 2 (1 DAY COURSE)

Prerequisite for this course is Microsoft Excel Level I – participants would build an expense claim form and a time card from scratch. This course provides 6 hours of instruction.

INTERNET & EMAIL (1 DAY COURSE)

Prerequisite for this course is Microsoft Word Level I. Participants would learn effective search techniques on the Internet and in the Email component – send, receive, include attachments, deleting, etc. This course provides 6 hours of instruction.

FALL PROTECTION TRAINING / OSSA CERTIFIED (8 HOUR COURSE)

This course will be delivered by certified instructors in Edmonton, Calgary and Fort McMurray.

ZOOM BOOM (ROUGH TERRAIN LIFT TRUCK) TRAINING (1 DAY COURSE)

This class is held monthly, usually on Saturday. Limit 12 participants per class. The class is instructed by an contracted instructor at their compound; on an extendable boom lift truck using pallet forks. The course covers theory and there is a practical evaluation. Certification is required by most contractors and is necessary for larger work sites. Certificates are valid for three years.

360° ROTATIONAL “ZOOM BOOM” TRAINING (1 DAY COURSE)

This class is held on a Saturday. Limit 5 participants per class. The class is instructed by Leavitt Machinery at their compound; on a Terex or Manitou type of 360° swing house lift truck. Certificates are valid for three years. The prerequisite is a current Lift Truck Training ticket.

GROUND DISTURBANCE LEVEL II (1/2 DAY COURSE)

This course includes the awareness of hazards and necessary items to ensure safety; and is required for those who supervise a ground disturbance, perform a ground disturbance or issue or receive ground disturbance permits for excavations of 300 mm or more. The course is for personnel who should be familiar with and fully understand all the regulations and variances involved when a ground disturbance takes place. This course is recognized by industry regulators. Students work at their own rate using computers. No computer experience is necessary and your instructor will assist you with its operation.

This course is also offered at the Calgary Office. To schedule call 403.250.3840

HANDS ON TRAINING (TRAINING SITE NEAR THORHILD, AB)

Hands on practical training will take place at the training site near Thorhild during October to March. The classes will vary from one or two week. Students will get 10 hours per day, for 6 days per week, for 2 weeks, for a total of 120 hours of training. Training will be offered on dozer (D6H Caterpillar), backhoe (Hitachi EX200LC) or grader (140H Caterpillar) or Skid Steer Loader (Cat 242 or JCB 1110T)

H₂S ALIVE

This is a one-day class concerning hydrogen sulfide (sour) gas: its properties, emergency response, and working safely in its vicinity. Successful students will receive an Enform certificate valid for three years.

MOBILE CRANE SAFETY TRAINING

This course is similar to the CSTS course, only it is specific to crane operation. It is a computer based course and will be offered once daily at 8:30 am. This course is directed to journeyman crane operators and apprentices.

OSSA (OIL SANDS SAFETY ASSOCIATION) REGIONAL ORIENTATION PROGRAM

This site access orientation program is computer based using a power point presentation. This course is for all new hires working for union contractors at an OSSA member site. These sites include Syncrude, CNRL, Suncor and Albion. A certificate will be issued to prove completion and has no expiry date.

PCST (PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION SAFETY TRAINING)

This is a thirteen module computer based safety training course for pipeline construction. A requirement of the Pipe Line Contractors Association of Canada – all members must have a VALID PCST CERTIFICATE to be eligible for hire by a PLCAC employer. The certification is valid for a period of three years. The course is approximately 4½ hours in length. No computer experience is necessary and an instructor will assist you with its operation.

STANDARD FIRST AID (2 DAY COURSE)

This is a two-day class covering first aid including CPR. Successful students will receive a Standard Level First Aid Certificate from St. John Ambulance valid for three years.

USING TRADE MATH (4 DAY COURSE)

This four-day course will be held over two weekends and is intended to assist members who are indentured apprentices or just to improve math skills for your present job. This course is a spin-off of the preparation for red seal course. This course would be beneficial to any member challenging the red seal exam.

The math concepts in the course are: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division in whole numbers and fractions; working out percentage; converting fractions to decimals and decimals to fractions. There will also be a section on basic geometry; squares, rectangles, triangles and circles finding perimeters and areas of these shapes. The course also deals with weights of materials and finding the weights of different objects, e.g., volumetric displacement: steel beam, concrete block, round tank, tank partially filled with liquid.

