



A NEWSLETTER FROM THE UNION OF CONSTRUCTION MAINTENANCE AND ALLIED WORKERS

SPRING/SUMMER 2009

THE WRITE ANGLE

VOLUME 2 - ISSUE 1

LOCAL 506 IS A DIVERSE GROUP, DEDICATED TO SHIPBUILDING

Local 506 Marine & Shipbuilders represents 500 members who work down at the Vancouver docks constructing and repairing boats for the marine industry.

Not that long ago, all boats were made of wood by shipwrights, which is how this local originally became part of a carpenters' union.

Today, vessels are mostly made of steel and members of our 506 Marine & Shipbuilders get to work on a variety of projects for countries from as far away as Venezuela and the Philippines.

Building a boat is obviously no small or quick process and it involves an array of talent that Local 506 – which represents workers from 14 different



WELDER WORKING INSIDE BOAT STAIRWELL

classifications – is equipped to provide.

The process begins with the laying of the keel – a large beam around which the hull of the ship is built. The keel runs from bow to stern and serves as the foundation, or spine, of the structure, providing strength to the hull.

The ship is then outfitted with electrical wiring, instruments, machinery, shafts and rudders.

Then the joinery work begins as the cabin spaces and wheel-houses are outfitted. And finally, there's the painting.

Throughout the process, heavy equipment is shared between the workers in an area that spans about 40 acres. To make sure the right piece of equipment arrives in the right place at the right time members call brother Joe Murracas, the dispatcher of yard's cranes and forklifts.

"I dispatch equipment according to sequence and also based

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TRAINING

While some unions simply talk about training, CMAW provided courses to more than 500 members in the last five months. This included courses in Hoisting and Rigging, Confined Space, Forklift, Basic Scaffold, H2S Alive and Steward Training. And, brother Dave Crosby has been engaged to rework the Journeyman Scaffold Upgrade course, which will be rolling out this fall.

Our training bursary has also increased from \$300 to \$500 for apprentices who attend technical courses. Last year, CMAW spent more than \$100,000 to help ease the financial burden on members.

THE ECONOMY

I was recently interviewed by The Province newspaper on the downturn in the economy and what it means to construction workers. I told the reporter that while I've noticed federal-government-sponsored billboards and print ads that state the economic stimulus plan is 80 per cent implemented, I don't see that translated into actual "shovels in the ground." I also stated that the recession would be over by the time Harper's conservatives spend the first dollar on infrastructure. Unfortunately, these comments were omitted from the article. (Visit www.cmaw.ca and click on "Recent News.")

In the last year, we've seen a decline of 20 per cent in Vancouver's condo market. This, compounded with the decline in the number of new starts in the



JAN NOSTER

commercial institutional sector in B.C., has resulted in unemployment for many members in this industry.

I'd like to tell members working in the Alberta oil patch that I've been told the price of oil will have to hold above \$65 per barrel for a good period of time before we see big oil companies start to invest in new projects. The building trades and CLAC have deferred raises, and in some cases taken concessions in order to keep working. CMAW has been under similar pressure in Alberta and B.C. But while we've had to take a cut on a few jobs, we continue to do our best to maintain our standards. The problem

is non-union, and in some cases even union contractors, bidding on new projects for a fraction of what was the going rate two years ago, and passing the burden of those low bids onto hardworking trades people. This makes it difficult for our signatory contractors to compete. CMAW officers know there is a lot of hurt as a result of unemployment, and we continue to lobby governments and construction owners to do the right thing for Canada's largest industry and to put people back to work building this great country. We know that better days are ahead – let's hope the recession ends soon.

LOCAL UNIT ELECTIONS

CMAW enacted bylaws that govern rules for local unit elections. While these rules may have caused a bit of confusion, I'm happy to report that members' choices were reflected in every election outcome and that our plan is to continue to refine election rules in the future.

Our CMAW Executive Board and officers received several applications for dispensation (a request to waive certain election and eligibility rules). I can say with certainty that every application, whether approved or rejected, was dealt with in a neutral manner with the sole intention of doing what is fair and in the best interest of all members. It's

not easy to reject an application knowing that someone will be disappointed, and we hope those who were turned down this year will run again in future elections.

