WINNIPEG & BRANDON DISTRICT MEETINGS
Thursday, June 4, 2015 - 244 Cree Crescent at 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, June 11, 2015 - Lakeview Inn & Suites, 1880 18 St N. Brandon, MB at 7:00 p.m.

In this issue:
• Project Report by Business Representative Suzanne Ducharme
• What’s New with your OE Local 987 Executive Board
• Member Profile - Scott Laudy, Heavy Equipment Operator
• Helping others at Main Street Project
• 2014 IUOE Pipeline Work in Canada by International Representative Patrick Campbell
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A Message from Business Manager Marc Lafond

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I write to you today in anticipation that I may convince some of you to get more involved with your union through union meeting participation. In the last decade we’ve seen a gradual decline of people coming to union meetings. In many instances, it’s the same handful of people who make the effort to attend. Sometimes we don’t even get a quorum; therefore the meeting can’t take place, which is a huge disappointment to those who have made the effort to come from afar. The quarterly district meetings (every member is welcome) plus the two general membership meetings (again every member welcome) are the perfect place to ask questions and get answers to most everything associated with our organization. This is also a great place to get a better understanding and appreciation of other members’ problems and issues. A place to get to know one another and understand that no matter which sector you work in, there are always common issues.

I’d also like to comment on the fact that I’m warmed by the thoughtfulness put into the questions and suggestions raised at the meetings. I can say that I listen to all the suggestions and comments that are discussed at meetings. Of course there will always be issues that cannot be solved by either the Union or any of our staff, but at the least the Union provides a platform upon which these issues can be raised.

Most recently, one of the recommendations that was brought before the meeting was to commemorate all of the brothers and sisters who had passed away by putting up a memorial wall. This suggestion was brought to the union Executive where it was passed unanimously.

I truly appreciate that we’re all very busy, and in many instances going to a union meeting isn’t all that high on the priority list. However, I’m not asking you all to attend all of the meetings, I’m asking you to potentially attend one or two each year!

I thank you all for being a member of this great organization that we call the Operating Engineers of Manitoba, Local 987.

In solidarity,

Marc Lafond
Business Manager
• Since the last OE newsletter publication, the OE Local 987 Executive continues to support community based programs throughout this province and city. During the winter months we’ve contributed to organizations such as Rossbrook House, United Way, the Brandon and District Workers Advocacy Center, and the Unemployment Help Center. Some of these organizations assist OE members while others may not; however all of them assist for the broader good of our society as a whole.

• The overwhelming success of last years inauguration OE Local 987 picnic, the union Executive Board unanimously decided to hold another picnic this year which will be held on Sunday, June 14th, 2015 from 12:00 - 3:00 at 244 Cree Crescent. All union members and their families are welcome to attend. Hotdogs, hamburgers, refreshments and games will be on hand.

• Brother Lafond raised the issue that it was time to re-look at the OE Local 987 By-Laws. In doing so he invoked a By-Law review committee comprising of himself, Sister Blanchard (President), Brother Spencer (Stationary rep.) and Brother Goldau (H&H rep.). A committee meeting took place on March 25, 2015, and the committee came to consensus on the proposed changes. We’ve now sent the proposed By-Laws to the International for their approval. Once approved, we shall conduct a referendum vote with all of our members in good standing. Only when majority approval from the membership occurs will the new By-Laws take effect.
The OE987 Christmas Open House 2014 was another resounding success! Everyone who attended had a great time socializing with members and staff alike.

There were several draws for free prizes that were given away, and plenty of food and drinks to go around.

As well, the 2014 Bursary Winners were introduced and presented with their cheques.

We anticipate another sizeable turnout this coming year, and encourage everyone to participate in this rewarding and enjoyable event.

Come and experience what it’s all about!!

Danielle McManus
Bursary Winner 2014

Aliya Wiebe
Bursary Winner 2014

Hayden Banting
Bursary Winner 2014

Matthew Lucek
Bursary Winner 2014

Ongoing Project Developments

By Business Representative Suzanne Ducharme

The outlook for the Keeyask Project is looking good, and Project contractors will be looking specifically for Red Seal Mechanics, Dozer, Excavator and Grader operators, with the additional skill of GPS being highly sought after. Currently one of the main challenges is finding bed space for the craft. Britco is approximately a month ahead of schedule with Phase 2, which is construction of the camp accommodations. The forecast for Tower cranes to be on the Keeyask site is looking to be early 2016, so there is about a year delay compared to the expected scope of work.

Keewatinow will be ramping up around mid-summer when PCL starts to erect the Pre-Engineered building, and removal/replacement of the remediation dorms that were damaged by mold last year. Additionally there are expected to be approximately 1,900 piles installed at Keewatinow, with the awarding of that contract not yet announced by Manitoba Hydro.

