

Mine Mill Health & Safety Committees



Local 598/CAW Newsletter

Issued by Mine Mill Local 598/CAW

December 2009

Any opinions or views expressed in this publication are those of the contributor and are not necessarily the opinions or views of Local 598, the CAW or the Newsletter Committee and neither Local 598, the CAW nor the Newsletter Committee accepts responsibility for them

Christmas 2009

Well, here we are once again in the Christmas season. I would like to extend my wishes for all to have a happy holiday season with family and friends,

I always like to use this time to reflect on just how fortunate I am. To have so much and really appreciate what I do have.

Sometimes we get so caught up in what we do not have that we really forget to appreciate the things that we have, be it family and friends, or some tangible that allows us to have that good standard of life.

We can often forget about others. This year was certainly a tough one for many, only looking out my window reminds me of this. I like to pledge that I will work towards making my home, and workplace and community, a better place and that I contributed somehow towards this.

In closing, I ask we consider others in our daily lives.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

Yours in Solidarity,
Brother Denis Felix Chartrand,
JHSC Member/Guide



It's the Season to be Jolly tralalalalalalala

Can't believe that it's that time already – I'm not complaining, as I said before, this to me is the best time of the year. I hope it is for you too.

Christmas to me is all about family and friends. The house is full of people; table covered with food, the Christmas tree is packed full of gifts and the beer fridge too. I cannot help but feel so fortunate for this, but for many people Christmas this year will not be so good. Some of them lost their jobs, others are on strike and some even worse, and they all do not even have a home, family or friends.

Well I know how it is to loose your job and being on strike, but no home, family or friends, I cannot image this. A lot of people are in that predicament for whatever reason. I really feel for them.

This year every charity is hurting - United Way, food banks, Red Cross etc – all need extra funding because of this recession. (If our government would do their job, it would be a lot better but we all know that they are the reason for all of this in the first place). So try to give just a bit more or visit someone you know that could use a little extra something and do your share. You will not only feel special, but you will make someone else feel happy.

With all the Christmas cheer and refreshments, we all know that drinking and driving is a NO! NO! So please do not DRINK AND DRIVE.

On behalf of the JHSC in the Mill have you a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Guy Sonier

OUR FUTURE – YOUR FATE

Strength, courage vs. weakness, invalid complaints

It's time for some to get their backsides off the sidelines and get involved.

Sometimes in moving forward, we have to look back. With this said, I would like to bring forward a series, reviewing our historic past in our upcoming issues.

Our roots started when a small group of miners created the Western Federation of Miners established in 1893. After the disastrous strike of 1892 in the State of Idaho, a small group of forty-some delegates made up from several different unions within the Western United States meet and drew up the Western Federation of Miners' first constitution.

In the 1901 convention, the WFM proclaimed that a “complete revolution of social and economic conditions was the only salvation of the working classes”, with the WFM leaders openly calling for the abolition of the wage system.

By 1903, this union quickly became known as a radical labor union with

a gained reputation for the most militant union in North America.

In their efforts to organize both hard rock and smelter workers, this brought them into sharp conflict and often pitched battles with employers and governmental authorities.

The Roseland Miners Union from British Columbia became Canada's first recorded Local in 1895, spreading through the continent, with Sudbury's first Local - Local 182, being Garson Mine in 1913, was brought forward from a strong show of solidarity for a fellow worker.

Although the Local only survived a short duration, it set the footprint in the Sudbury basin.

In 1916, the WFM changed its name to the International Union of Mine Mill and Smelter Workers.

To be continued:
Denis “Felix” Chartrand