Most of you know that there has been some conflict between Local Unit 1995 and our CMAW Council during the last while. I hope that together with the newly elected slate of 1995 officers, we will be able to once again forge an amicable relationship and move forward.

Our CMAW Executive Board and officers extend thanks to those who ran for election and to those who voted. Congratulations also go out to all newly elected local unit officers.

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK

CMAW members have commenced work on a \$150 million project in southern Saskatchewan – a 30-member crew is currently working and we expect this number to increase in the coming months.

CMAW contractors in the Lower Mainland have recently been awarded several smaller commercial institutional projects. CMAW signatory scaffold contractors have fared better than other parts of the industry and remain fairly busy. It is interesting to note that Safway Scaffold

Services – raided by the UBCJA earlier this year – has seen a reduction in work in the last few months and the closure of their Prince George office. CMAW has been able to offer steady employment to some of these members, previously employed by Safway. This emphasizes that “the grass isn’t always greener on the other side.”

The Rio Tinto Alcan expansion project is showing signs of life. Although I received word from Bechtel that the project is moving ahead at a slower pace than what was expected, local contractors like Viking Construction have been awarded bits and pieces of work. And, contractors from the interior and northern B.C. have maintained steady crews and some have even picked up some new work recently.

BARGAINING AND MEETINGS WITH UBCJA

CMAW has had several meetings with the UBCJA, facilitated by Michael Flemming of the B.C Labour Relations Board, to resolve how negotiations in B.C will be conducted in the next round of bargaining. I am pleased to report a tentative agreement, that preserves and enhances CMAW’S rights to bargain of behalf of the carpentry trade in B.C., has been reached. This would not have been possible without the cooperation

of those involved in discussions. While the agreement is not perfect, it’s promising and I would like to thank the CLR (the unionized employers who represent bargaining in B.C.) for the constructive role they played during these negotiations.

THE MONTHS AHEAD

CMAW will be meeting with governments to lobby for the softening of this recession. We will be pursuing new work opportunities in all regions by meeting with current non-union contractors and making them see that CMAW has the best product (our members) in this competitive marketplace.

We will also undertake a review of our current benefit and pension plans to ensure the plans are healthy, cost effective and there for you and your families when you need them.

Upcoming initiatives also include working to have our safety courses recognized by OSSA (Oil Sands Safety Association). And, we also plan to meet with school board locals to discuss specific workplace issues.

Have a great a summer, and please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Jan

on timing,” says Murracas who started working for the union 28 years ago when he was only 21. “I started as a labourer, then became a helper, and I’ve been dispatching now for 12 years.”

“I had a couple of menial jobs before I started here,” he says, “but this was my first real union and good-paying job.”

The job of a dispatcher requires Murracas to sit all day so in his spare time he says he likes to work out at the gym.

Other workers who make up Local 506 Marine & Shipbuilders are welders, shipfitters, painters, joiners, riggers, storesman, staggers (scaffolders), crane operators, labourers, sandblasters, loftsmen, caulkers, insulation workers and a docking crew.

Local 506 members work for Vancouver Shipyards, Vancouver Drydock, and McKenzie Barge and Marineways. Recently, the local completed building the

Island Sky Ferry – a \$45.5 million job.

The 125-car ferry, is the sixth new ship added to the BC Ferries fleet over the past two years, joining the Kuper, Northern Adventure, Coastal Renaissance, Coastal Inspiration and Coastal Celebration. (The plan is for it to initially sail the Earls Cove – Saltery Bay route on the Sunshine Coast.)

And by the time you read this article, the local will have also launched a massive double-hulled coastal tanker capable of carrying 32,000 barrels of fuel.

In addition to commercial vessels, the local also performs repairs and retrofits on privately owned yachts. This includes refinishing interiors, decks and exteriors, and even stretching them.

“In the past few years, we’ve seen a few dozen yachts come through here,” says brother Bob

Eaton, our Marine & Shipbuilders Local 506 business manager. “Some are just in for a ‘shave and a haircut’ while others have been major projects that have lasted several years.”

(See LRB says Local 506 is a trade union - page 16)



PHOTOS

ABOVE, JOE MURRACAS.

