

Eastern Branch NEWSLETTER



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Guild Welcomes 100+ Members of Canship

The Guild is proud to announce that the Canada Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) issued two certifications to the Guild on May 17th, 2007. The Guild is now the certified representative for all Mates, Engineers, and Electrical Officers for the tanker fleet at Canship. The CIRB also awarded us certification to represent the Canadian Captains and Chief Engineers at Canship, and we are pursuing certification for the Captains employed by the Norwegian partner involved in the tanker operation. This certification is a major achievement and is the culmination of a long period of determined effort. The Guild is now in the process of putting together a negotiating committee of the members involved, and we will be serving Notice to Bargain on the Company shortly. Many thanks to Board Trustee Herb Reid for his efforts in this organizing drive. There are over a hundred new members involved and we welcome them to the Guild and look forward to working with them for a long time to come. (See more page 2, "Organizing".)

Staffing Updates

The Eastern Branch of the Guild is working hard to improve member service. One step to address that goal was to hire new staff members. Ms. Arenillas in St. John's and Mr. Spindler in Dartmouth have provided our members with thoughtful and energetic representation and have been excellent additions to an already hardworking staff. At the recent Branch Board meetings in February, the



Board endorsed the hiring of further staff, if events and workload within the Branch warranted same, at the discretion of the Branch President and Secretary Treasurer. That motion was timely and fortuitous. Events, some of which are described in this Issue, have caused an immediate increase in workload, and this may increase further still. (continued on page 2.)

Staffing Update ...

Continued from page 1

The Guild has hired another Labour Relations Officer for special projects within the Branch, but principally for member service and organizing. The new LRO has an office in St. Catharines but will work throughout the Branch boundaries. Some members may be familiar with our newest staff member, since he came to us after leaving the employment of another marine union.

Mr. Mario Elrick was a former VP with another marine union and has up to date labour relations experience and is very conversant with our industry. We intend to make good use of his experience and we welcome him to our staff. We believe he will be a good fit with our team, and will add to the service we want to provide to Guild members.

Organizing

The Guild filed its application in early April to represent a new group of Officers. Canship Officers (including Captains and Chiefs) have asked the Guild to represent them and we have filed an application to the Canada Industrial Relations Board for certification. The application to the CIRB is one milestone in a long process. It is very significant because it means that a majority (a very large majority) of the Officers have signed applications to join the Guild. There are five vessels involved in this application, and over a hundred members.

GSO Negotiations

These negotiations continue at their usual pace, which is to say not very fast. The Committee went to Ottawa for mediation the week of April 23-27th. Treasury Board did not have a "comprehensive offer" to present at that mediation session so we're off to arbitration to conclude the negotiations.

Every set of negotiations in the Branch requires much effort from staff and the members who work as the negotiating committee. The GSO negotiations are no different in that regard except the Committee is comprised of staff and members from across the country. This committee has worked hard to address all outstanding issues.



Greetings from the bridge of the Maersk Chancellor, from left to right: Guild members Gord Byrne Chief Engineer, Jeff Petten 1st Officer (Deck Officer), CMSG staff member Bruce Carter, and Sean Melvin, Chief Officer (Deck) (Mario Elrick photographer).



CCGS Hudson is a large offshore vessel approximately 80 metres long that is multi-taskable to fishery and oceanographic missions, as well as geological and hydrographic surveys. The vessel is equipped with wet labs, trawl capability, bottom sampling capability and water column sampling capability, and can accommodate up to 26 scientists. Photo and caption courtesy of Canadian Coast Guard.

Negotiations and Grievances

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

■ Northumberland Ferries – negotiations have been held, and an offer sent to the members was rejected. At the time of this newsletter the Guild is going back to the members to determine the reasons for the rejection. Further talks with the Company may result; otherwise we will be going to conciliation.

■ Marine Atlantic – an arbitration hearing is scheduled for Sydney, N.S., on May 30th and 31st. There remain a number of outstanding Articles and we have agreed that binding arbitration will provide the resolution.

■ Nfld. Provincial Ferry Captains – the negotiating Committee had two week-long negotiating sessions which have not resulted in an agreement. The Guild is applying for conciliation to try to conclude these negotiations.

■ MV Arctic – proposals are being formulated to present to the Company.

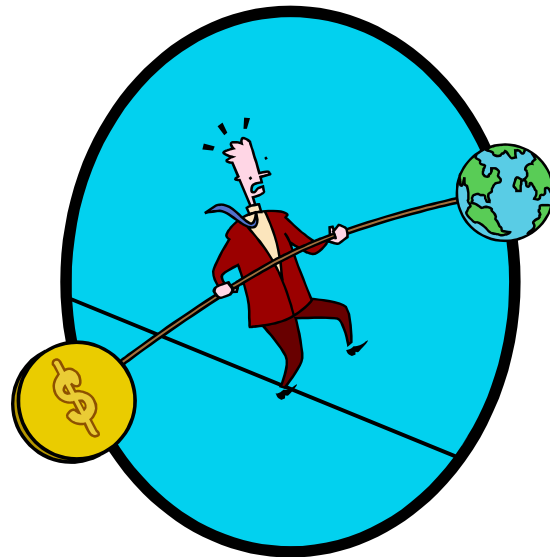
■ Alcan – negotiations have taken place. The Guild is awaiting response from the Company to determine our next step.