Amisk, who is building the South Access road, will be looking for Operators, with this company being one of the contractors specifically requiring GPS as a Job Order requirement.

We are starting to see calls for Operators on the final stage of the Pointe du Bois Spillway, with the main component of the scope of work this year being earthworks. The Operating Engineers Local 987 looks forward to supplying local labour to finish off this last leg of the Manitoba Hydro Project.

Over the winter months multiple contractors were able to complete about 60% of the Transmission Line, so we expect to see them back this coming winter to complete the Bi-pole line.
Most of us are familiar with the Chief Peguis Trail extension project which began in the fall of 2010. The project is comprised of several features which include a grade-separated intersection to ensure the safety of families in surrounding neighbourhoods. It has multi-use pathways to encourage walking and cycling, a pump station, and a dry pond to accommodate peak rainfall periods to prevent flooding of the underpass, as well as berms to reduce traffic noise.

What is not familiar is the people who played a hand in the building of this project, and others like it. Heavy equipment Operator Scott Laudy is an individual who will give us an insight into his life and experiences, in the hopes that we can obtain a better understanding of who he is as a person, and how he developed into what he is today.

Scott grew up in Southern Ontario in the Niagara Falls area and moved to Manitoba when he was 16, and he and his family have been residing in this province ever since. His family has a history of mechanical know-how, as his Father was a mechanic and became a bus driver. He has three Uncles who were also mechanics until they moved onto other trades that still allowed them to use their natural talents with machines. One of them became a Rock Truck driver in Alberta for 20 years, the other is a Limo Driver at age 70 and his third Uncle became a Big Rig driver. Scott says he doesn’t have the same “motor mechanical” knowledge as them, but does have “machine mechanical” knowledge which helps him greatly in his trade as an HEO.

Previously he was a press operator, and was in the printing industry for over 30 years. Around 5 years ago, with the advent of the internet and newer technologies, things had changed for Scott. He found himself out of work, and wondering what he was going to be doing for the next segment of his life.

One morning, while sending his son off to school as he normally would, he watched as his son’s school bus drove away. As he was looking out the window, he noticed that there was construction going on. As it turned out, it was happening right in his own front yard. He lives off of Douglas Avenue, and the road being worked on was located just outside his yard.

“Before the roadway had been built, the traffic used to flow basically through my front yard, and it was just atrocious.”

What he was viewing that morning was the Chief Peguis Extension project in the midst of construction. He gazed at all the Heavy Equipment that was being used on the site, including the backhoe, bulldozers & loaders as they were starting the preparation work for the winter.

He contemplated on this scene, and remembered that he had previous experience on forklifts, and has driven just about everything on 4 wheels. After that day, he started exploring ways he also could become a heavy equipment operator.

He looked into different training facilities, and found that OETIM offered several different courses that could be taken. He believed that their Heavy Equipment course had more equipment, more time on the machines, with more emphasis on safety.
He then enrolled in the Heavy Equipment Operator course at OETIM in the spring of 2011. Upon his graduation, he started working with a company that aided in the building of the Chief Peguis extension from Henderson Highway to highway 59 until it had been completed. They built the berm on the north side from Springfield all the way to Raleigh including the two hills that anchored the footbridge going across the trail. While working on the project, he operated the Caterpillar D4 bulldozer, which he very much enjoyed.

“The main effect that this particular project had on me personally, is that there is now a fence and a road outside my yard that people can travel on safely. They had to dead-end my street at Raleigh and totally transformed Springfield road which used to be a parking lot. Now the traffic flow is completely different.”

As for the construction side of the project, what appealed to Scott the most is the operation of the Heavy Equipment. He learned that on the job, the guys that are walking around are the ones working the hardest. They’re swinging shovels, pick axes, and hammers and he found that in the heat of the day, workers can get distracted by the elements, and sometimes even forget where they are, especially in the cold. He commented that it’s really important to pay attention to all the foot traffic around a construction site, and always be aware for their safety.

“Safety is paramount, and the training that I took with OETIM has really woken me up. I believe it gave me an advantage over some of the newer employees to the company who’ve not gone through the training. It’s made me recognize how important it is to have safety tailgate meetings, and they really effect how the rest of the day progresses.”

Another thing he’s really enjoyed while being an HEO over the years, is the solitude that he’s experienced in certain situations while on the equipment. This was especially true while being on his own for a week or a month at a time. He says that he’s literally gone onto a machine, started it up and could be on his own for 12 hours without any distractions.

