

Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada



Chinook Local 630

# Paper Break

Elk Falls, Campbell River, BC

## Local 630 President— Terry Hoff

Last week we were informed of some more senior management appointments. Brian Johnston will become President of Operations. Ron Buchhorn senior VP has retired and Brian Baarda will assume USA operations including all recycle operations. At the present time I don't know who will assume the Mill Managers role at Elk and Powell River.

On the local front we met jointly last week with the employer and both locals to hear their presentation on \$80 dollars per ton Labour costs. The bottom line is that they want to continue to drive costs out which will result in less people been employed in both hourly and staff.

At the present time we don't know what this looks like but the timelines look like there will be a plan in place by the end of April. When and how this will be accomplished is a story within itself.

Emotions are high at present time and that's understandable. The only thing we can do is work safely and watch out for each other.

On the negotiations front, bargaining will start in Prince George on May 13<sup>th</sup> with Can-for . In closing, we are in a most difficult period of uncertainty and I share the same frustrations as you. We all want the facts upfront so people can get on with our lives but we must continue to press for a sensible resolution that will continue to keep this operation viable and at the same time keep our heads high in the air knowing we gave it our best shot.

Please stay informed, attend your union meeting and talk to your local officers. Remember, your input matters.

Terry Hoff



**Union regular meeting**  
**Thursday May 8th 2008**  
**Voice your opinion come to meetings**



**Local 630 1st Vice—Brent Reid**

As bargaining is getting closer in Prince George our company has stepped up its efforts to show us just how bad of a performer we at Elk Falls has been. Only their graphs and charts show us as the lowest cost most efficient mill they have. Still the company makes decisions to curtail us (artificially driving our costs higher) and run the fibre at the higher cost, lower efficient mills.

We are under increasing pressure to lower our costs to compete. We have little or no control over this process and it is frustrating to say the least. Especially when being low cost doesn't earn us the right to run our machines.

The decisions being complemented now by our management group run the risk of losing production. As they slash jobs by combining them within our organization they breed an environment of uncertainty and any gains could be offset negatively if production drops.

We as your representatives are working hard on getting the training needed to access work by seniority. It has been a long process attempting to get senior people their hours. It seems that the company thinks that training to access work is driven by the needs of the business. It is our belief that the training is designed to give senior people work over junior employees period. This difference has give rise to the reluctance to provide as much training as needed. We will keep pushing the company to follow their contractual obligation.

Brent Reid

**D.G. McDonald Bursary Winners — Adam Swain**

On behalf of the executive I would like to congratulate the winners of the D.H. McDonald bursaries, **Kelsey Reid, Nina Gansner and Bradley Reid**. Their essays were very well thought out and personified the union movement and how it has affected their lives. Great job guys !!

Bob Strueby will be running the trout derby this year so if you can help out give him a buzz. Thanks for stepping up to the plate Bob!!! There are still quite a few jobs that need taking care of such as firewood, lunch service, clean-up, etc, any help would be greatly appreciated.

On a sad note **Bruce Rollick** passed away March 23, 2008. Bruce was highly respected in his field specializing in Trusteed, negotiating our current pension plan. See you at the next meeting.

Adam Swain





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**Shop Stewards**

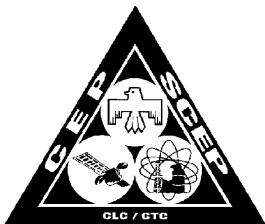
*Raymond Barriault, Chief Shop Steward*

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Rob Benoit	Dawinder Pander
Ted Blyleven	Mark Steenvorden
Ian Creaser	Adam Swain
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## How about another round of Cost Cutting?

The joint Standing Committee meeting on April 4 had the same feel as we have come to expect with the high dollar and a shortage of cheap fibre. More costs need to come out of the business. This is nothing new as we at Elk have been lowering costs for as long as I have worked here and I'm sure will continue to as long as I do.

Brian Johnson says we need to get to EBIT > 100\$ / ton. I have to question this as we have seen the earnings at all 4 mills over the past 5 years. Albern and Powell have never been even close to this and in some years never made money at all. At Elk we have achieved this when everything is running and could get there again with some help from the dollar and higher commodity prices. We have achieved every other cost cutting challenge that has been asked of us.

I remember in second year cost accounting there was a general rule around whether or not to run a production line and that was if your Sales exceeded your Variable Costs (+ EBITDA) that line was contributing to the Fixed costs and therefore should not be idled even if you project to lose money on the bottom line. The argument that Shareholders have to this theory is that in order to run a successful business there must be re-investment and I think this is what senior management is trying to pitch. The problem we have seen here is that any profits achieved by our previous employers have been taken offshore. Fletcher did it after carving up Crown Zellerbach for a huge capital gain and then Norske Skog took all the cash back to Norway by way of a 12 dollar dividend and left the company as it is today with a 50% debt to equity ratio and two more mills that struggle to make money. Fletcher even told us that they had to get out of Standard News and look more at Specialty Grades but they just didn't re-invest.