■ GLPA – all four districts are open and preliminary discussions are being held both with the Pilots and the Authority.

■ IOC – those negotiations are currently on hold pending the outcome of the major strike ongoing between that Company and one of its other unions.

■ Oceanex – proposals have been formulated and are being finalized. Dates to begin negotiations will then be requested.

■ Upper Lakes Mates and Engineers – Notice has been served and proposals formulated. The proposals will be exchanged in early May. The Guild has yet to hear back from the Canada Industrial Relations Board on our request to have both these bargaining units combined, so we have to negotiate the agreements separately.



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

Each Guild office has various grievances being worked on by staff, both in the public and private sectors at various stages in the process.

The Guild asks members who have potential grievances to contact our offices early in the process to make certain the contract is followed.

All grievances need to be discussed with the member and investigated as required. The Guild will try to discuss issues with the various employers to resolve them before grievances arise and sometimes this approach works well. However we will use the grievance processes provided in collective agreements as needed to represent our members.

Staying Connected Is Easy!

We are continuing our arrangement with the National Office to have the Eastern Branch Newsletter linked to the Guild's website, so members can also connect with the Branch publication on the "Eastern Branch Updates" section of the website at www.CMSG-GMMC.ca.





Greetings from the M.V. Quebecois

Guild members third mate Jerry Hryckowian (left) and first mate Michael Lawrence (centre) with Guild staff member Mario Elrick (right) onboard the Upper Lakes Shipping vessel *M.V. Quebecois*

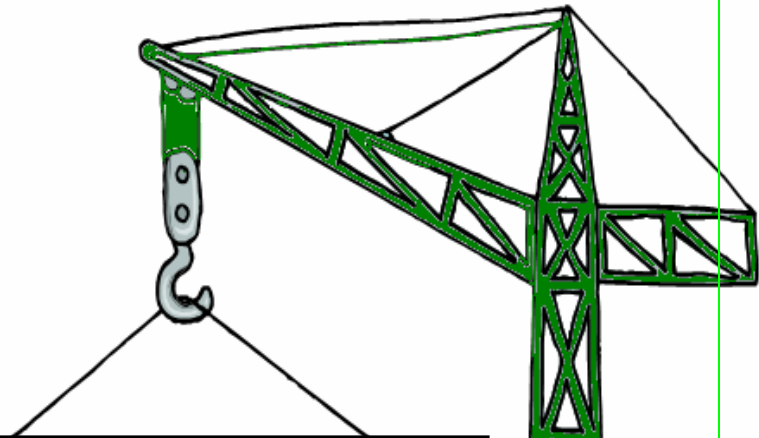
Other Important Issues for Guild Members

The Guild is continuing to approach Officers at a number of Companies on the Lakes and on the East Coast to determine the Officers wishes on representation.

There was a recent development concerning the tanker incident in Conception Bay Nfld last summer. SIXTY NINE CHARGES were laid against the Company and the senior Officers on the MV Kometik. The senior Officers involved face charges which according to a newspaper report EACH carry fines that range from \$100,000 to \$1,000,000. This tragedy drives home the point again that Ships Officers need the protection that the Guild provides for marine incidents.

At the recent Branch Board meetings, the Eastern Branch granted "Honourary Membership to two long term Guild members. Mr. John Wilson is a recently retired GSO who spent many years on the Eastern Branch Board as a Maritimes GSO rep, and worked very diligently on behalf of his fellow Guild members. Mr. Jack Furlong is a recently retired Chief Officer with Maersk who was instrumental in many Guild projects over the years, in Eastern Canada. Many thanks are extended to both Officers for their support of the Guild over their many years of membership.

NEWSLETTER Contest Finishes
Thank you to all the members who provided suggestions to the Guild about naming this Eastern Branch Newsletter. At the Branch Board meetings, in February, all of the suggestions we received were put to the Board for review. Unfortunately, there are some legal and copyright issues on the names deemed appropriate by the Board so we are going to proceed with the generic name CMSG Eastern Branch Newsletter. We are unfortunately therefore unable to award the prize for naming the newsletter. The \$150 will instead be donated to the "Mission to Seafarers" charity to assist them in their good works.



IMPORTANT REMINDER
Guild members are reminded that under our By-Laws dues (at the reduced rate) must continue if you are off on weekly indemnity or LTD. Please contact your nearest Guild office if you have any questions on this matter. Guild members considering retirement are also reminded to notify the Guild. Your employer will not notify us - your name will just not appear on dues check off - automatically generating a bill for dues to your home address.