BELOW FROM LEFT: PETER DOLOVAL,

GLENN STACKHOUSE





TRAINING ENSURES MEMBER SAFETY

During the months of February and March, several of our union locals in northern B.C. took advantage of training courses offered by our CMAW Training Committee.

About 60 members from Quesnel, Kitimat, Terrace, Prince George and Prince Rupert participated in a rigging/hoisting course, and a fall-prevention course.

The courses, which were held concurrently, combined classroom and hands-on training.

In the rigging course, long-time member and trainer Ron White showed members how to safely go about rigging a load of supplies. Members also had the opportunity to feel what it's like to hang in a safety harness, should an emergency occur.

Some members in Prince Rupert also participated in a five-day course on scaffolding.

Bob Sheppard, a Local 1735 member and trainer, led the course which combined practical hands-on training and classroom sessions.

This course was designed as an orientation for apprentices and a refresher for any interested journeymen.

CMAW was able to stretch its training dollars thanks to the generosity of community businesses that provided the scaffolding and a place to assemble it, as well as a special rate on the rental of a meeting room where classroom sessions were held.

Northwest B.C. vice president brother Ken Lippett says, "We happened to have a lot of scaffolding available in Prince Rupert in the past few months so it was the right time to offer a training session."

Lippett says that because of the availability CMAW was able to make arrangements to borrow scaffolding supplies, as opposed to having to incur rental costs.

"On behalf of our members, I'd like to say thanks to Mike Ferguson, northwest area manager of Chinook Scaffolding Ltd.; Mark Rudderham proprietor of Rupert Wood N' Steel Ltd.; Bill Reid, proprietor of Rupert Towing Ltd. and Sixteen Services Ltd.; and the Fisherman's Hall Society," says Lippett.

"It's this kind of community participation and support that helps us not only provide training, but also to raise awareness of the trades."

Members who completed the scaffolding course received a Certificate of Completion and a wallet card.

CMAW IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AND INTERESTED MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SPEAK TO THEIR BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE.



FINANCE COMMITTEE BUSY CRUNCHING THE NUMBERS

Our CMAW Finance Committee has their work cut out for them. CMAW Executive Board has assigned them many tasks, including a review of the dues structure. That assignment is not yet complete, as the committee must consider the ramifications before any conclusions are made.

Our finance committee must also keep their eye on the bigger economic issues, such as the slowing of the economy and cancelled work projects, and then shine up their crystal ball as they work to forecast budgets and projected hours of work.

The finance committee will calculate our union expenses and ascertain what income our union requires to prosper. This includes determining the hours of work needed.

The committee is also reviewing our financial structure with a goal to fine tune our financial processes.



LONG TIME INDUSTRIAL VICE PRESIDENT RETIRES

In February, brother John Colburne, former business agent and executive member of Industrial Local 2511 Penticton announced his retirement, after 13 years of representing and bargaining for members.

In his address to the executive board, Colburne said he felt it was time for new blood to take the reigns and introduced his

replacement, Rod Yamamoto (vice-president Local 2511).

Colburne thanked and recognized our former B.C. Provincial Council of Carpenters and current CMAW leadership, acknowledging the friends, current and departed, he's made along the way.

We thank brother Colburne for his years of service to our union and for his input and sensible approach, particularly in helping us achieve Canadian autonomy.

Although Colburne is stepping down, we know he will always be around as an active member of his local.

UBCJA SETTLEMENT

As of the end of 2008 our balance owing to our former international union is \$500,000. (You will recall that the original settlement fee was \$6 million.)

We have collected the fair share of this settlement from all but three of our non-construction locals.

As I write this report, meetings are taking place. And by the time you read this issue of our newsletter, all payments should have been received.

Payments will go directly into trust to pay down the outstanding balance.

LOCAL UNIT ELECTIONS

Many locals conducted local unit elections in May and June.

In order to simplify and standardize guidelines and election rules for local elections, our executive board reviewed a host of recommendations made by our constitution committee. Bylaw recommendations were finalized and distributed to locals at the end of March.

Recommendations included:

- Make-up of local executive board
- Elections committee
- Term of office
- Compensation/reimbursement
- Election rules
- Notices
- Eligibility
- Nominations
- Balloting
- Tabulation of ballots
- Election disputes and challenges

MEMBERS FROM LOCAL UNITS VOTE FOR THE FUTURE OF CMAW

This spring was a pivotal time for our union as members from seven of our 18 local units held elections. In some locals, members came out in record numbers to vote for the future of our union.