What they will be asking from us is a reduction in Labour costs of about \$20 / ton at Elk because their new acquisition Snowflake is about \$80 / ton. One must question how a mill that turns virgin fibre into a finished product can be compared to a recycled mill, however I'm sure at Elk we will once again take costs out. Isn't it ironic that without virgin fibre mills, recycled plants may have to curtail too due to lack of stock.

I apologize if I seem so negative about our business. Those who know me know I am not like that and really try to find solutions instead of just complaining. People with great business sense only look to the past to learn from it and instead focus more energy on looking forward. None of us that have a stake in this organization today are at fault for decisions made by our previous employers and are only left with more challenges as a result. One can say this is a dying industry or you could also say there will always be a demand for the products we make so let's be the best at it. We need leadership with a vision for new products and end markets.

Nevin Marsh

**CALM From March 2008**Courts maintain status quo on corporate killing

The more things change, the more they stay the same. Every year, hundreds of Canadians lose their lives because of something that happened to them at work. Employers and governments call these incidents accidents. The reality is that nearly every one of those injuries, attacks and poisonings is preventable.

In 2005, employer negligence, combined with the failure of governments to enforce health and safety laws, killed more than a thousand Canadian workers. One of them was a 23-year-old labourer named Steve L'Ecuyer. He was crushed to death because a safety device had been deliberately disabled by his employer

In March 2008, the employer, Transpave Inc., was finally found criminally negligent in the death of Steve L'Ecuyer. But the fine was only \$110,000. The ruling was the result of a plea bargain arrangement with the company.

This was the first conviction since the Criminal Code was amended in 2004 to hold employers responsible for health and safety offences that destroy workers' lives.

Labour has fought long and hard to win amendments to the Criminal Code in response to the 1992 Westray mine disaster in Nova Scotia, when 26 men were killed as a direct result of employer negligence. In that case, there was not not a single criminal conviction.

Sadly, this week's weak court ruling sends the wrong message to employers and corporations. Nothing's changed—they can still put their workers' lives at risk and expect no significant consequence

Stopping for-profit child care in Ontario

A new for-profit company, 123 Busy Beavers, has incorporated in Ontario. Linked to ABC Learning Centres, the world's largest child care corporation and a company with shares traded on the Australian stock exchange, 123 Busy Beavers puts at risk the vision of quality, universal child care.

"Like water and health care, child care is something I never thought I would see traded on the stock exchange" said Eduardo Sousa, Ontario Coordinator, Council of Canadians. Child care advocates are concerned that 123 Busy Beavers will reduce quality in early learning and child care and divert much needed public funding to corporate profits.

"In health care, we have seen that profits can take priority over patients. We have seen the impacts that private delivery can have - higher costs and lower quality as private companies seek a profit from public services. I don't want to see child care facing the quality problems that profit-making companies create" said Natalie Mehra, Ontario Health Coalition.

The Council of Canadians, the Ontario Health Coalition and CUPE are among many groups that have signed on for the "It's Time for Public Child Care" campaign and will be participating in community meetings around the province leading up to debate on Bill 26—which would ensure future licenses under the *Day Nurseries Act* are available only to not-for-profit child care providers.



## Bring Us the Head of Dave Nonis!

Or, um, maybe that doesn't really fix the Canucks.

By [Steve Burgess](#)

Published: April 15, 2008

Oh man, did that feel great or what? Dave Nonis is toast! Canucks miss the playoffs and the GM's ass is gone. It's like when you stub your toe and you have to turn around and punch somebody. It just feels good.

Then sometimes the guy you punched punches back six or seven or 13 times and you are too busy swallowing teeth to worry about the pain in your toe.

On Monday, Vancouver Canucks general manager Dave Nonis received from team owner Francesco Aquilini a polite thank you and a pink slip. One year ago Nonis was Davey the Boy Genius, author of the greatest trade in franchise history and the brains behind a division-winning team that had completely turned itself around from a dismal 2005/2006 campaign. Today Nonis has the same job as Elliot Spitzer. Poor Dave didn't even get a hot night with a pricey hooker.

### Take it from Churchill

Nonis didn't get much at all, in fact. Certainly not a decent chance to prove himself -- that was scheduled for this summer. Nonis did make the aforementioned cannonball splash with the 2006 Todd Bertuzzi-for-Roberto Luongo trade. But this off-season was always going to be his real opportunity to remake the Canucks. Finally unburdened of the huge Marcus Naslund contract plus the sizable salary of Brendan Morrison and a handful of others, Nonis would have had plenty of salary cap room. Reconstruction would not -- will not -- be easy. There's a dearth of quality free agents available this year. But the man had shown he knew how to swing a trade, and he was in a great financial position to exchange promising youngsters for large star contracts. I'll bet he was looking forward to it. Now he can look forward to talking trades with the boys down at the Legion Hall.

Winston Churchill could have warned him. After leading Britain to victory in World War II, Winnie got dumped in the very next election. Nonis only needed to gain a single vote. But Aquilini didn't hire Nonis in the first place and for all we know was waiting for the first good chance to get rid of him. At any rate, he took it.