COURSES MAY BE ADDED TO THE SCHEDULE BASED ON INTEREST AND CLASS ENROLLMENT.

Done Workin' Club

2009 MEETING DATES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2009	COMMENCING AT 1:30 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2009	
WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2009	EDMONTON UNION OFFICE
WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2009	LOCAL 955 UNION HALL
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2009	17603 – 114 AVENUE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2009	EDMONTON, AB T5S 2R9



**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: BARRY BRADFORD, BUSINESS AGENT,
LOCAL 955 AT (780) 483-0955**

Canadian Friends of the Mountain Gorilla



Canadian Friends of the Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project Society

is a registered non-profit organization, dedicated to the conservation of the highly endangered lowland and mountain gorillas.

Senseless slaughter of gorilla families and the motherless infants (Ndakasi and Ndeze) left to starve to death. A three year old mountain gorilla (Kaboko) arrived still inside a potato sack used by poachers to conceal him. These are just a few examples of how our family of orphans is growing.

Through the tireless efforts of the veterinary specialists from the Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project and the behavioral specialists from the Diane Fossey Gorilla Fund International, together they provide the medical and psychological care to allow these orphans to recover from their devastating trauma.

Our role as Canadian Friends is to support the on going efforts of the MGVP by raising funds for lifesaving projects that will give this beautiful species a chance for survival.

To learn more about how you can help save this remarkable species, please visit our website at
canadianfriendsofmgvp.com

Fellow members of 955 I have been asked by the Canadian Director of this Society (a member of Local 955) to include this in our magazine. Members of 955 contribute to a wide range of very deserving charities. It is an integral part of unionism to care about our union brothers and sisters and the world around us – in the end, it benefits all of us. This project is yet another instance where a member of our Local demonstrates a capacity for charity and caring. Our members deserve recognition for the extra effort they contribute to making our world a better place to live. Congratulations to Sister Raemonde Bezenar, and best of luck with the project. Business Manager Paul Bokowski presenting a donation, approved at a General Meeting, from Local 955 to Sis. Raemonde Bezenar, Canadian Director



MOVING OR MOVED?

Make sure that
you give us
your new address.

Phone: (780)483-0955 or
email:
info@iuoe955union.com

Notices and other
publications are mailed to
each member's last
recorded address.

JOB STEWARD COURSES

EDMONTON

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17TH, 2009
SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH, 2009

FORT MCMURRAY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH, 2009
THURSDAY, APRIL 2ND, 2009

CALGARY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH, 2009
SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH, 2009

ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE THE JOB STEWARD
COURSE TO EXPAND YOUR KNOWLEDGE ON HOW TO MAKE YOUR
WORKPLACE A BETTER ENVIRONMENT.

I. U. O. E., Local 955 Holiday Schedule

CHRISTMAS

Closed: Wednesday, December 24, 2008
Re-Open: Monday, December 29, 2008 at 8:30 am

NEW YEAR'S

Closed: Wednesday, December 31st, 2008 at 12 noon
Re-Open: Monday, January 5, 2009 at 8:30 am

Have a Safe and Wonderful Holiday!

Kroll Tower Crane in Alberta

TOWER CRANE AT SUNCOR USED FOR SERP JOB

SYNCRUDE EMISSIONS RECOVERY PROJECT

The Kroll tower crane has a reach of 337 feet with a lifting capacity of 100 tons at the tip. The crane's reach extends to 7.5 acres, which is more than the area of six football fields. This particular tower crane is equipped with a four-camera system which will enable the operator to view all lifts and be able to see all around the load. The camera system consists of a load view, two winch views, and a counterweight view.

There are only 14 Kroll K10000 cranes in the world. Thirteen of them are in Asia, the Middle East, and Ukraine. This is the first time for a tower crane of this size to be in Canada and only the third time one has been used in North America.



