



SafeTalk



REMEMBERING CANADIAN STEELWORKERS KILLED ON THE JOB 2009—2010

April 3, 2009
Ryan Huxley
Local 2009

May 4, 2009
Rick Cawston
Local 1-1937

May 22, 2009
John Lamard
Local 1-85



Feb. 16, 2010
Dominic Shorter,
Local 1976

March 19, 2009
Eldon Perry
Local 5795

April 1, 2010
John Paget
Local 5917

*April 28th—National Day of Mourning
Mourn For the Dead-Fight For the Living*

Message From District 3 Director, Steve Hunt:

April 28 always conjures up a wide range of emotions. On the Day of Mourning for workers killed and injured on the job, we are of course sad because of the thousands of workers killed each year across Canada and the millions killed globally. We might even remember a workmate, family member or friend who died on the job.

But we should also be angry. After all, these preventable deaths just keep happening over and over and nothing seems to happen to make things better. And we all know that accidents are often not just accidents. Out of that anger should come another emotion: our hard-edged *determination* to make sure it stops.

This year, we certainly have plenty to be sad about. In spite of all our hard work and efforts, in Canada six Steelworkers died on the job since the beginning of 2009.

There's also lots of reason to be angry. Even in a relatively-rich country like ours with a relatively well-developed rule of law, our record on health and safety is *abysmal*. Every year we have about 1000 workplace deaths – about three every single day. We know this number is really much higher as many occupational disease deaths go unreported or unrecognized as being work related. In British Columbia in 2009 meanwhile, 121 workplace deaths were recorded, as well as 110 in Alberta, 34 in Saskatchewan, 37 in Manitoba, 4 in the Yukon, 2 in the Northwest Territories and 1 in Nunavut.

In the United States this month 6 Steelworkers died in a refinery fire in Washington State while 29 coal miners were killed in a mine explosion in West Virginia, both were preventable.

But this year, we must also be determined: determined to see those numbers of victims eliminated; determined to hold accountable those responsible for the most awful cases.

Take the case of Lyle Hewer, killed in a New Westminster, BC, sawmill in 2004. His employer, Weyerhaeuser, knew that the

Coming Events

April 28 National Day of Mourning

May 2-8 NAOSH Week

May 9-14 SFL/CLC Spring School, Saskatoon Sask.

FATALITY in LOCAL 5917

On April 1, 2010 a fatal accident in Local 5917 at Wheat City Metals in Regina Saskatchewan claimed the life of John Paget, age 57. It appears that a piece of a sledge hammer broke off on contact and penetrated John's chest.

John is survived by his mother Joyce; wife Judy; sons Paul Paget and Sheldon Williams and daughter Danielle Paget. He is also survived by his grandchildren Cayden and Savannah Paget; brothers David, Michael and Peter Paget; sisters Joy Roberts, Debra Hoover and Jane Skerritt. Our sincere condolences go out to John's family and friends, coworkers and to the members of Local 5917.



John Rene Paget
June 18, 1952—April 1, 2010

Directors Message (cont.)

hopper in which he died was unsafe; the company was asked to fix it and didn't. Only after Hewer's death did they fix it – it cost \$30,000.

WorkSafe BC fined Weyerhaeuser \$297,000, the biggest OH&S fine in BC history. WorkSafeBC and the New Westminster police also recommended charges under the Westray amendments to the Criminal Code of Canada, the law Steelworkers fought 10 years to have passed. It puts the responsibility for a workplace death squarely on the shoulders of the boss if willful negligence was a factor.

But for reasons currently known only to itself, BC's prosecution service *wouldn't* lay charges. So last month *we* did. We initiated a private prosecution of Weyerhaeuser under the Westray amendments. It's going to a provincial court judge soon.

We believe the case represents an important bit of unfinished business. We owe it to Lyle Hewer, his family – and to every worker, living and dead. Parliament passed the law. But we're determined to make it *the rule*: kill a worker, go to jail.

**Fight
for the
Living!**

MILITARY FOR THE DEAF

HAZARD ALERT

Injury Type : Cracked ribs, back injury

Core Activity : Grapple yarding

A worker was using a chainsaw to notch a guyline stump. The worker slipped and fell down an embankment, landing against a standing tree.

Injury Type : Close call

Core Activity : Integrated forest management

At a log yard, a trailer hoist was lifting a log truck trailer to the required height, so that the driver could back the truck under the trailer, when the cable on the trailer hoist broke. The trailer fell to the ground (about 12 feet).

Injury Type : Amputated fingers

Core Activity : Sawmill

A young worker was clearing an obstruction in the trim saw when his hand contacted the blade.

Injury Type : Crush injury to leg

Core Activity : Sawmill

A worker stepped over a guard/barrier to clear a jammed board in the finger jointer outfeed. The outfeed stacker forks were left operating. The forks cycled, crushing the worker's leg against the stacker frame.

