



Providing information to our members and fellow unionists

ILWU Canada

June 2015

# Waterfront News

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Official publication of the International Longshore & Warehouse Union Canada



## Battle of Ballantyne



### On June 18,

this year we will see the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Ballantyne. It is important that we look back to that time so that we can learn from events 80 years ago that are still relevant today.

At 1 P.M. Tuesday June 18th, 1935, approximately 1500 longshoremen and their supporters, led by medal of Honour winner Mickey O'Rourke along with other world war one veterans wearing their medals, left the Longshore Union hall at 633 East Hastings to peacefully march to Ballantyne Pier with the intention of "talking down" the scabs that were working on the ships at the dock. In past struggles the Union had been fairly successful in talking to

the scabs and convincing them of the error of their ways.

With a signed Contract, negotiated with the B.C. Shipping Federation, (The predecessor of the BCMEA) and signed in October 1934, the Union announced early in June 1935 that they were going to take over the despatch. The Federation locked out the Union on June 4th and employed the scabs that they had been recruiting for a number of months. The Union then declared a strike later that month.

The Shipping Federation was prepared, and as in past longshore strikes they organized, along with the Vancouver Citizens League, the Local, Provincial and Federal Governments, the Vancouver Police, the Provincial

Police and the RCMP, who were all involved in developing a "plan" to deal with the waterfront situation. This plan, developed long before the Shipping Federation lock-out, included the hiring of scabs, police specials, and the co-ordination of the military and the official police forces to break up any demonstrations that would occur. They were trained in the handling of tear gas, light weapons and even had machine guns ready for use. The Shipping Federation was also paying for full time police and private investigators from eight different companies to spy on longshoremen at work and in their meetings.

When the longshoremen and their supporters arrived at the western entrance to Ballantyne pier they were met

by hundreds of city police, with Provincial police hiding behind boxcars with Thompson machine guns and other officers mounted and carrying clubs. There were also three police boats filled with police officers anchored off Ballantyne Pier that were not used. The Vancouver Chief of police (who ironically was previously an officer of the Shipping Federation) met the marchers and ordered them to disperse. This didn't happen immediately and the police fired tear gas, and charged into the crowd.

Mounted Police rode their horses through the marcher's ranks, swinging their long clubs at the heads of the marchers and pursued them through

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## President's Report

### Convention Report

employees in most Ports in BC and it also has increased in size. We were successful in organizing the employees in Port Alberni and also the employees at Canada Place, the Cruise Terminal in Vancouver. They have also experienced growth in membership at Port Metro Vancouver due to the expansion of work in Vancouver.

**Local 520** represents support workers for the Deep Sea Pilots for the whole coast of BC and things are also going along quite well there. They recently had two long serving officers step back and have elected a new President. This is a big change for them but appears to be going quite well.

**Local 522** represents recycling workers in a suburb of Vancouver. They have faced major changes brought about by the Provincial Government in regard to recycling. There was some major concern with the new legislation as it was not clear if their employer would maintain their contract, but they did and they are also enjoying stability in a growing community.

**Local 523** represents another Longshore Local at a coal terminal in Prince Rupert. They have a separate Collective Agreement and are now in bargaining. This is going to be difficult bargaining due to a major drop in the world price of coal. Some mines have closed and they have lost nearly 70% of the volume they shipped in 2013 but so far have seen no employment reductions. The employer has come in quite aggressively but the Local remains strong and knows the rest of the Union is watching.

**In Education** we recently held another Leadership Course at the Canadian Labour Congress School in Harrison BC. This was well attended with delegates from most Locals. We are also in planning for our next Youth Conference in September and hope to build on the success of the last one two years ago. It was well attended by many young members from most Locals and even attracted several delegates from our Saskatchewan Affiliates and the MUA.