“You’re alone out there with your own thoughts. I actually like listening to classical music in particular... while I’m on the machine, because it’s very flowing and soothing. When you’re listening to a long symphony, your mind goes completely blank, and it’s so calming.”

Scott’s next goal is to get onto the Keeyask Dam so that he can expand his future horizons. He likes keeping busy, even if it’s just bulldozing, or preparing sites for new homes. As an HEO, he says he doesn’t get bored since he keeps moving around, and there’s always something to do. When a project’s completed, that’s when he’s really grateful to be a part of the Union. He says he appreciates being a member, as there’s an organization component to the group, and this gives him an opportunity to be able to work on another new task.

“It’s also about having the skills to be able to go out there to be a part of all these new projects that are going on. Having these skills are a necessity for the dams, and the course offered me a lot of variety with the ability to move around and be flexible.”

Scott had longed to become a Heavy Equipment Operator, so being a part of the building of the Chief Peguis extension so close to home, made it very special for him. He was finally able to achieve the goal he set out for.

He remarked “There’s absolutely nothing in my printing career that still exists. Every last thing I’ve done in printing is gone. It’s all in a landfill, or has been recycled.”

Today, when he looks at a completed project, it gives him a sense of pride to be able to tell his son “see, I helped build that!”. It leaves a legacy that he and his family will have for generations.

“Now with earthmoving, I can look back in my golden years and see tangible evidence that I’ve been on the planet, and made a difference.”
It started with a call for help from one of Manitoba’s crisis shelters. Funding was tight and a small donation by anyone would help immensely. They weren’t asking for money, they were asking for a bar of soap or a bottle of shampoo. Hardly something that would break the bank for anyone, but with this seemingly insignificant contribution it would mean they wouldn’t have to dole out their meager funds for such a basic need. By not having to buy soap they would be able to stretch their budget that much further for other things they needed like sheets and towels.

Our Union answered that call. Brothers Jim Murphy and Michael Alberg organized a collection at our office that started by having the Local’s staff collecting the extra soaps and shampoos from the hotels they were staying at when working out of town.

That was back in 2000. It is fifteen years later and the need still exists. We’ve provided our donations to several shelters but as of late the toiletries have been given to the Main Street Project in Winnipeg.

To give you a little history about how we became connected with the Main Street Project, the original thought in 2006 was to give the items to one of the better known shelters. One that is often profiled on television. During an informal discussion with a nurse that works in the north end of Winnipeg with the less fortunate and most vulnerable, she suggested we give our donation to the Main Street Project. “They get very little in the way of anything and are often the most forgotten despite always being on the front line for those in need.” That was all the motivation we needed. After a quick tour of the facility and discussion with the staff, we gave the box of toiletries to them. The patrons were thrilled. They now could have their own bar of soap. A luxury for them but something many just take for granted.

This year we again gave our collection box to the Main Street Project and Maryanne Reid, Volunteer/Donations Supervisor, was most thankful for a little gift. Maryanne added anything that could be provided, however small, is needed and appreciated. “We continue to need toiletries but also towels, face cloths, men’s jogging pants, jeans, men’s underwear, t-shirts, sweaters, and men’s running shoes. We also accept food donations, non-perishables or things that can be frozen.

“They get very little in the way of anything and are often the most forgotten despite always being on the front line for those in need.”

If you would like to help, you can drop your donations off at the Union office (244 Cree Crescent) or directly to the Main Street Project, 75 Martha Street, Winnipeg.
The decline in bargaining and economic power of workers over the past several decades is by now familiar. We’ve heard of the dramatic decline in unionization rates, but the data on strike frequency and severity in the neoliberal era brings this out perhaps even more clearly:

Alongside this decline of worker power, a restructuring of work has taken place. Women have continued to enter the labour force, increasing its size considerably, while the nature of work has been slowly changing:

Regardless of all these changes, it’s not like workers have become less productive. It’s just that, because of their reduced power in relation to bosses and management, they haven’t been getting the fruits of productivity increases:

**PRODUCTIVITY AND WAGES**
Real weekly wages vs. productivity
Summer is quickly approaching and the construction season is just getting geared up. Check your tickets and if you need any recertifications please give our office a call at (204) 775-7059 or 1-866-949-0333.

OETIM had a busy winter as all our Heavy Equipment Operator training classes were at maximum attendance. Crane school is now underway, and we are again at Red River College training members and non members for industry. Course offerings have continued in First Aid/CPR, Powered Lift Truck (Zoom Boom), Skid Steer, Basic Rigging and Crane Awareness.

