



# The UNION ECHO

Serving the workers of Northern and North-western Ontario



Volume 17 Issue 1

Unity and Strength for workers

Summer 2015



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### PRESIDENT'S AWARD'S FIRST RECIPIENT

In early January the Local hired Brother Jason Lacko to help Brother Bruce Frost with the servicing of the membership in the western part of the Local. Jason will service the OLG Casino and Clerical workers and will also be representing the Ignace and Atikokan Sawmills which are both Resolute operations. As he gains more experience he will be exposed to more units. I want to take this opportunity on your behalf to welcome Jason to his new career and thank him for accepting what I believe to be one of the most gratifying job he will experience.

On April 23rd and 24th our local held its Triennial Convention in Hearst with 80 delegates and fraternal guests that dealt with resolutions and reports to better improve services to the membership. I am pleased to report that all of the 22 former officers were re-elected by acclamation. I want to congratulate and thank them for their service to our Local and look forward to work with them in improving the services to our

membership.

At the Convention, the Local recognized Brother Réal Vachon for his 31 years of service on the Executive Board, Brother Robert Bouvier for his 19 years of service, Sister Réjeanne Beger for her 9 years of service and Brother Girard Lamothe for 4.5 years of service. All of the Brothers and the Sister received a watch engraved with their years of service and a \$100.00 restaurant gift certificate.

The Local has also created a President's Award which will be awarded every three years at the Triennial Convention to recognize a member for their outstanding efforts and willingness to go above and beyond for the membership of Local 1-2010. The first recipient of the President's Award was Brother Girard Lamothe from Rockshield Engineered Wood Products in Cochrane.

Brother Lamothe has been a member of the local for 43 years this December. Girard

has been involved in numerous functions in his unit: Safety, Grievance committee member, Steward and Local Executive board member as Conductor.

Girard was instrumental in saving multiple times the Plywood plant in Cochrane. He saw this operation go from Normick Perron to Norbord to True North and finally to this new investor Rockshield Engineered Wood Products. On all of these transitions Girard was involved and was one of the leaders in making things happen.

Because of his dedication to his community and his fellow Brothers and Sisters, he has saved 100 good jobs not to mention pension that members benefit from. Because of his willingness to never quit in believing in the success and the re-starting of the plywood plant in Cochrane, on April 20th 84 members were recalled to work and 77 accepted the recall at Rockshield.

All because of one man who



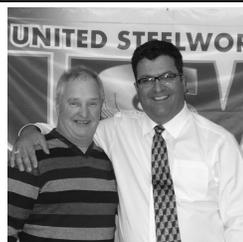
Brother Girard Lamothe, first recipient of the President's Award. Pictured with Ken Neumann, United Steelworkers National Director for Canada and Guy Bourguoin, Local 1-2010 President

never believed in abandoning his operation. This should be a lesson to us all to never say all is over. On behalf of the members who will return to work at Rockshield and the membership of local 1-2010, thank you Brother Girard Lamothe.

In closing, summer vacation time has finally arrived; do enjoy the season's pleasures but please think safety in all your outdoor activities.

In Solidarity;  
Guy Bourguoin

We would like to recognize and thank the following members for their years of service on the Executive Board of Local 1-2010



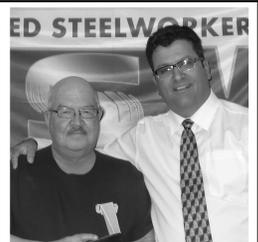
Brother Réal Vachon  
31 years



Brother Robert Bouvier  
19 years



Sister Réjeanne Beger  
9 years



Brother Girard Lamothe  
4.5 years

**The officers of  
Local 1-2010 elected at our  
triennial convention are:**



Guy Bourgouin  
President



Jacques Jean  
1st Vice-President



Bruce Frost  
2nd Vice-President



Rémi St-Martin  
3rd Vice-President



Eric Carroll  
Financial Secretary



Jason Lacko  
Recording Secretary



Léo Levasseur  
Warden



Guy Veilleux  
Conductor



John Krahn  
Zone 1



Matthew Turner  
Zone 1



Wesley Ridler  
Zone 2



Dave Lyght  
Zone 2



Gary Pearson  
Zone 3



Serge Trudel  
Zone 3



Réjean Laurin  
Zone 4



Marcel Rodrigue  
Zone 4



Roger Beland  
Zone 5



Jean Laurin  
Zone 5

Trustees: Daniel Touchette, Christiane Cousineau, Claude Carriere and Donald Fry



## INVESTMENTS AND UPGRADES FOR OUR SAWMILLS

**White River:**

White River Forest Products will be investing in their sawmill. This multi years/multi phases projet, with an investment of about 15 to 18 million dollars, has already started and will progress over the next few years. Phase 1 is to replace the 2 obsolete lines with a high efficient Compact line which includes mill infeed and mill outfeed improvements. This will go on from June to December 2015. The Phase 2 consists of the upgrading of the existing planer mill which will be done over 2015 and 2016. Finally, Phase 3 consists of improving the existing Kilns and Boiler with a possibility of a new Kiln being installed. This phases over 2015, 2016 and 2017.

