

The Wire

The Newsletter of the Reinforcing Steel Industry of Canada

To promote and support REINFORCING CONCRETE as the most effective and efficient CONSTRUCTION METHOD.

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The Wire!

We are always looking for content. To make it really yours and meaningful please feel free to share your local events, concerns, thoughts or suggestions with us. We will read all submissions and try and provide a usefull vehicle to provide this information throughout the industry. Editorial copy is great. Pictures even better. Please submit them to Laura at the RSIC office by sending them to administrator@rebar.org

From the President



This is the fourth edition of "The Wire" and as you will see by the reports, the RSIC has been very busy. I would like to welcome to the Board of Directors, Ben Zurbrigg, VP Sales and Marketing, Alta Steel, Edmonton and Don Shahan, Contract Manager, Harris Rebar, Vancouver. We are very

proud to have Ben and Don join the board to help us guide the industry through the next era of the Rebar Industry.

Banff Alberta was an awesome choice for the 2017 RSIC AGM and Convention. From the hospitality of the Moose Hotel, to great golf at Banff springs GC, to a western dinner and dancing at Wild Bill's Saloon, to the adventures of exploring around Banff, Lake Louise, Canmore and nearby area - a

great time was had by all. The AGM was fruitful with excellent speakers on Safety and Labour in Construction from the Albertan Ministry of Labour. An enthusiastic roundtable discussion by the membership had many hot topics discussed, such as Engineered Wood Structures, High Strength Rebar and the future of Rebar.

Two new committees have been struck in Saskatchewan and Alberta lead by Ben Zurbrigg, and Don Shahan respectively. We are endeavouring to have a committee in Eastern Canada as well.

The much anticipated newly revised MOSP will be out soon. The Manual will be available in an electronic downloadable version and later in the fall in a mobile version.

The Board has finished its annual Planning Session in which succession planning is a priority. Succession is progressing well with the addition of Ben and Don to the Board. Financially we are strong in both Balance Sheet and Operating. The Board monitors and encourages the committee's in areas of Marketing, Safety, Detailer Certification, Technical and Social as well as the two new ones in the west.

We are working with the CSA to update the specification G30.18 2019 version, and soon the A23.3 R19 version. Ongoing discussions also follow developments in High Strength Steel and the new Tariff's which you can read more about in the reports included in this version of The Wire.

I had the privilege of attending and speaking at the Ironworkers Council Conference in Florida which was held in conjunction with the RSIO Labour Relations Bureau. The presentation was on the structure and workings of the RSIO and the RSIC.

Roger Hubbard

COMMITTEE NEWS

Marketing Committee

The marketing committee has been busy this last few months on a few different projects.

Our main mission for the year is to increase manual sales. We have been reaching out to placing unions, member, and non-member fabricators across the country with the goal of re-introducing and boosting our manual sales. We intend to continue with this focus for the foreseeable future with the goal of seeing almost all rodmen in the country with a copy of the RSIC Placing Manual. When the new edition of the Manual of Standard Practice is released we intend to make it a priority to get it in front of as many engineers, GC's, developers, fabricators and the like as possible.

Another initiative of ours has been the creation of a LinkedIn account. We have recently created the account and are starting to populate it with info. Our goal is to get closer to a wider range of connections and information than our website currently offers. With the LinkedIn account we will be to provide more regular updates on industry and rebar related news as well as get connected with more industry and rebar related associations, companies and people. Once we are up and running we'll send out an update to our members to get connected.

As always, we have been busy with trade shows. In early 2018 the RSIC exhibited at the inaugural Canadian Concrete Expo in Toronto. The show was a big success with many visitors to our booth who all had a direct interest in concrete construction and its related products. Next years show is Feb.6-7 and we highly recommend attending if you're in Toronto at the time. Also at the Expo, Rick Dozzi represented the RSIC with a seminar on the updates to the new RSIC Manual of Standard Practice. The presentation and discussion was very well received. Please visit www.canadianconcreteexpo.com for more information on next years show. In addition, the RSIC has attended the Buildex Vancouver show and are already committed to the Buildex Calgary on November 7-9th. As always, we'll be exhibiting at the Construct Canada Buildings Show from November 28th-30th in Toronto.

We're looking forward to continuing our goals of increasing membership, increasing Manual sales and helping to promote reinforcing steel as the most efficient and effective construction method.



Technical Committee

While the RSIC manual was fully reviewed and was being edited by the graphic people, the committee has received new changes from the industry and comments from



members. as well they have found errors, shifting of the pages and resolution drop due to multiple changes on different dates !

It became necessary that the technical committee resume their activity on the review and correction in order to publish the manual ASAP.