**Canucks — The Tyee**

Nonis's inaction at the trade deadline will be cited as the chief justification for his demise. He did nothing, and the team subsequently followed his example. But how many trades could he have made? Considering the options, a deadline trade would have amounted to putting perfume on a pig. Short of swapping Byron Ritchie for Spider-Man, nothing on the available menu would have made much difference.

## Blame the local mojo

Besides, you can't blame Nonis for the water. It has to be the water around here -- what other explanation is there for the way players perform once they arrive? I'm not just talking about Mark Messier, or Russian superstar Vladimir Krutov who arrived here a legend and then stuffed himself like a foie gras duck until he was big enough to map. I hope I'm not talking about Roberto Luongo, who will surely recover from a mediocre stretch drive. No, there are other recent examples. Look at this year's playoffs -- Brian Smolinski is scoring for Montreal and Keith Carney got a big goal for Minnesota. As 2007 deadline acquisitions for the Canucks, those guys looked like beer leaguers. Why do players underachieve out here? The Canucks must be loading up their locker room with Depleted Uranium Energy Drink.

Now what? There's already speculation that Anaheim GM Brian Burke will boomerang right back to Vancouver. His wife works here. He knows where the good restaurants are. He probably misses Tony Gallagher, too. Burke has one year left on his Anaheim contract, but it didn't stop people from predicting he would jump to Toronto in March.

But Burke didn't jump to Toronto. And unless there is some secret arrangement I know nothing about -- it happens -- I can't imagine the Ducks waving a cheery goodbye as he skips off to a conference rival. Besides, negotiating Burke out of his contractual bonds could be messy and if the Canucks don't get someone on the job quickly there could be chaos. Deadlines are coming.

Meanwhile if recent history holds, Nonis will sign with the LA Kings and take them to the Stanley Cup. We'll somehow trade for Alexander Ovechkin, just as he discovers a new love for deep-fried Mars bars and hollandaise sauce.

Just another chapter in the ongoing tale of hockey's Washington Generals.

### About The Tyee

We're your independent daily online magazine reaching every corner of B.C. and beyond. In November of 2003 The Tyee began its swim upstream against the media trends of our day. We're independent and not owned by any big corporation. We're dedicated to publishing lively, informative news and views, not dumbed down fluff. We, like the tyee salmon for which we are named, roam free and go where we wish. Check us out daily at [www.thetyee.ca](http://www.thetyee.ca)

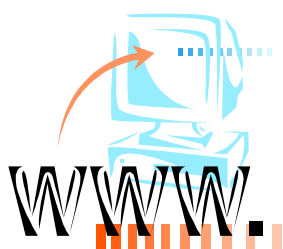


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Canadian Labour Congress: [www.clc-ctc.ca](http://www.clc-ctc.ca)

BC Federation of Labour: [www.bcfed.com](http://www.bcfed.com)



# The Sudoku Corner

This one is for Mark

	3	2	9				8	
					3			4
	4		2	6			7	
							5	
2			5	8	4			7
	6							
	5			2	1			6
6			4					
	7				9	2	1	

			3		
			1		
		2			
		3			

					6	4	5
	2	3		8	1		9
4			9		2		3
	7	2		3	5		
	9	5		1	3	6	
		6		9	8	2	
5		4			8		6
7		8		5	4	1	
2	3	9					

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**The Back Side—Sean Cramb**

I had the opportunity during the past few weeks to spend a little time down on the docks (Yard). What a change in atmosphere from working on a paper machine, I found it quite enjoyable. The fresh air, the scenery, the eight hour shifts! Thanks to the crews down there for welcoming us displaced 630 guys into their department, temporarily.

We all knew that the 80/T initiative was coming our way, but now that it's here, I struggle to think of how it can be implemented. What more can be done to reduce costs that will not take a toll on production and quality?



Maybe we can work out some of these issues around a campfire with a couple of wobbly-pops during this years Trout Derby, May 19th. I'm not sure about the signup procedure, best to chat with Bob Strueby about that. Warning: I did hear that anyone who wants some decent sleep during the derby should stay away from Miller Creek!

**Chinook Portfolio Challenge 2008**

Here's the rules. Pick up to 5 TSX/Venture listed companies, with a total virtual investment of \$50,000. Valuations will be tracked beginning May 1st. That means you can build your portfolio now, but it has to have a total value of \$50,000 on May 1st. If a portfolio is over \$50,000 on May 1st, I will trim shares from the last company in your list. So put your dog on the bottom!

Company Name	Ticker Symbol	Number of Shares

There will be a first prize only for this contest, so winner takes all. Start scouring websites like [www.stockhouse.ca](http://www.stockhouse.ca), [www.investorvillage.com](http://www.investorvillage.com) or [www.bigcharts.com](http://www.bigcharts.com) to help narrow your picks down to five.

I will post each entrant's portfolio on the website, so no one can accuse me of cheating when I win!

Either cut out the box above (when you are done with the sudokus) and drop it off on PM4 during D shift, or email me the same data at [editor@cep630.org](mailto:editor@cep630.org).

**Support your union, come to meetings!**