Member concerns, hopes and wishes for the future were definitely reflected in election results. For instance, results for locals 2300 and 506 showed member confidence and their willingness to support existing leadership, whereas significant executive changes for locals 1928 and 1995 showed that members were looking for a change in leadership.

Members elected to serve on 1995's executive board include brothers Jim Van Hombeeck and Chris Wasilenchuk. CMAW applauds these first-time executive members for making the commitment to represent their fellow workers.

Van Hombeeck is a 20-year journeyman carpenter and has been a member of the local since its inception in 1995. He has been employed by general contractor Smith Bros. & Wilson for the last four years and is currently working on the Columbia Square

strip-mall project in New Westminster.

Van Hombeeck says a desire to have a say, to help his fellow members, and particularly to help make sure member pension and benefits are secure for the future is what made him decide to run in this election.

"We should look forward, and not back," says Van Hombeeck. "Change is healthy, and I wanted to give a shot at being part of the executive." He says he'll see how things go and that maybe after this three-year term he'll decide to get even further involved in our union. "For now I'll see what kind of journey this is going to be, day by day."

Van Hombeeck says that like a lot of other members, particularly those who are 40-plus, he's concerned about the future of our pension and benefits plan and also sees a need for CMAW to focus on growing our union. "I haven't seen much happening in the area of organizing," says Jim. "A union needs to grow so that there are members to pay into the plans, otherwise what's the point of belonging to a union?"



CHRIS WASILENCHUK

He also says that he'd like to see an end to the fighting between the 1995 local and our council office. "We need to start working in harmony and dignity."

New warden for local 1995, Wasilenchuk, agrees with a lot of Jim's perceptions and views. This 12-year carpenter and employee of Daret Construction (formerly Bosa Construction) says, "I think our union has been sitting too idol and that we're a little stale.

I'd like to see our local grow – there's strength in numbers and it would give us better bidding power on jobs."

Wasilenchuk says that he's been more involved in his local over the past while, and when a co-worker encouraged him to run

in the election, he decided to give it a try. "It's time for a fresh approach – it's time to give another executive a chance."

On behalf of all members, CMAW would like to congratulate and thank all incumbents for their efforts in helping to make our union even better.

The next round of local elections will take place in the north west and members from Locals 1735 and 1081 will be voting for their executive.

An upcoming issue of The Write Angle will feature some of the changes you can expect to see from new local executives.

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF OFFICERS RECENTLY ELECTED IN SEVEN CMAW LOCAL UNITS. FOR A LIST OF ALL THOSE ELECTED, PLEASE VISIT WWW.CMAW.CA

LOCAL 506 MARINE & SHIPBUILDERS

Business Rep

Bob Eaton

President

Percy Darbyson

Vice president

Butch Sidey

Recording secretary

Bill Korte

Treasurer

Dan Armstrong

NEW 1081 KITIMAT CONSTRUCTION

President

Steve Brady

Vice president

Phil LaSalle

Recording secretary

Geoff Ringham

Secretary-treasurer

Scott Coleman

LOCAL 1735 PRINCE RUPERT CONSTRUCTION

President

Peter Kowal

Vice president

Vacant

Recording secretary

Vacant

Secretary-treasurer

Ken Lippett

LOCAL 1928 INDUSTRIAL

Note: Nominations for 1928 were held for all nine executive positions on May 25. Since all nine positions were acclaimed, no formal election was necessary.

President

Louis Acker

Vice president

Jim Pearson

Secretary-treasurer

Pat Haggarty

Recording secretary

Michel Daigneault

LOCAL 1995 LOWER MAINLAND CONSTRUCTION

President

Bill Duck

Vice president

Eugenio Zanutto

Business agent

Eugenio Zanutto

Recording secretary

Randy Freeman

Financial secretary

Jamie Cirotto

Treasurer

Harry Kokko

LOCAL 2020 VANC. ISLAND CONSTRUCTION

President

Dave Crosby (by acclamation)

Vice president

Jeff Keillor (by acclamation)

Financial secretary

Fred Kuhn (by acclamation)

LOCAL 2300 CASTLEGAR CONSTRUCTION

Business representative

Paul R. Nedelec

President

Paul Wilkinson

Vice president

Mark Miller

Recording secretary

Jodie Lemieux

Financial secretary

Tony McKellar

CMAW WINS BATTLE TO REPRESENT CARPENTERS ON HYDRO COUNCIL

On Dec. 2, 2008, the Supreme Court of British Columbia ruled that CMAW would be the union to represent carpenters on the Allied Hydro Council (AHC), confirming an earlier Labour Relations Board decision.