SYNCRUDE BASE PLANT

Kroll 10,000 Crane



Awards Banquet



(L-R): Former Business Manager Ron Macdonald, Kenneth Prentice, 50 year Member, Paul Bokowski, Business Manager



(L-R): Former Business Manager Ron Macdonald, Alvin Pshednovek, 50 year Member, Paul Bokowski, Business Manager



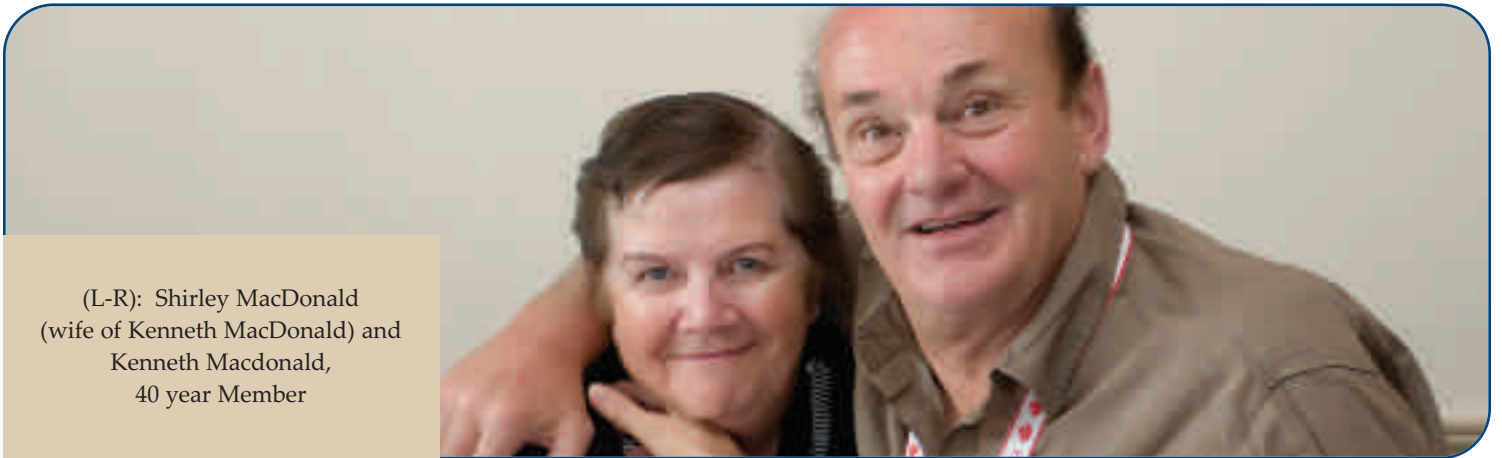
(L-R): Former Business Manager Ron Macdonald, Eugene Lemire, 50 year member, Paul Bokowski, Business Manager



(L-R): Audrey Poirier, Grandson Ayden Martin and Angeline Martin



(L-R): Hugh MacDonald, MLA Edmonton Goldbar, Budd Coutts, General Secretary Treasurer, IUOE (Emeritus), Joan Coutts



(L-R): Shirley MacDonald (wife of Kenneth MacDonald) and Kenneth Macdonald, 40 year Member



(L-R): Stefano Gallace 30 year Member, Peppina Gallace (wife of Stefano Gallace), Gary Ochitwa 20 year Member



Kenneth Prentice, 50 year Member & Family



Hattaya Pradutchon (wife of Lawrence Seifert) and Lawrence Seifert, 20 year Member

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

N.B. Coutts Local 955 Scholarship Recipients - 2008

ENTERING FIRST YEAR:

Alexandria BurnettDaughter of William Burnett
Athena Dumont.....Daughter of Daniel Dumont
Ashley LepineDaughter of Martin Lepine
Janeen Ogloza.....Daughter of Edward Ogloza
Kurtis Craig.....Son of Kenneth Craig
Jordan GoodyearSon of Keith Saunders
Kaleb MotzSon of Darrell Motz
Nicolas Rehber-Besler.....Son of Darcy Besler

ALREADY ATTENDING:

Jeffrey BehrensSon of Randal Behrens
Kelsey KnetemanDaughter of Leonard Kneteman
Stacey Magnin.....Step-Daughter of Andrew Forrest
Tyler MurrayMember
Stephanie StretchDaughter of Brian Stretch
Brett WegenastSon of Fred Wegenast

