

The C.U.P.E. Connection



January 2006

Here's hoping we all had a healthy holiday season!!

President's Report



Here we are folks, we blinked and 2006 is upon us already. Lo and behold we are into a federal election, no real surprise to anyone. Once again we are faced with voting in a government that will form Canada in one fashion or another. As your president I keep hearing that the union has no business

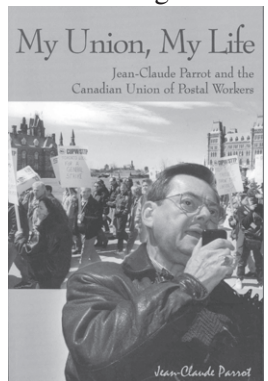
telling members how to vote. Voting is an individual choice, I understand and accept that. As your President I also hear that the union needs to do more to protect the wages, benefits and jobs that we have. You as workers and union members need to understand and accept that for me to do my job as your president I need you to give me resources to help this union make gains. One of the resources has to be politicians that have the same or sympathize with the same ideals and goals as workers. In this mail-out there are two brochures that talk about issues that are important to families and working people. Please read them see if you agree with them, before you vote call your candidate and see what their views are and what their party records are on these issues and then vote. I believe that if every union member did that, working families across the country would end with a government that would forge a Canada that protected jobs, benefits and workers rights and family values.

Please vote.



Labour Legend Visits CUPE 30 Hall

Jean-Claude Parrot was National President of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers for 15 years. During that time he was one of Canada's most militant workers' advocate and went to jail rather than back down. He has taken on Trudeau, Mulroney, and Chretien in his commitment to the members of CUPW and the Labour movement. On October 17 2005 Brother Parrot was at Local 30's hall for a signing of his new book "My Union, My Life" and participated in a round table discussion on issues affecting the Union movement. To commemorate Brother Parrot's visit to Local 30 we are pleased to be giving away 15 copies of "My Union, My Life". We will make a draw from the members who can correctly identify the four activists pictured above. Submit your answers via fax, email, or in person to the office. See inside for address and numbers.



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We'd love to hear from you!

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*All Articles are subject to
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Flowers & Baskets

We wish all the best to our
Brothers & Sisters
Speedy Recovery!

Vic Guidon	Steve Zolubak
Dave Wilinsky	Jeffrey Stephens
Bill Seabrook	Vivian Beecroft
Councilor Michael Phair	
Don Loyie	Raymond Lewis
Ray Zelher	Christopher Tavano



With Sincere Sympathy

We wish to express our deepest Sympathy
to our Brothers and Sisters who have
recently lost a loved one:

Selby Dzemaalovic	Trent Haugh
Edwin Niles	Robert Kuzowski
Wayne Sager	Tom Lange
Bob Browatzke	Don Fedorak
Kevin McCoy	Kenneth Woloszyn
Victor Demers	Ben Baylon
Glen Gray	Albert Chrino

The Families of:

Brother Bob Allen
Brother Gary Gray

Up-Coming Events

General Meeting: January 25th, 2006

**Retiree Banquet/Shop Steward Appreciation
May 13th, 2006**

Kid's Christmas Party: December 2nd, 2006

Parkland Institute Conference

I would like to express my thanks to the membership for electing me to go on to the Parkland Institute Conference on November 18, 19 and 20. It was quite an eye-opening experience. I took information away with me that will be very useful now and in the future. I'd like to share some of it with you. On Friday November 18 I listened to Maude Barlow. She spoke on issues about continental integration and how it is steadily advancing. Many of us don't know how Big Business is slowly but steadily moving in on our basic necessities of life. I don't think that Edmontonians really realize how close we were to losing one of our basic necessities (drainage department) when a business was about to take over one last fall. In my opinion I don't think they are going to stop trying – they will try again and again until they get what they want. We have to stay on guard for what lies ahead and watch for the “wolf in sheep's clothing”.