The 34 unions, collectively known as the AHC of British Columbia, are a council of local and international trade unions formed in 1961 to secure collective agreements on hydro-electric power projects on the Peace River and the Columbia River.

This voluntary council of trade unions comprises 17 international unions, 14 building and construction trade unions, and three non-traditional construction trade unions. (There is one representative of AHC from each international union and one from each local union, or group of local unions.)

AHC and CHC (a wholly-owned subsidiary of BC Hydro, certified by a poly-party certification listing 34 trade unions as the bargaining agent) are responsible for

allocating the work on projects.

(CHC and Hydro have an agreement to supply a labour force for all contractors and subcontractors engaged in the construction of certain hydro-electric power projects undertaken by Hydro.)

Construction contractors who wish to bid on projects undertaken by Hydro must agree, as a condition of tendering, to be bound by an agreement negotiated by CHC and AHC.

The original dispute between CMAW and AHC arose earlier in 2008 when the unions that form part of the council – and who were led by our former international union – appealed LRB's decision which ruled that CMAW could join the AHC board, thereby replacing UBCJA as the official representative of all carpenters working on hydro projects in British Columbia.

The unions argued that the LRB did not have the authority to add CMAW without the AHC's consent. They argued that the decision was contrary to natural justice and that it was contrary to

the Charter or Rights and Freedoms.

To settle the dispute, three days of hearings took place in May and June of 2008. Eleven lawyers, representing 18 unions and the Allied Hydro Council itself, were lined up against CMAW.

Thankfully the Supreme Court of British Columbia was not fooled, and in early December 2008, confirmed that CMAW, and not the UBCJA of Washington, DC, will represent carpenters working on Hydro projects in B.C.

Justice Pearlman said that there were no grounds on which to reverse the LRB's decision. "I conclude that there are no grounds raised in the Amended Petition that would support the Court setting aside the reconsideration decision on judicial review. Accordingly, the Amended Petition is dismissed."

LOCAL 1928 DISPLAY MEMBERS RECEIVE SERVICE PINS

At their member meeting in late January, Local 1928 recognized members for their years of service.

Congratulations go out to all members for their years of service, as well as a warm thank you from CMAW.

In addition to the members present at the meeting, the following people also received pins marking various milestones with our union.

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Gary Alexander
- Ron Harrison
- Suthakar Kumarakulasingam
- David McVicar
- Gerry Miclash
- Vinh Vo
- Donal Prasad
- Albert Wiebe
- Garry Woods
- Ed Dilks
- Doug Dzugan
- Terre Imada
- Brian Jaegar
- Abdollah Nazarinia
- Istvan Panzel
- Mike Petrowsky
- Rejaz Salah
- Bruce Toma
- Bill Young
- Kerry Quigley

15 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Alizera Dashtinejad
- Gary Hayden
- Krzysztof Lisowski
- Norbert Loewen
- Jason Longstaff

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Franco Azzolini
- Kelly Brennan
- William Burnett

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Liakat Ali
- Kelvin Low

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Mark Bentley
- Ray Cator
- Lewis Cheer
- Frank Chung
- Pirthi Dhaliwall
- Dave Ellis



- Willie Gruenwald
- Nazim Hassanali
- Shri Ram
- Brian Stefan

35 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Bruce Butler
- James Lecluse
- Rick Morris
- Robert Papaiya
- Don Pengilly
- Larry Peterson
- Jitendra Prasad
- Ken Tung

PHOTOS – CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:
JIM PEARSON, DON PENGUILY
(FORMER LOCAL PRESIDENT),
KEN TUNG; GERRY MINCLASH;
BILL BURNETT, BILL YOUNG;
GARY HAYDEN



CAMPBELL – LOYAL UNIONIST AND BIKE ENTHUSIAST

This 25-year-union member was a carpenter in the maintenance department for the Hope School Board until chronic arthritis forced him onto disability, but this hasn't stopped him from supporting his union or enjoying his motorcycles.