Recently our federal government and the European Union have negotiated a trade agreement behind closed doors. The Canadian European Trade Agreement (CETA) is like most other trade agreements with other countries except for one major issue, the destruction of our Cabotage laws. These laws protect our countries' internal movement of goods from Flag Of Convenience vessels. Without our cabotage laws Canadian jobs in Seafaring, Towboats and possibly our ferry system will be opened up to foreign countries, destroying family supporting jobs in exchange for foreign crewed vessels. This has the potential to expand into the USA as we recently saw an attack on the Jones Act through the Keystone pipeline debate. These attacks will further increase as corporations gain more control through global free trade. This is why ILWU Canada sits on the newly formed Canadian Maritime Supply Chain Coalition, or CMSCC for short. This committee was struck to protect our cabotage laws, and in doing so we hope to protect Canadian jobs, as well as strengthen the Jones Act. The CMSCC is comprised of Unions not only across Canada but as well the ITF and ETF. We will defend the Jurisdiction of our Brothers and Sisters on the water as only Longshoreman can, because if governments can defeat our Seafarers, who will be next? The Union has taken a strong role in the last few years in advocating for the resource sectors of our economy. In particular coal exports have been under attack from

#### Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

It has been an interesting time in ILWU Canada since our last International Convention. The Officers of ILWU Canada have been in place now for three years with only minor changes. Brother Jyalmen Sidhho retired at our last Convention in 2014 and we have a new Secretary Treasurer Bob Dhaliwal. Other than that the only change was the elimination of a Vice President by Convention. The Officers have worked together well and together we have achieved some victories. The Officers come from Locals 500, 502 and 514 and this is very healthy for the Union, as Local 500 has generally held most offices due to it being the largest Local.

**Local 400** represents workers, mostly on Towboats, in the marine sector and has been facing bargaining challenges with their biggest employer. They have been in mediation/arbitration for months along with the Merchant Service Guild, the union that represents Officers. It is going extremely slowly but it is proceeding. The employer there tried to implement a very bad contract but jointly it is being pushed back.

**The Longshore** section is still working under the eight year Agreement bargained in 2011 and in fact we have just less than three years left in the Agreement. This has given the division the ability to deal with some other issues that normally get lost in a shorter bargaining cycle. Continued growth has been made in the areas of Health and Benefits and major changes have been brought forward in our Pension Plan. We are currently negotiating a new Trust Document with the Employers for the Health and Benefit Plan. The previous agreement was written in 1995 and we are updating it to take advantage of tax changes and more flexibility for the Plan and the Members.

There has been great growth in most areas of the Union, but this is particularly true in the Longshore. Local 500 Vancouver is still the largest Local but Local 502 New Westminster is closing in on it in size due to the large volume of containers at Deltaport. Local 508 on Vancouver Island has had steady employment for an extended number of years and their membership has also grown and stabilized. This comes after the merging of three Locals there about fifteen years ago and great reductions in work hours due to the changing face of work in an area dominated by the shipping of forest products. Local 505 Prince Rupert has also experienced growth due to containers and a new wood pellet export terminal. The Local dwindled to less than forty members before the redevelopment of Fairview Terminal for containers, and is now experiencing unprecedented growth. The other northern Local, 519 in Stewart is also on the move with a redevelopment of their old barge ramp for Cassiar Asbestos into a marine terminal. Construction is still ongoing but there are many shipping opportunities in the north that will be coming their way. For many years the only work they had was logs.

Local 514 represents foremen, mainly in longshore and they have also been working with an eight year Agreement. It has provided the same stability to them.

**Local 517** represents Port Authority

## Scty-Treasurer's Report

ILWU Canada is recovering from all the complications from having our office destroyed by a fire in the Maritime Labour Centre. We were graciously offer a boardroom to setup a temporary office by ILWU Local 400 and we accepted. I offer them many thanks. Almost all of ILWU Canada files were saved and have been sent out for cleaning. We have now set in a new leased space at Broadway and Kingsway in Vancouver. Hopefully we can find a more permanent location in the near future.