Membership Awards - 2008



20 YEAR MEMBERS

Back Row (L to R): Business Agent Jay McGeough, Frank Kis, Gary Ochitwa, Ken Lavalliere, Lawrence Seifert, Business Agent Frank Araneda, Business Agent Pat Meloche

Front Row (L to R): Elmer Bautz, Richard Robak, Raymond Weber, Kevin Cannan, Dennis Hanasyk, Lennard Wispinski

<u>Airhart, William</u>	<u>Caouette, Brian</u>	<u>Hofer, Jerry</u>	<u>McCarthy, Gary</u>	<u>Petkau, Arnold</u>	<u>St. Germain, Kenneth</u>
<u>Badyal, Pritam</u>	<u>Carstairs, Vern</u>	<u>Johnson, Charles</u>	<u>McGraw, Rheal</u>	<u>Powder, Emile</u>	<u>Stenson, R</u>
<u>Barker, Lorne</u>	<u>Cates, Bradley</u>	<u>Johnston, Roderick</u>	<u>McIntyre, A</u>	<u>Quast, Les</u>	<u>Thompson, Chresswell</u>
<u>Baron, Tyler</u>	<u>Champagne, Allan</u>	<u>Jones, Alan</u>	<u>McMullen, Robert</u>	<u>Reykdal, Greg</u>	<u>Todd, Ben</u>
<u>Barton, Peter</u>	<u>Chevtchank, Rheo</u>	<u>Kernahan, Ronald</u>	<u>Nash, Anthony</u>	<u>Richaud, Bradley</u>	<u>Van Rijn, Peter</u>
<u>Bautz, Elmer</u>	<u>Cust, Larry</u>	<u>Kilgour, James</u>	<u>Neil, James</u>	<u>Rivest, Mitch</u>	<u>Veno, Duanne</u>
<u>Bellerose, Donald</u>	<u>Dase, Randy</u>	<u>Kis, Frank</u>	<u>Nielsen, Gunnar</u>	<u>Rivet, Roger</u>	<u>Virtue, Tim</u>
<u>Berard, Michael</u>	<u>Day, Rodney</u>	<u>Klinger, Reginald</u>	<u>Northey, Jeffrey</u>	<u>Robak, Richard</u>	<u>Weber, Raymond</u>
<u>Berardi, Giovanni</u>	<u>Derasp, Michael</u>	<u>Klotz, Shane</u>	<u>Oberhammer, Daniel</u>	<u>Roy, Tom</u>	<u>West, Darcy</u>
<u>Berube, Trent</u>	<u>Evans, Richard</u>	<u>Kristalovich, Barry</u>	<u>Ochitwa, Gary</u>	<u>Rutherford, Reginald</u>	<u>Williams, James</u>
<u>Borowitz, Michael</u>	<u>Fisher, Peter</u>	<u>Krulak, John</u>	<u>Osborne, Howard</u>	<u>Sanche, Robert</u>	<u>Winther, Benny</u>
<u>Brauer, Monty</u>	<u>Fossen, Jan</u>	<u>Larkin, Padraig</u>	<u>Osmond, Garfield</u>	<u>Sandmaier, James</u>	<u>Wispinski, Lennard</u>
<u>Brodersen, Bernie</u>	<u>Friedel, John</u>	<u>Lavalliere, Ken</u>	<u>Ouellette, Normand</u>	<u>Schmidt, Clayton</u>	<u>Worth, Timothy</u>
<u>Brodersen, William</u>	<u>Golka, Brian</u>	<u>Le, Tien</u>	<u>Pahl, Mark</u>	<u>Seifert, Lawrence</u>	<u>Wyatt, Robert</u>
<u>Cadieux, Jacques</u>	<u>Gratton, Duane</u>	<u>Malcolm, Frederick</u>	<u>Parr, Fred</u>	<u>Shuck, Bruce</u>	
<u>Campbell, Lloyd</u>	<u>Hanasyk, Dennis</u>	<u>Marshall, James</u>	<u>Paul, Leonard</u>	<u>Sommer, Raivo</u>	
<u>Candlish, Jerry</u>	<u>Harding, Roy</u>	<u>Martens, Ernest</u>		<u>Speers, William</u>	
<u>Cannan, Kevin</u>	<u>High, Randy</u>	<u>Maruniak, Charles</u>			