Injury Type : Severe finger injury

Core Activity : Sawmill

Two workers removed a 150-pound access gate to repair a scanner chain link. After completing the repair, the workers began to reinstall the access gate. One worker's hand was caught between the access gate and the conveyor side skirt.

Injury Type : Crush injury to foot

Core Activity : Pulp and paper mill

A young worker was working at the roll wrapping station at the outfeed end of the paper machine. The roll is wrapped with kraft paper and crimped, then the ends of the roll are covered with paper caps to protect the roll during shipping. As the heated end-press header was closing to seal the caps in place, a paper cap came loose. The operator tried to prevent the cap from falling out by placing his foot against it.

Injury Type : Inhalation of sulfur dioxide gas (2 workers)

Core Activity : Rail car repair and maintenance

Two workers (one of them a young worker) were exposed to sulfur dioxide gas on two separate occasions while repairing rail cars.

Injury Type : Close call

Core Activity : Wood chip hauling

A chip truck entered a highway at a road junction. An empty logging truck travelling on the highway had to swerve and drive off the highway to avoid a collision.

Injury Type : Fatal

Core Activity : Mechanical repair

A mechanic was called to a private property to repair a compact loader. He was later found trapped between the arm and frame of the equipment.

A tribute to Eldon

USW president shares thoughts on veteran Steelworker

MICHELE STEWART
The Aurora

Labrador City lost a longtime resident March 19 after an industrial accident at the IOC mine site.

On the afternoon of March 18 (Thursday) Eldon Perry fell an estimated 24 feet from a lift he was working on. He passed away at the Captain William Jackman Memorial Hospital early Friday morning.

George Kean, president of the United Steelworkers (USW) Local 5795 says the 56-year-old with over 38 years of service in the mines of IOC will be greatly missed by the many people who knew and respected him.

"He was a devoted family man to his wife Edna and their children Stephen and Linette," Kean said of Perry. "And he has a little granddaughter Aleya, and she was just the pride of his life. But along with being a good family man, Eldon was a man who cared about his community as well and over the years he contributed his fair share."

From minor hockey, soccer to broomball, he had a keen interest in sports, according to Kean, who says he has much admiration for the great job he did coaching minor hockey. "Eldon bestowed in these players respect," Kean said. "He encouraged them to play hard to get the skills to win, but he always told them the most important thing was to enjoy the game and respect each other."

The adventurous outdoor lifestyle Labrador offered was not lost on Eldon either, he explained. When it came to snowmobiling, hunting, fishing and spending time with his family at their cabin, Eldon loved the great outdoor life and took many opportunities to enjoy it.

Eldon moved to Labrador West from Little Burnt Bay (near Lewisporte) 38 years ago, and his attachment to the Big Land (where he spent the greater part of his life) grew strong over the years. He loved Labrador," said Kean. "As a matter of fact he had told his family that when he died, he wanted Harry Martin's song This is My Home played at his funeral. And it was played."

According to the USW president, Eldon was well respected for his worth ethic and his workmanship, and the longtime welder had plenty of opportunity to work with countless people in his long tenure with the mining company. Throughout his years on the project, Kean added, Eldon provided a lot of mentoring for new welders just starting off.

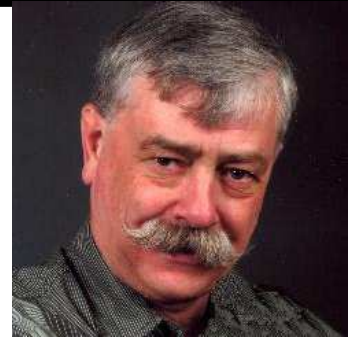
"Supervisors would look to have him as part of their crew because he had such a good name for his work and he was very safety conscious," said Kean. "He also had a very good attitude, always had a smile and whenever there was tensions around the lunchroom (for example) you could leave it to Eldon to throw in a dry joke and get everyone laughing. He was a great individual for sure and he had the respect of everyone around him." Kean travelled out to Lewisporte last week to attend the funeral of his union brother and says the incredible turnout for the service was a testament to the type of man Eldon was.

"There was so many of his family, relatives, friends and co-workers who came to the Pentecostal Church, that 30 minutes before the service, the church was filled to capacity," he said. "The place was just overflowing with people."

Kean said he was very pleased with how IOC came onboard for the family. The Company sent three chartered flights for co-workers and managers-including Zoe Yujnovich, IOC's president and Mine Manager Tayfun Eldem-to attend the funeral service and offer condolences and support to the family.

Eldon's tragic death has left a great void not only within IOC and the USW but also in the community where he and his family have established great friendships; his death has shaken many.

"Tragic deaths like this, thank God, have not happened often here," said Kean. "But when it does happen, like last week with Eldon, it sends a shockwave throughout the entire workforce and to the whole community. He was a wonderful man, a good friend, and he will be missed."



Eldon Ralph Perry
August 28, 1953 - March 19, 2010