Brother Jim Campbell says, "I've always been a part of our local's executive board in some way. I've been around a long time. And I was definitely around for the big fight with our former international."



JIM CAMPBELL

While he says that the views of former local executive made it difficult to be involved with our provincial council, things have been great with School Board Local 2423 for quite some time.

And through thick and thin Campbell has been a delegate to our conventions for many years.

In the spirit of a true Canadian, Campbell also enjoys his hockey

games. "Definitely the highlight of this past year's convention was winning those hockey tickets to a Canucks game," he says.

In his spare time, Campbell rides a motorcycle. "I've ridden motorcycles all my life," he says.

And not being one to let a disability get in his way, he recently purchased another bike – a Polaris Quad. His Yamaha 1100 takes him on weekend getaways to the island and up the Kootenays, and the quad, which he reports is a heck of a lot of fun, keeps him entertained all winter. "It's like a toy. I hooked up a snow plow to it and plowed my entire subdivision this past winter."

And speaking of plowing. Campbell says he'd like to recognize all his union predecessors who plowed through a lot of tough times so that people like him could enjoy a better life.

While his disability forced him away from work, and he'll soon be moving into retirement, he's grateful for the working conditions he's enjoyed in past years and the lifestyle he has been able to live.

"I recognize that this wouldn't be if not for the struggles of union members before me," says Campbell. "I'd like to give a big thank you to all brothers and sisters for your sacrifices, for the many hours you have spent on committees, attending endless meetings and negotiating fair wages and contracts."

"And, thank you for spending endless hours on the picket lines to ensure a secure future for unionized workers."



CMAW SAYS FAREWELL TO A VICE PRESIDENT

In April, CMAW said farewell to sister Karen Anderson, who was elected in 2008 as our first-ever female vice president. In appreciation of the year she served on our CMAW Executive Board we'd like to tell you a little about her.

As a woman working in the construction industry, who is just a little over five feet tall, yet capable of lifting more than half her weight, Anderson is proof of the old adage – big things come in small packages.

Anderson works for Chinook Scaffolding in Prince George, primarily as a groundsman – assisting with the erecting and dismantling of scaffolding.

She says she has never had a problem working in an all-male environment and that most men don't have a problem with her either. "I think the greatest compliment I've received was hearing someone say, 'She works as hard as any man I've ever seen.'"



KAREN ANDERSON

Anderson says her job has many benefits. For instance, not only does it pay well, but it enables her to stay in shape without ever visiting a gym.

It was an interest in architecture, coupled with the need to provide for her family as a single mother, that led her to

consider a carpentry apprenticeship program.

"I really like architecture. But I'd left signing up for school a little late in the year. Then I learned of an opening in a carpentry apprenticeship program," she says. "Architects may have the ideas, but it's really up to carpenters to know specifications and limitations of materials, and this interested me."

She finished her apprenticeship in 2000 and has been working in the construction field ever since.

She was elected in 2008 at CMAW's first ever female vice-president – a newly formed executive position that our union introduced together with its constitutional guidelines.

Anderson said she enjoyed her role on the executive board and that she felt that being a worker "on the tools" provided her with an added advantage because she heard worker concerns and issues first hand.

Our CMAW Executive Board would like to thank Anderson and wish her all the best in future endeavours.

AN ENGINEER'S VIEW OF THE GOOD, BAD AND UGLY IN WOOD FRAMING

by Jerry Lum, P.Eng., Struct.Eng.

Wood frame construction is not as easy as it may look. Wood is in fact, one of the most challenging structural materials to design and build with. Unlike steel or concrete, wood is an organic material with unique properties that vary with grain orientation, species, moisture content and loading conditions. Wood cannot be readily formed, molded, welded, or extruded and can at times be difficult to connect without a variety of custom fabricated steel connectors. With the recent and rapid development of new engineered products and building systems, changes to building codes and complex building designs, when it comes to wood framing, you really need to know what you are doing.