I am glad to see the longshore locals are getting more involved politically and socially. We had a strong turnout and this year's Day of Mourning Ceremonies April 28th. This year marks the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Ballantyne, June 18th. A description of the events and lessons learned are in this issue. We hope many members and their families will join us for a ceremony which will take place at New Brighton Park in Vancouver at 11am.

I have been trying to get out to some rallies to support other unions in their struggles and to show that the ILWU



is always willing to lend a hand to our friends in the labour movement. We need to stick together because we all share the same struggle.

Both the Waterfront Industry Pension Plan and the Health and Benefits Plan are in good shape. On April 1st we put in place the largest increase in our pension plans history. We are currently in the process of revising and update the trust structure of the Health and Benefits plan to make it easier to manage and help with accounting and tax issues.

**ILWU Canada office is now located at 395-3665 Kingsway, Vancouver.**

*In Solidarity*  
**Bob Dhaliwal**

**Battle of Ballantyne**

**JUNE 18, 2015**

**New Brighton Park**

**Battle of Ballantyne Memorial**

**11:00 am**

**AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL**

environmental groups, and we have been quite vocal in sticking up for the work our Members do. We continue working with other groups, especially other Unions that share our interests.

ILWU Canada has also continued our role with the ITF. We regularly attend Fair Practice Committee meetings and also sent four delegates to Sofia for the ITF Congress last year. Retired Vice President Al Le Monnier is still working with the ITF in regard to the issue of overweight containers.

ILWU Canada as an autonomous body within the International continues to place a high value on our relationship. We have a

larger delegation at this Convention than we have had in years, and this shows just how much we value our relationship. We attempted to show support during the Northwest Grain dispute both financially and by visiting the Locals and even got out on the picket lines. Your grain employers are our grain employers and we wanted them to get that message.

We look forward to continuing our strong working relationship with the ILWU International Officers, Locals and Affiliates.

President Mark Gordienko

# ILWU Remembers



# Retired Longshore members

## 2014 RETIREMENTS - LONGSHORE

LOCAL	NAME	AGE	SERVICE	DATE
<b>RETIREMENTS - FOREMEN</b>				
514	Richard Mardyn	60.33	38	1-Jan-15
514	William Morrow	62.17	37	1-Jan-15
514	Bruce Wellicome	65	37	1-Jan-15
514	Paul McCann	65	31.07	1-Feb-15
514	Gary Westerbery	62.5	43.08	1-Feb-15
514	Doug Godard	63.67	25.17	1-Mar-15
514	William Mitchell	65	44.92	1-Mar-15
514	John McNaughton	62.17	35.25	1-April-15
514	Mike Young	67.33	37.25	1-April-15
514	Frank Van Welzen	65	29	1-May-15
514	Grant Williams	60.00	37.33	1-May-15
<b>RETIREMENTS - LONGSHORE</b>				
502	Linda Stapleton	65.00	3.75	1-Jun-11
502	William Jonas	65.0	10.00	1-Jul-14
500	Jagjit Rai	66.83	20.75	1-Nov-14
500	Ken Bauder	65	30.75	1 Dec-14
500	Anthony Eddington	62.75	37.75	1 Dec-14
500	William Ball	65.08	20	1 Jan - 15
502	Richard Dahm	66.25	15	1 Jan - 15
500	William Footman	66.42	35	1 Jan - 15
500	Peter Haines	65	40	1 Jan - 15
500	Donald Mathies	65.08	10.00	1-Jan-15
500	Robert McLean	65.92	40	1 Jan - 15
500	Steve Parish	60.6	33	1 Jan - 15
500	John Phillips	59.17	25	1 Jan - 15
500	Yogesh Sood	65.08	38	1 Jan - 15
500	Steve Lee	66.33	33	1 Feb-15
502	Thomas Francis	65	13	1-Mar-15
500	Alexander Ford	62	44	1-Mar-15
500	Jorma Eksyma	65.50	40	1-Mar-15
500	Henry Kroeker	60.08	36	1-Mar-15
500	Andrew Paterson	65	26	1-Mar-15
500	Henry Roach	65	20.25	1 Mar-15
500	Gary Serafini	61.17	37	1-Mar-15
500	Eric Skowronek	66.75	10	1-Mar-15
500	Charles Zuckerman	65	38	1 Mar-15
505	Richard Gray	63.08	30.25	1-Apr-15
505	Joseph Hatcher	69.17	18	1-Apr-15
508	Frederick Holden	63.42	38.25	1-Apr-15
500	Terry Stephenson	60	37.25	1-Apr-15
500	Derrick Andrews	65.75	48.25	1- May-15
500	Jim Leary	65	19.50	1- May-15
500	George Nalivko	65.50	31.00	1- May-15