Membership Awards continued



30 YEAR MEMBERS

- Back Row (L to R):** Stefano Gallace, Kevin Cust, Larry Filipchuk, Percy Bloomstrand, Roger Wood, Roland Smith
- Middle Row (L to R):** Keith Hango, Robert McRobbie, Rosaire Paquette, Business Representative Bruce Moffatt, Kenneth Niles, Ronald Richardson, Darrell Waltz, Kenneth Schulte, Tom Bailey, Madurai Naiker
- Front Row (L to R):** Philippe Poirier, Dennis Hehr, Elvin Miller, Larry Nelson, Gregg Halterman, Dale Dunlop, Iven Shimenosky, Harold Ward

30 Year Members

Adam, Alfred

Armstrong, Thomas

Bailey, Tom

Beier, Fred

Bloomstrand, Percy

Brown, Robert

Carchidi, Bruno

Chapman, Terrence

Coate, Laverne

Cust, Kevin

Dominiuk, Terry

Dunlop, Dale

Fabris, Ivan

Filipchuk, Larry

Gallace, Stefano

Gallant, Antoinette

Grain, Albert

Gryckiewicz, Teodor

Halterman, Gregg

Hango, Keith

Hehr, Dennis

Higdon, Melvin

Hill, John

James, Dennis

Johnston, Robert

Klassen, Eric

Kolonic, Marija

Langdon, Bradley

LaPointe, Albert

Lesnak, Richard

Levey, Lawrence

Mackowetsky, Edward

Manary, Russel

Mazzuca, Franco

McRobbie, Robert

Miller, Elvin

Miller, Peter

Moffatt, Bruce

Naiker, Madurai

Nau, Lok

Nelson, Larry

Niles, Kenneth

Paquette, Rosaire

Poirier, Philippe

Powell, Barry

Ratz, Russell

Raymack, Robert

Reicker, Holly

Rice, Michael

Richardson, Ronald

Rickerd, John

Ronneseth, Ken

Sarich, Douglas

Saunders, Charles

Schaefer, David

Schulte, Kenneth

Shimenosky, Iven

Smith, Roland

St. Vincent, Albert

Stewart, Roy

Tanton, Gerald

Tomnuk, William

Wagner, Robert

Waltz, Darrell

Ward, Harold

Wood, Roger

Membership Awards *continued*



40 YEAR MEMBERS

- Back Row (L to R):** Floyd Becker, Bruce Hecht, Edward Warkentin, Jostein Fossheim, Fred Pauls, Leonard Reid, Mitchell Revoy, Orest Yuschyshyn, Douglas Steffler
- Front Row (L to R):** William Kozachuk, Gordon Hislop, Kenneth MacDonald, Mervyn White, Laurinda Martins wife of Joaquim Martins, Wayne Bell, Edward Melnechenko, Victor St. Aubin

40 Year Members

Alshuth, John

Becker, Floyd

Bell, Elvin

Callihoo, Clarence

Chipiuk, Tommy

Chorney, Ernest

Cooney, Thomas

Fossheim, Jostein

Groshko, Nick

Hecht, Bruce

Hislop, Gordon

Hourd, Albert

Jeanveau, Roger

Johnston, Norris

Kozachuk, William

Lawrence, Elebert

MacDonald, Kenneth

Marshall, Robert

Martins, Joaquim

Melnechenko, Edward

Miller, Dalton

Mitchell, Daniel

Nordlund, Stanley

O'Neill, Brian

Ouellette, Roland

Pauls, Fred

Reid, Leonard

Revoy, Mitchell

Sorken, Austin

St. Aubin, Victor

Steffler, Douglas

Waniandy, Gary

Warkentin, Edward

Wenchowski, Gordon

White, Mervyn

Wrzosek, Eddie

Yuschyshyn, Orest

Zoschke, William

Membership Awards *continued*



50 YEAR MEMBERS

Back Row (L to R): Budd Coutts, General Secretary Treasurer, IUOE (Emeritus), Kenneth Prentice, Former Business Manager Ron Macdonald

Front Row (L to R): Alvin Pshednovek, Eugene Lemire

50 Year Members

Hildebrandt, Harry

Lemire, Eugene

Prentice, Kenneth

Pshednovek, Alvin

OUR APOLOGIES FOR NOT PRINTING ALL OF THE RECIPIENTS NAMES FOR THE MEMBERSHIP AWARDS IN OUR 2007 WINTER NEWSLETTER CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