On Saturday there was a panel that discussed the topic “100 Years on the Prairies” presentation. The presentation included everything from the Alberta sterilization program which began in the 1940's and finished in 1972, to the Alberta promise. One question was, Are we leaders, or do we imagine we are? None the less the morning panel sure kept us attentive and kept our eyes open.

We had adjourned for lunch and afterwards I went to the Water and Natural Resources seminar. The two speakers I listened to were very concerned about our natural resources, which are being polluted to a major extent, and if the major oil industries don't change their methods of refining, our water supply will be in worse trouble than we can imagine. After all the damage that is being done to the environment, we should be prepared for a major clean up, both political and tangible. The biggest problem now is the lack of reclamation.

On Sunday morning we listened to Jonah Gindin. He is a Canadian journalist who is living and working in Caracas, Venezuela. He spoke about the Venezuelan oil policy, the Bolivian revolution

which was launched in 1998. The policy sees that a large portion of profits from the oil revenues gets directed into social programs, not back into the oil industry which seems to be the global trend. By using oil dollars, Venezuela is building a democracy based on social and economic equality. Alberta could learn from Venezuela about using the many dollars generated from oil revenues and put it towards social programs, because if you look around more and more Albertans are moving from middle class to living in poverty.

Later on we listened to Heather Mallick who is a columnist for the Globe and Mail; she spoke on everything from the Dupont Teflon disputes, to the \$400.00 gifts we will be receiving. Is it a payout? In my opinion, what else could it be, *I mean our health care is in fantastic order, our infrastructure is in great shape, our schools are teaching to the fullest. I say BULL@#*%.* They should put all the monies they took for the last decade back where it belongs, into our social programs.

After lunch I went to a sustainability forum. The two speakers were very interesting with their topic of choice. They spoke about our environment and what we can do to help lessen the impact of damage we do as individuals.

The final speaker, Senator Emeritus Douglas Roche, O.C., was as enlightening as the first speaker. He spoke on human rights to weapons of mass destruction. He is very much against violence, which is probably why he was given the Ghandi, King, Ikeda Award for “dedication to peace, unity, and non violence”. He was also given the Canadian Islamic Congress Award for Peace. He believes a lot can be solved with peace. Most of us could learn something from this man.

So in conclusion I would like to express my thanks once again for this opportunity to attend these seminars. I feel that I was educated a lot from the teachings of these people.

R.M.Batty

Kids Christmas Party 2005



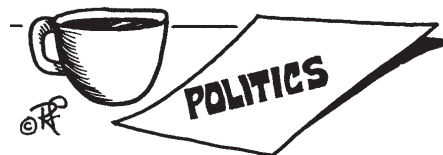
Well this year was the last year in which I was able to attend the kids Christmas party hosted by CUPE Local 30. Over the years I have had lots of fun at this party. It's one of the only days of the year in which I am able to have hot dogs and ice cream for breakfast. Over the years I have enjoyed the gifts Santa brings us, but none more than this year as Santa brought me a great watch. I know I'm getting too old for kids Christmas parties when the gifts Santa brings are no longer toys, but practical items like watches or flashlights. My family has had lots of fun enjoying all that is offered at the Christmas party, from the sleigh rides, even the year my dad lost the keys to his car on the ride, to the face painting and balloon animals and not to mention the hot dogs for breakfast. Thank you CUPE Local 30 for the great times over the past several winters. Even though this was my last party as a kid, I may return in the future as an elf to help Santa.
Joshua Scott

****This years kids' X-mas party is on Dec 2, 2006**
Deadline for registration is November 17th**

*****We would like to send a welcome to the town of Bon Accord and the town of Thorsby which have become a part of the CUPE Local 30 Union Membership*****

Don't forget to Vote!!

**WAKE UP AND SMELL
THE COFFEE**



Give Aways at the last three general meetings:

- October, two \$50 gift certificates to The Keg and two Olympic sponsor back packs
- November, 2 \$50 Gift Certificates to Tony Romas
- December, Big Turkey Draw