For the past 22 years I have been responsible for the design, inspection and investigation of more than 1,500 residential and commercial wood frame buildings and structures throughout western Canada. During my travels, I've seen the good, the bad and the ugly in wood frame construction. Regardless of the size, complexity or type of building, there are certain wood framing problems I encounter again and again. These common problems lie in the following three areas:

1 TRUSSES

Most wood framed buildings today are framed with prefabricated wood trusses. These trusses are highly engineered load-bearing systems that must be carefully handled and properly installed. A growing number of building departments require that the truss installation for houses be inspected and signed-off by a truss engineer.

Common problems

- Inadequate anchorage of truss

against wind uplift – truss uplift anchors are often missing (two toe nails are not enough)

- Missing truss connections – truss hangers are missing, mislocated, or installed without enough fasteners
- Improper lateral bracing – bracing is missing, discontinuous, improperly lapped, spliced, or not diagonally braced to the roof diaphragm or shear walls
- Truss damage – truss members are notched, cracked, bent or damaged

Solutions

- Carefully review the truss shop drawings and specification for layout, design, installation and bracing requirements
- Pay attention to load path, point loads and framing supporting trusses
- When in doubt, contact the truss supplier regarding conflicts on site, truss damage or installation details

2 CONNECTIONS

Steel connections and fasteners are now used extensively in wood frame construction to transfer loads and provide member stability.

Common problems

- Missing connections – steel connections are typically required at beam to column, column to foundation, beam to beam, joist to beam locations (two toe nails are not enough)
- Fastener issues – wrong type (don't use drywall screws), wrong number (fill all nail holes), wrong finish (hot dipped galvanized required versus zinc plating for wet service conditions and contact with pressure treated lumber)

- Nailing deficiencies – too deep (over driven), too small (p-nails are often smaller diameter than common nails), too short, too far (nails over spaced). Don't use staples.
- Anchor bolts deficiencies – anchor bolts missing, set crooked or too low, holes in sill plate oversized (oversized washers don't help)
- Built-up member – inadequate nailing/bolt lamination pattern (don't even try a laminate seven-ply built-up beam), improper splicing (don't splice all the plies of a built-up beam at mid span)

Solutions

- Follow plans and specifications carefully
- Install appropriate connections to ensure positive load transfer between members (members are designed to carry much more weight than just your framing crew)
- Do not rely on toe nailing and end grain nailing to transfer loads
- Do not rely on adhesives and shims to fix sloppy work
- Pay attention to the details.

3 LOAD PATH

What goes up must come down – a clear and continuous path is required to transfer gravity and lateral loads from roof down to the foundations.