20 Year Members

August, Leonard
Barone, Ernesto
Briggs, James
Brown, Lloyd
Campbell, Eldon
Charchuk, Lonny
Chisholm, William
Cust, Stan
Decker, Thomas
Dobrosielski, Andrzej
Duerr, Edwin

Emmerton, Robert
Gallace, Pietro
Glass, Floyd
Hirji, Nazir
House, Morris
Ilijas, Albert
Jorgensen, Vern
Kelly, Gerard
Knee, Teeder
Korrey, Paul
Lavallee, David

Lewis, Clifford
Lisowecki, Ross
Martin, Don
McMillin, Clifford
Melnychuk, Merv
Nittolo, Harry
Osborne, Mervin
Peters, Craig
Romanko, Wayne
Roper, Julie
Seal, Curtis

Smith, Martha
Soetaert, Richard
Speed, Reginald
Stretch, Brian
Thompson, Charles
Turner, Bryan
Viczo, Gerald
Warren, Michael
Wilson, Scott

30 Year Members

Argo, Bradley
Bentley, Raymond
Billeck, Edmund
Bittner, Richard
Blades, Leonard
Blane, David
Bregliano, Giulio
Buchacher, Russell
Bugbee, Daniel
Buleziuk, George
Carlson, Charles
Carr, Donald
Chiarello, Gabriele
Comey, James
Cook, Douglas
Corbett, Norman
Cross, Lysle
Danderfer, Terrance
Dawson, Thomas
Droog, Johannes

Farrants, Vernon
Feraco, Geniale
Foy, Jeffery
Greenfield, Maurice
Hall, Richard
Hanaghan, Robert
Handsaeme, Larry
Hill, Gene
Horboway, Nick
Hunter, Morris
Jamaldin, Imamdin
Karpysyn, Tony
Kelly, Robert
Koenig, James
Koziol, Michael
Krysta, Cordell
Lasalle, Ian
Leone, Ernesto
Lidke, Gary
Love, Richard

Lumley, Boyd
McBride, William
McDaniel, Leo
McEwen, William
McKeough, Brian
McVicar, Larry
Miles, Kenneth
Mortensen, Orla
Morton, Lance
Nagy, Otto
O'Brien, Joseph
Offen, George
Osborne, Guy
Oscar, Daniel
Overton, Kenneth
Padayas, Arnachalam
Pelletier, Denis
Peters, Henry
Pisani, Cosimo
Plante, Ralph

Poersch, Donald
Rivet, Jerry
Romaniuk, Bohdan
Romaniuk, Joseph
Sargent, Fredrick
Sawitsky, Aron
Seida, Keith
Shephard, Bruce
Smith, Alexander
Smith, William
Tyerman, Douglas
Ukeniek, Peter
Vezina, Joseph
Virdee, Gurdial
Weisbeck, Rod
Williams, Kenneth
Yakymow, Benny

40 Year Members

Adams, Charles
Berndt, Arthur
Blumhagen, Allan
Brooker, Barrie
Cerny, Roy
Choney, Norman
Copley, Robert
Cosh, Nelson
Cullen, Jim

Cundal, Lorne
deJong, John
Douglas, Robert
Junck, Clifford
Kernisky, John
Kurash, Steve
Kwasniewski, William
LeMoal, Marcel
Lloyd, Jr., Ronald

MacIsaac, William
McDowell, Francis
McMeckan, John
Mucha, Howard
Mudryk, Terry
Phillips, Donald
Ridsdale, Joe
Ropcean, Leo
Rowland, William

Sopkiw, Walter
Spark, Ralph
Tautchin, Stanley
Townend, Charles
Wells, John
Williamson, Walter

50 Year Members

Coutts, Norman, (Budd)
McFarlane, Gordon

Presho, Robert
Seymour, William

Steele, Walter
Strasdin, Roy

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*Business Manager,
Paul Bokowski,
the Executive
Board and **Staff** of
Local 955 would
like to take this
opportunity to wish
all Local 955
Members and their
families a Merry
Christmas and a
Happy New Year*