## REMEMBER BALLANTYNE...

*Continued from page 1*

all of the surrounding street and lanes, even riding up the steps of houses where woman and children were gathered. Private police were chasing down marchers with their cars trying to run them over. Rocks, bricks and anything else not tied down were used by the marchers to defend themselves. The Vancouver Daily Province newspaper described the melee as "the bloodiest hours in waterfront history".

The Vancouver Sun newspaper for June 18, 1935 contained the following: "1:20 P.M. Tear gas bombs were fired by Royal Canadian Mounted Police over the heads of the crowd, mounted city and Provincial police charged them at full gallop and foot police swung into action with batons this afternoon when thousands of longshore strikers and sympathizers tried to break through the guard and march onto Ballantyne Pier"

There were approximately 100 longshoremen and their supporters treated for injuries in nearby hospitals and supporters home. Two of the supporters were treated for buckshot wounds in their hips and legs while swearing that the shots came from a police patrol car. 44 police were treated for their injuries at nearby hospitals.

From June 4 until October 25, 1935 over 500 criminal cases were prosecuted arising from the Battle of Ballantyne, resulting in 148 convictions. When the strike was officially called off on December 9, 1935 there were 18 longshoremen and seamen still in Okalla prison serving sentences from 3 months to 1 year. Over 800 longshoremen were

blackballed and many never worked on the waterfront again.

The Shipping Federation broke the longshoremen's union in 1935 just as they had broken the waterfront unions in 1909, 1912, 1919 and 1923. The Federation set up their own company unions, and each time the longshoremen ended up working within these company unions to turn them into militant organizations that worked toward improving the lives of their members, which in turn resulted in the Shipping Federation using the same tactics that they used in 1935 to destroy these unions.

Throughout the 1940's the longshoremen, having learned some valuable lessons, worked to consolidate all the waterfront unions in the Province into one cohesive organization that could fight together to represent all waterfront workers and present a united front to the Shipping Federation. These independent waterfront unions in B.C. subsequently affiliated with the ILWU in the U.S., and built the Canadian section of the Union into what it has come today.

The Battle of Ballantyne has many lessons for us provided by those trade unionists in 1935 that would not be beaten by the Shipping Federation, who along with their cohorts in government used every dirty trick in the book to beat them down. The Battle was temporarily lost, but we owe the strong fighting and politically active organization that we have today, to those workers who refused to settle for less than good