**Hornepayne:**

A new era at Haavaldsrud! The Olav Haavaldsrud Timber Company was co-founded in 1953 by Olav and Elna Haavaldsrud, two Norwegian immigrants who purchased the small pulp log manufacturing plant that provided eight foot logs to Quebec and Ontario Paper Companies. As their business grew in size, they started up a small Sawmill in order to utilize some of the larger logs available from the Nagagami Forest.

When the pulp plant was no longer in operation, the business shifted its focus towards the lumber manufacturing process, woodlands forest harvest operations and in September

2000 started the construction of a Co-generation plant located adjacent to the sawmill/planer mill operation. In addition to electricity production for the provincial power grid, the cogen plant provides steam to the mill for lumber drying and heating purposes. The Cogen became operational in December 2013.

Through the generations of Haavaldsrud, the family owned business has adjusted to the demands and changes in the market. Many different partnership/ownership combinations have been in place over the years. Presently, the entire operation is owned by Anmar and Haavaldsrud. This year, Anmar has taken a more active role in the operations to ensure the

site's sustainability. The board of directors comprises of Haavaldsrud family and Anmar representatives. The vision of the Company is to be the model for the forest industry, being self-sufficient by utilizing all fibre and maintaining a green profitable operation.

**Columbia:**

Further to our article in the last Union Echo, Columbia has started its phase 1 investments and upgrades at the Hearst facility. These investments are in part due to the proven resilience and future potential of the Hearst site. The following upgrades are actually in progress or will be done over the summer.

- New dust extraction systems

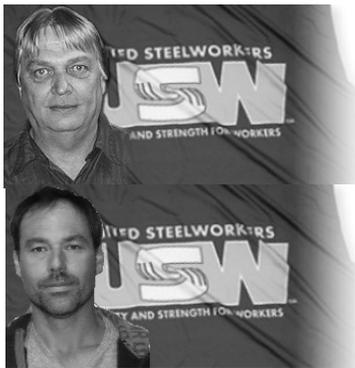
## Use extra care this summer and avoid becoming an accident statistic

A few words to let you know that we are approaching a critical time of the year for work related accidents. The months of June, July, August, and September are the months where we see a significant increase in work related accidents every year since quite a few years. This may be explained by the fact that there

are a lot of people relieving on new jobs for those on vacation. Or, maybe because of mental fatigue at the approach of vacations. It may also be pure coincidence, but whatever the cause, it is very important that we keep our focus during those four months, so that everyone may enjoy their vacations and keep all their body parts intact.

If everyone works at it, we will be successful in having zero accidents for those few months. One thing that we believe is very important to help in reaching this goal; when you have to work on a new job or assume new tasks, make sure to have the adequate training and know your SOP's and lockout procedures before starting the work. When in doubt, don't be afraid to ask your supervisor

and/or co-workers for help. May you have a great summer and enjoy your vacations in a safely manner.



Greetings from the Thunder Bay Office. This report comes from the two business representatives now working out of Thunder Bay. Jason Lacko began working for the Local on January 4th 2015. With the expanded membership in the west end of the local, the workload was getting too heavy for Bruce to handle alone. Jason has been a member for 12 years after joining the Local during an organizing campaign which brought North American Mill Yard Services into the local, an operation which presently employs 30 members in the yard of Resolute's Thunder Bay Sawmill.

### Resolute Thunder Bay Woodlands:

As reported in the last Echo, we were in bargaining seeking to regain some lost ground. We were partially successful in that we obtained a 4 year agreement which includes 8% wage increase over the term, reduction of the amount of

unpaid travel to 1 hr. fifteen minutes, overtime being received by the truckers after 42 hours weekly, increase of the pension contributions, maintained the bridging supplement, improved weekly indemnity and LTD plans and increased the safety subsidy. The agreement was ratified by 82% of the voting membership. The agreement covers approximately 400 members working for 12 separate contractors that supply fibre to Resolute's mills.

### Resolute Ignace Sawmill:

The collective agreement was ratified by 100% of the crew on November 10th, 2014. Production operations began on December 1st, 2014 on a single shift, which has since increased to the second shift in January with the third (weekend) production shift scheduled to begin later in May. The dry kilns are still under construction so presently green rough lumber is being sent to the Atikokan (Sapawe) site for drying and planing. There are presently 33 members employed at this renewed operation.

### Resolute Atikokan Sawmill:

In December we concluded negotiations for the startup of this new operation which has been under construction for well over a year. On March 17th the tentative agreement was rejected by the membership. We went back to negotiations with the elected negotiating committee and some improvements were made on call in/ reporting pay, language improvements to the bereavement clause, lost and broken tools and a \$200.00 signing bonus. The revised agreement was ratified by 95% of the membership. Presently the kiln and planer are running on the lumber from the Ignace mill. Sawmill production is to begin later this summer. There are approximately 30 members presently working at this rebuilt operation.