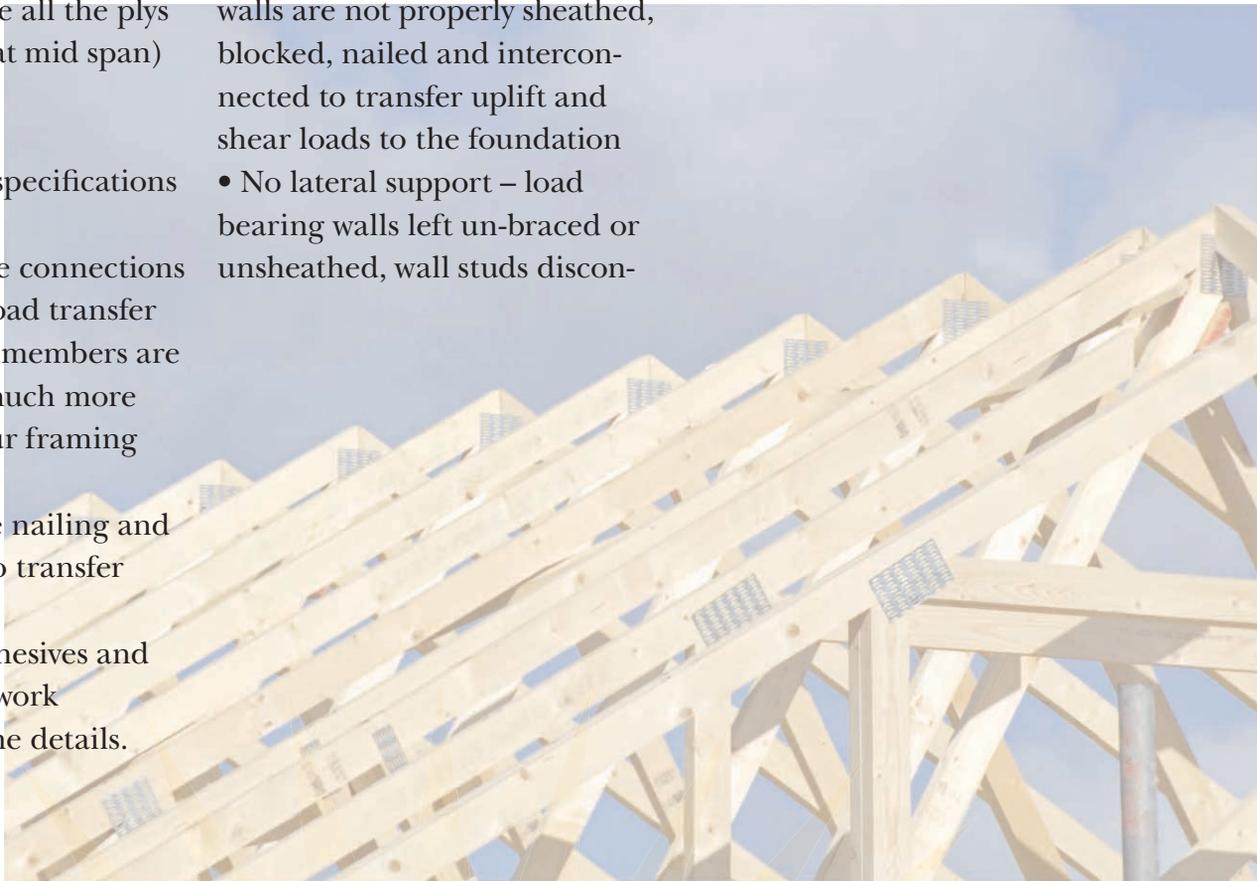
Common problems

- Loads do not line up – loads from beams, wall and columns are not carried down to the foundations via transfer beams, solid blocking, cripples
- No shear transfer – shear walls are not properly sheathed, blocked, nailed and interconnected to transfer uplift and shear loads to the foundation
- No lateral support – load bearing walls left un-braced or unsheathed, wall studs discon-

tinuous between lateral supports (forming a “hinge”), joist/rafters left unsheathing or inadequately braced

Solutions

- Study ALL the plans carefully and coordinate structural drawings, architectural drawings and shop drawings (do not assume the drawings are always correct)
- Follow all load bearing members down to foundation
- When in doubt, contact a structural engineer



Jerry Lum is head of the structural engineering group at David Nairne & Associates (DNA), a multi-disciplined consulting firm with offices in North Vancouver and Prince Rupert. DNA has provided clients with comprehensive architectural, structural engineering, civil engineering, project management and planning services for more than 30 years on a diverse variety of building and municipal projects throughout western Canada. Jerry is available at jlum@davidnaire.com.

TRAINING BURSARY FOR APPRENTICES INCREASES TO \$500

CMAW's training bursary has increased from \$300 to \$500. For information on how you can take advantage of this bursary, speak to your local business rep.

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LRB SAYS 506 IS A TRADE UNION

In 2007, our Local 506 Marine & Shipbuilders right to be classified as a trade union was challenged by trade unions IBEW Local 213 and Pipefitters Local 170 and a long process through the Labour Relations Board ensued.

In an effort to exclude the local from the poly-party council of trade unions, the IBEW and Pipefitters decided to challenge 506's status as a trade union – as it is defined under the labour code.

But on Feb. 6, the Labour Relations Board voted that aside from a few small technicalities, in all practical terms, 506 continues to be a trade union.

And to eliminate these small technicalities, the LRB gave the local 60 days to file CMAW Marine & Shipbuilders Local 506 bylaws.

“Our local will happily comply and this debate will officially be closed,” said brother Bob Eaton, business manager for Local 506.

A special called member meeting was arranged for the end of March in order to ratify CMAW Local 506's bylaws.



This newsletter is published quarterly for the 6,000 members of the Construction, Maintenance & Allied Workers Bargaining Council.

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