# We remember them well

## 2014 DECEASED PENSIONERS - LONGSHORE

LOCAL	NAME	DATE OF DEATH	AGE AT DEATH
508	James Peterson	27-Sep-2014	86
508	Charles MacDonald	3-Oct-2014	88
500	Rudy Carline	6-Oct-2014	82
500	Antonio Gallo	9-Oct-2014	82
500	Donald Stepney	14-Oct-2014	93
500	John Oswald	16-Oct-2014	89
502	Laszlo Kish	20-Oct-2014	88
508	Benedict George	25-Oct-2014	87
508	Patrick Matson	27-Oct-2014	77
502	Norman MacDonald	31-Oct-2014	66
500	Pasquale Romano	2-Nov-2014	78
502	Henry Brissette	5-Nov-2014	85
505	Donald Atkinson	7-Nov-2014	79
500	Ernest Robinson	7-Nov-2014	85
500	Oscar John	12-Nov-2014	99
500	Milo Tourand	13-Nov-2014	66
508	Johnny Fourmeaux	16-Nov-2014	77
500	Melvyn Yuen	22-Nov-2014	72
508	Lawrence Irving	22-Nov-2014	71
500	Terence Reid	23-Nov-2014	91
502	Arthur Eichhorst	25-Nov-2014	90
500	Andrew Smith	26-Nov-2014	72
500	Robert Saunders	27-Nov-2014	67
500	Earl Commodore	27-Nov-2014	78
500	Robert Mann	29-Nov-2014	80
500	Walter Beatch	4-Dec-2014	87
500	Rene Couturie	6-Dec-2014	79
502	James Sparks	7-Dec-2014	71
500	Heimar Schmuul	8-Dec-2014	91
500	Kenneth Pratt	15-Dec-2014	95
505	Juraj Brlecic	28-Dec-2014	72
500	Benuzzo Santelli	23-Jan-2015	82
500	Walter Isinger	25-Jan-2015	88
500	James Vandort	28-Jan-2015	95
500	Preban Nielsen	31-Jan-2015	87
502	Mike Majcunic	6-Feb-2015	76
500	Douglas Bordts	7-Feb-2015	80
508	Earl Berry	10-Feb-2015	80
500	Niranjan Bual	14-Mar-2015	73
500	James Cox	15-Mar-2015	83
500	Frederick Townsend	24-Mar-2015	94
502	Robert Menning	1-Apr-2015	67
500	Zvonko Dragovic	4-Apr-2015	81

### DECEASED FOREMEN

PORT	NAME	DATE OF DEATH	AGE AT DEATH
514	Cecil Skotynski	4-Sep-2014	75
514	Findlay Morrison	2-Oct-2014	78
514	Terrence MacDonald	2-Nov-2014	72
514	Thomas Campbell	6-Feb-2015	75
514	John Paul	01-Apr-2015	71
514	Dale Sims	18-Apr-2015	77

### DECEASED WIDOWS

PORT	NAME	DATE OF DEATH	AGE AT DEATH
508	Mae Bland	30-Nov-2014	86
508	Maria Seward	10-Jan-2014	74
500	Sara Szullo	09-Feb-2015	86
508	Jean Ordano	27-Feb-2015	76
500	Sandra Glennie	29-Mar-2015	74
500	Gertrude Moreau	26-Mar-2015	96
500	Barbara Platt	9-Mar-2015	80

### DECEASED ACTIVE MEMBERS

PORT	NAME	DATE OF DEATH	AGE AT DEATH
500	Jaroslav Marecek	22-Oct-2014	63
500	Raymond Bateman	9-Nov-2014	61
502	Dennis Coco	11-Nov-2014	43
500	Donald Pelleirn	28-Nov-2014	62
500	Mike Willmott	20-Mar-2015	53
502	Arminster Kainth	24-Mar-2015	28
500	Surinder Dhiman	29-Mar-2015	64
500	Brante Wilkinson	17-Apr-2015	57
502	Richard Hamilton	18-Apr-2015	44
500	Dobro Lucic	22-Apr-2015	59
500	Tom Prostick	28-Apr-2015	59

### Other Announcements

Brenda Jean Terra deceased spouse of member Peter Terra (11986)

Born Apr 9, 1951, passed away Feb 11, 2015

Gordon Osborne, partner Renee Davies passed away on Dec 12, 2014 age 72

wages and safe working conditions for their members.

We must remember Ballantyne because they'll do it again, and will be preparing right now if they sense any weakness in our organization.

Only by looking back and acknowledging the sacrifices of those that have gone before us can we prove worthy of the legacy that they have left us.

The monument erected at New

Brighton Park in 2010 on the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Ballantyne is a token tribute to those brave workers who faced down the Employers and their government to achieve better working conditions for us all.

Dave Lomas April 25, 2015