### OLG Thunder Bay Casino:

The relationship between the union, its members and the OLG is moving in the right direction for the most part. A noticeable change was apparent after a group of casino staff Managers,

supervisors, Human resources Manager, and General Manager, along with union stewards and local representatives attended Ministry of Labours' Conflict Resolution training on March 1st, 2015. Since that gathering we have had a few grievances resolved in an effective respectful manner. We look forward to building and fostering a working relationship to the benefit of the members, company and patrons who visit this establishment.

### Unitized Manufacturing:

Negotiations are scheduled for May 27th for the renewal of the agreement that expired at the end of April. The members will be seeking wage increases at this Thunder Bay truss plant operation that employs up to 30 members in the busy construction season.

We take this opportunity to wish all a happy summer; stay safe and have some fun in the sun.

In Solidarity,

Bruce Frost and Jason Lacko

## NEW RESOLUTE SAWMILLS JOIN OUR LOCAL NEW UNION REP IN THE TB OFFICE

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**Executive Board**

**President:**

Guy Bourgouin

**1st Vice-President:**

Jacques Jean

**2nd Vice-President**

Bruce Frost

**3rd Vice-President:**

Rémi St-Martin

**Financial Secr.:**

Eric Carroll

**Recording Secr.:**

Jason Lacko

**Conductor:**

Guy Veilleux

**Warden:**

Léo Levasseur

**Executive at large:**

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Matthew Turner

**Zone 2:**

Wesley Ridler  
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**Zone 4:**

Réjean Laurin  
Marcel Rodrigue

**Zone 5:**

Roger Beland  
Jean Laurin

**Trustees:**

Daniel Touchette  
Christiane Cousineau  
Claude Carriere  
Donald Fry



# GOOD NEWS FOR COCHRANE PLYWOOD PLANT REOPENS

It's A Go!!! Our members are back at work at the old True North Hardwood Plywood plant in Cochrane. As previously reported, this mill has had its share of difficult times and after having been closed since December 2012, the plant is up and running again and the

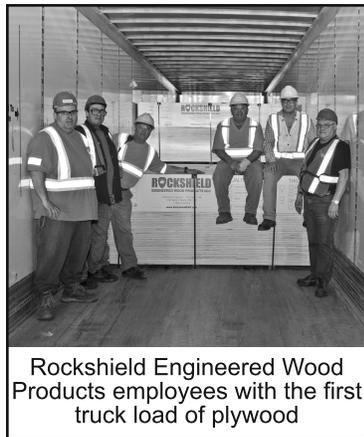
Company is now called Rockshield Engineered Wood Products. Approximately 77 of the 84 members with recall rights have been back at work since sometime in April. The first truck load of plywood was shipped out on May 8th. This is great news for Cochrane.

the woodlands operation from Resolute and through negotiations we were able to ratify a new 5 year Collective Agreement and secure our members' jobs.

The Collective Agreement for our members in Sudbury from the Canadian Blood Services is up for negotiations and we have met the membership to take their demands for upcoming negotiations. Negotiations are scheduled for June and we should be able to report on how their negotiations went in the next edition of the Union Echo.

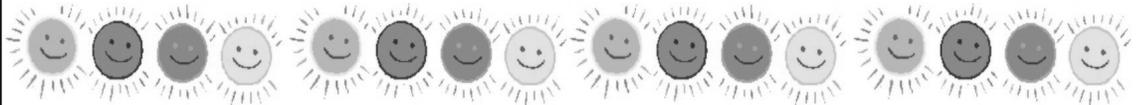
At this time, I would like to wish everyone a safe and beautiful summer.

In Solidarity,  
Eric Carroll



Rockshield Engineered Wood Products employees with the first truck load of plywood

As for our members from the Resolute Forest Products Woodlands Operation, their Collective Agreement was up for renewal on December 1st, 2014. We had met the members to take demands to get ready for negotiations. But sometime in January of this year the Company announced that they were closing the Iroquois Falls mill permanently. This meant that our members were out of a job. Fortunately, the contractor who was managing the woodlands operation decided to purchase



**Jacques Jean... from page 2**

for both sander and trim saws

- Energy efficient lighting upgrades through mill

- Improved air ventilation, circulation and heating throughout mill

- Expansion on an additional 14,000 Ft2 of mill floor space

- Existing building structure modifications to accommodate new equipment

- Partial roof replacement of original building

- Purchase and installation of a full new 8' lathe peeling line (1st of its kind in Canada)

- Relocation of multiple pieces of existing equipment to facilitate material and work flow throughout mill

- Visual scanners upgrades X 2

- Purchase and installation of 2 new veneer composers

- Transition and replacement of all forklift trucks from LPC and NC to electric

- Installation of a more powerful, efficient sizing sander

**Hearst & Area:**

Negotiation has begun with Hearst Community Living. We have met on June 5, 8, 9, 17, 18 and 19. More info will be given in our next Union Echo.

**Health & Safety**



From left to right Brothers Mario Germain and Gaetan Carrier have attended the International Steelworkers Health, Safety & Environment Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from March 8 to March 13, 2015.

I take this opportunity to wish all a pleasant summer. Stay Safe.

In Solidarity,  
Jacques Jean