Recent News releases of upcoming projects in the province and the need for trades people in the construction industry have generated a lot of interest in training and in OETIM. Since March we have been busy attending career symposiums, safety conferences, and tradeshows promoting safety training and the trades of Crane and Heavy Equipment Operators.

We have recently purchased two Cat simulators which include wheel loader and excavator. They will be available to members for gap training or advanced skills training. Appointments must be scheduled prior to. We also have a wide range of online safety training courses for members to take at home or at our office. These programs are user friendly and certificates are issued.

OETIM is here to facilitate the needs of the members. If there is something you require, please feel free to check with our office initially before going to another training source.

I am available to discuss your training needs with yourself, or your employer at any time.

Wishing you a safe and happy summer!

Betty Lou Doerksen
Executive Director

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**Upcoming Courses**

**HEO Assessments**
June 10, July 15, August 12, September 16, 2015

**Skid Steer**
June 25 & July 14, 2015

**Powered Lift Truck (Zoom Boom) - (2 Day)**

**Basic Rigging**
June 30 & July 28, 2015

**First Aid**
June 30 & August 10, 2015

**GPS**
June 25 & August 10, 2015

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2014 IUOE Pipeline Work in Canada

Patrick Campbell
*International Representative*
International Union of Operating Engineers

The pipeline contractors, represented by the Pipe Line Contractors Association of Canada (PLCAC), work together with the four pipeline craft unions (IUOE / LIUNA / Teamsters / UA) and their respective members to deliver the very best work when it comes to safety and quality in Canada. When pipeline owners like TransCanada and Enbridge want projects built to the highest standards of safety and quality, they know to call upon the PLCAC and the four pipeline craft unions to get the job done. The IUOE are proud that our pipeline members in Canada play such a key role in this excellent partnership that has developed over the years. The IUOE would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the PLCAC on celebrating 61 years as an organization in April 2015.

2014 proved to be another busy year for pipeline work in Canada for the PLCAC and the four pipeline craft unions. The PLCAC reported a total 9.3 million man hours worked by their signatory contractors who employ a unionized workforce covered by collective agreements. The 9.3 million man hours for 2014 are a total of the three main sectors of the pipeline industry; Distribution, Maintenance & Service and Mainline Pipeline.

**Distribution** - 2.3 million hours reported in the Distribution Pipeline sector in Canada in 2014, down 4.2% from the hours worked in 2013.

**Maintenance and Service** - 1.5 million hours reported in the Maintenance and Service Pipeline sector in Canada in 2014, up 36.4 % from hours worked in 2013.

**Mainline** - 5.5 million hours reported in Mainline Pipeline in Canada in 2014, down 20.3 % from the hours worked in 2013.

(Source: PLCAC)

The total 2014 hours are down 9.7 % from the 10.3 million man hours worked in 2013, but this still represents the second highest annual hours worked in the last decade in Canada’s unionized pipeline industry. The pipeline industry continues to be an excellent opportunity for IUOE members willing to take on the challenges that it presents.

Another important fact to note is the 36.4 % increase in Maintenance and Service Pipeline construction. The contractors that work in this industry are called in to perform maintenance and repair work on existing pipelines that are already in service. This increase in hours demonstrates the commitment on the part of pipeline owners to make the necessary investments to ensure that their systems continue to operate safely for years to come. Work in this sector can be some of the most challenging and most rewarding for the men and women that make their livings here, ensuring that the pipeline systems are safe for all Canadians.
Meeting Schedule

Winnipeg District Meeting: Thursday, June 4, 2015 at 244 Cree Crescent, Murray Industrial Park, Winnipeg at 7pm

Brandon District Meeting: Thursday, June 11, 2015 at the Lakeview Inn & Suites, 1880 18 St. N, Brandon starting at 7pm

Local 987 Invites All Members To Attend The 2nd Annual Family PICNIC

Food, Refreshments & Games for the Kids!

Sunday, June 14th 12:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.
At 244 Cree Crescent
Bring Your Own Lawn Chair

Congratuations To Bob Jamerson on your retirement as an Orthotics Technician at Health Sciences Centre!

OE 987 is pleased to showcase any retiring members in our newsletter
Please submit names and photos to: bdionne@oetim.com

In Memoriam

Vinnie Zdarski, Local 987
born 1946, deceased November 16, 2014

Guy Isleifson, Local 987B
deceased December 21, 2014

Bruce Clark, Local 987
born 1958, deceased December 28, 2014

Brenda Hyde, Local 987D
born 1951, deceased April 6, 2015

Local 987 wishes to honour and thank our members who have recently passed away.

Return Undeliverable Addresses To:

OPERATING ENGINEERS OF MANITOBA LOCAL 987
244 CREE CRESCENT
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