

Eastern Branch NEWSLETTER*



We Hear You Loud and Clear

Thank you to all of the members who provided feedback to the Guild on our Inaugural Issue of the Eastern Branch NEWSLETTER.

We are pleased to report that your comments were almost universally positive. One member suggested more information on the GSO negotiations would have been appreciated. We have done this in the current issue.

So, keep your comments coming - it helps us prepare a publication that meets your expectations.

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GSO Negotiations

The GSO negotiations are somewhat unique in that they affect every region of the Branch because we have GSO members working in every area. These negotiations are labour intensive for staff and the members of the Negotiating Committee.

In this round of bargaining, there are many new faces on the Employer side, and some new ones on the Guild side. The Guild spokesman this round is the National Secretary, Capt. Mark Boucher. The Eastern Branch member representatives are: NL – Peter Corbett (CG); NS –

Dwayne Symes (CG), Duncan Moffat (DND), Moe Boissoneault (INS); QC – Michel Morin (CG); ON – Greg Colbeck (CG). As this contract also covers Guild members from the West, there are Western Branch staff and member representatives forming an integral part of the Negotiating Committee.

The first session was held, in Ottawa, during the week of August 21-25, 2006. It involved the explanation of the protocols from both sides, and some discussions on wording issues. A subsequent session was held September 25-29, in which some minor progress was made. The next negotiating session is scheduled for the week of November 20-24.

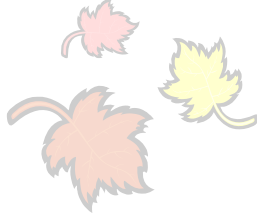
New wallet-sized cards have recently been sent to members for reference on Legal Defence

Staffing Update

The Branch is pleased to report that the Quebec LRO, Mr. Michaud, has recovered from his health problems, received the okay from his doctors, and is back at work, in Quebec City.

We are also pleased to report that our newest LRO, Ms. Arenillas is adjusting well to her new position. Guild members from Newfoundland have already had the opportunity of having her represent them on various issues.

Other Important Issues for Guild Members



The Guild is continuing to talk with Officers at two companies that have recently started on the Lakes. We are gathering information on the interests of Officers there should they wish to be represented. We have had written Guild information distributed to them and are awaiting their feedback.

The merger between the bargaining units at ULS was agreed upon by the members, but the Company balked at the prospect of the Mates and Engineers negotiating together. Guild lawyers are currently pursuing the matter and it will probably end up before the Industrial Relations Board. As indicated at our winter meetings, we expect the matter to be resolved before the Guild negotiates their next agreement.

The former "Halifax Grain" tug and barge *Jane Ann IV* and *Sarah Spencer* have been sold to American interests, we are told. All of the former Officers that we represented there have moved on to other employment. We are attempting to contact the current Officers to determine how we move on this matter.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY ALERT!

Guild members who reside in Quebec and hold 4th class Engineers certificates should note - the Guild's office in Quebec has been advised that an electricity course and machine shop course are available in October 2006 and December 2006 for those wishing to upgrade to IMO standards.

For more information please call 418.
694. 9059



Guild member Bruce White (centre) Chief Engineer with Eastern Canada Towing, sends greetings from the Port of Halifax on Thanksgiving Day. Pictured with Bruce are deckhands Kevin Mullins (left) and Clarke England (right).

The Eastern Branch Board of the Guild, at the Branch Board meetings held in St. John's, NL in February/March 2006, made a recommendation to the Eastern Branch members who also serve on the Guild National Executive Board. That recommendation was to hold Guild dues at their current levels and not increase them. When the National Board met in Ottawa in the spring, it was agreed that dues would not increase this year.

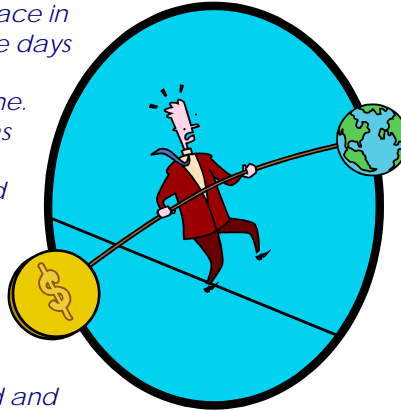


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Negotiations and Grievances

The following sets of negotiations are currently being addressed by the Eastern Branch staff and Negotiating Committees:

- ⇒ **Algoma Tankers** – conciliation took place in April and a package was ratified by the members. That contract has now been signed.
- ⇒ **CSL (VShips) and bulker contract** – 6 days of bargaining took place in April in Toronto, and 3 more days in Montreal in May, and 2 more days in Toronto in June. A tentative Agreement was reached, sent out to members for their vote and was accepted. The agreement has since been signed. The bulker contract was also renegotiated and it mirrors the self unloader contract. It too was ratified and has been signed.
- ⇒ **Algoma Central Marine** – proposals were exchanged in June. The Company was requesting concessions that the Guild was unwilling to accept. In the end the tentative settlement reached there was without concession and followed the industry norms. It is currently out for ratification.
- ⇒ **Northumberland Ferries** – negotiations were held, and the Guild applied for conciliation – that meeting was scheduled for Charlottetown in early June. The contract was ratified and signed. Unfortunately, the Company has steadfastly refused to sign agreements that are long term. The Guild has already served “Notice to Bargain” on the Company again for the negotiation of the next Collective Agreement.
- ⇒ **Marine Atlantic** – conciliation meetings were held on May 24th and 25th in Halifax. No agreement reached so we took a strike vote. The members of the bargaining unit overwhelmingly endorsed a strike, but the Minister of Labour, as per provisions of the Labour Code, turned to the CIRB for a ruling on whether our bargaining unit would be declared “essential”, and therefore we would be forbidden to take job action. The Guild met with the Company again in direct bargaining at the end of June. Some other outstanding items were



agreed, and both Parties have now agreed to send all outstanding items to arbitration. The Guild is awaiting Company response on our last correspondence to them.

- ⇒ **Nfld. Provincial Ferry Captains** – the Negotiating Committee has reviewed draft proposals, and is now contacting the Employer for dates and times to exchange those proposals.
- ⇒ **Quebec Cartier Tug Masters** – last direct bargaining session took place on March 16th & 17th, and the matter was referred to conciliation. Some further direct communication did take place with the Company but did not result in an agreement. The Parties are now looking once again to the conciliator for a session, in an attempt to move towards a contract.
- ⇒ **Launch Masters (LPA)** – proposal exchange occurred on April 28th. The Parties had agreed to postpone direct bargaining pending the medical status of the Quebec LRO or the use of other staff for this particular file. The return of the LRO means that dates to commence negotiations will now be sought.
- ⇒ **APA Pilots** – this matter is being referred to binding arbitration and we are in the process of having the final touches applied to the Guild brief to the Arbitrator.

The following grievances are at various stages in the process and are being worked on by Guild staff:

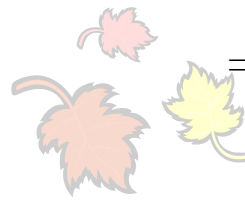
- ⇒ **In Nfld.** – grievances for Government Ship’s Officers on medicals, jury duty, stand by pay, isolated posts, overtime, pay rates, are all in the local area. One concerning pro-rated lay days, was scheduled for expedited adjudication in April or May, but was postponed by the employer, and finally heard in late June. The award of the Arbitrator upheld the Guild’s position in favour of the Officer - concerning “prorating of lay days”. The Guild met with the Employer on the status of some of the remaining items since no answers seemed to be forthcoming. We were assured of action on these, but have not seen much change. We are investigating further.

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In Nfld. continued...

⇒ There are a number of grievances at various stages on behalf of the APA Pilots - most concern recalls and leave - these remain outstanding.



⇒ **In Quebec** - there is one outstanding grievance for the Pilots in District One, concerning the AIS system.

⇒ **In Ontario** - there are grievances on seniority and promotion at V-ships, and two grievances for District 2 & 3 Pilots, one concerning OHIP levies and another concerning the length of season.

Unfortunately, accidents do happen

Members should have recently received new wallet-sized cards for their reference in Legal Defense situations. Please keep these where they can be utilized, if ever required. Unfortunately, accidents can occur, and the advantage provided to Guild members through these cards is demonstrated at those times.

A recent accident on a tanker (non - Guild) in Nfld in which one crewmember was killed and a contractor employee severely burned illustrates that accidents can happen anywhere.

The subsequent dismissal of the Captain, Chief Engineer, and Chief Mate also shows, in our opinion, why Ships

Officers need the representation that the Guild and its stand alone legal defense protection can provide.

The Guild asks all members of the Eastern Branch to encourage Officers, who are not members of our organization, to join and have the benefit of representation of legal defense and a Collective Agreement. Perhaps some of these unrepresented officers are former shipmates or college/university classmates - some may be neighbours.

Your encouragement as a Guild member might make the difference for someone to join - to have legal and certificate coverage - to have the benefit of representation under a Guild contract. Please do your part to help your fellow Officer, and help our organization grow.

Staying Connected Just Got Easier!



We've arranged with the National Office to have the Eastern Branch NEWSLETTER linked to the Guild's website at www.CMSG-GMMC.ca Members will find the NEWSLETTER on the "EASTERN BRANCH UPDATES" section of the website.

NAME THIS NEWSLETTER contest update...

The \$150.00 Prize is still up for grabs in our NAME CONTEST.

You have sent in lots of suggestions of names for this newsletter - so many that we haven't decided a winner yet. Just a word to some of the name contributors - some of the suggestions are already used by other publications, so we can't use them. STAY TUNED FOR THE NEXT ISSUE WHERE WE'LL ANNOUNCE THE WINNER.