Since late March the committee has gathered for five more group sessions and few more meetings between individuals, some sessions were as long as 9:00am to 9:00pm.

They have rectified most recent comments and changes and the graphic team are now finalizing the manual.

After consulting with the board of directors it is decided that the manual will be offered electronically as a pdf document and will be distributed in a more accessible by the entire construction industry.

Safety Committee

There have been many topics discussed over the last number of months that affect the Health and Safety of all Reinforcing Steel industry workers. Following is a summary of some of the key topics covered.

IHSA Rebar Capping Bulletin

The IHSA began distributing the bulletin as of June 7, 2017. It is being included in their communications IHSA's L-M Network of committees.



MOL Working at Heights

The Ministry of Labour has now approved a 3 ½ hour 'refresher' training for Working at Heights that will be valid for 3 years for workers who have successfully completed the full WAH training from an approved training provider. See the following link for more information. <https://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/faqs/wah.php#construction>

MOL Accreditation Framework Consultation

The MOL's consultation phases for their new Accreditation and Employer Recognition Program is being discussed. They will have an organization set a H&S management system which may include sector specific hazards and employers can receive certification from one of the approved organizations. Existing H&S



management systems that meet the accreditation standard like COR can be accredited by MOL. This is at the consultation stage for employers who want to register to participate in their consultation workshops.



Job Hazard Analysis

For JHA's/PSI's being done for non-routine tasks in shops and/or daily at start of work in the field, it is important to grade hazards without controls in place to understand the full risks. Once controls are in place, grade again to see if risks are acceptable level. Grading risks initially without controls helps workers understand the TRUE risks associated with a task. IHSA does a one-day risk assessment course. There can be both generic JHA's for a job + task specific assessments as new hazards introduced to the work or job tasks change.



Fit for Duty Workshop

RSIC arranged for a guest speaker at annual meeting about being 'fit for work'. In light of the legalization of cannabis coming in October, employers need to have the tools to deal with employees that may be impaired.

Impact Foreman Training

The Ironworker foreman is the primary link between the employer and the union. The foreman works to ensure that work is done safely, on time, and according to standards and specifications. Foreman

Training for Ironworkers is a course designed to help develop skilled Ironworker foremen. The highly interactive course educates the participants on the roles and responsibilities of the foreman including how to create an effective work team, communicate effectively, apply problem-solving skills, document and maintain records, maintain labor management relations, plan and schedule work, implement a safety program and ensure the quality of work. IMPACT has been requested for this seminar to be held in Toronto later this spring, scheduling to be confirmed. April 3, 2018 8.



OGCA (Ontario General Contractors Association) Safety Pass

The Ontario General Contractors Association (OGCA) will be launching a new safety tool for all general contractors, sub trade associations and industry leaders who want to reduce training time and costs through one cohesive online health and safety orientation program. Safety Pass is an online course developed by the industry, for the industry and addresses key issues to support contractors and their workers in an effort to continually raise the bar for safety in our industry. The Safety Pass will ensure a consistent level of Health & Safety knowledge across the industry, allow workers to focus on site and hazard-specific training faster, reduce training duplication industry-wide, enable worker mobility. Workers do not have to re-take The Safety Pass when they start a new job.

MOL Industrial Establishments Regulation Amendment Proposals

We're reviewing the Ministry of Labour proposed amendments to some Industrial Regulations to bring them more in line with similar regulations from the Construction/Mining Regulations.

Social Committee

The Social Committee hosted the RSIC Annual Golf Tournament in late May at the Eagles Nest Golf Club in Maple, Ontario.



It was a beautiful, sunny and we had a full field. Prizes for Golf Town were handed out to the Closest to the Pin, Longest Drive, Best Net & Best Gross winners. This year's Gross Champion was Dan Rust from Harris Rebar, and this years Net Champion was Chris Seon from Salit Steel! It was another successful tournament and we're looking forward to the next one at the RSIC Convention! You don't want to miss it!

The 2018 AGM Meeting & Convention will take place

taboo
MUSKOKA



at the beautiful Taboo Muskoka Resort in Gravenhurst, ON from Thursday, September 13 – Sunday, September 16. Registration sheets have been distributed and we're looking forward to another successful AGM. We welcome all members across Canada and the U.S. to attend and make it a memorable weekend amongst industry colleagues.

OCCDC News

The Ontario Cast-in-Place Concrete Development Council continues to be one of the major supporters of the Ontario Concrete Awards program that is held every year at the Construct Canada / World of Concrete Pavillion tradeshow at the end of November. This year OCCDC has created three new case studies that highlight the effective use of reinforced concrete on the following projects:

- University of Toronto Mississauga Campus – Environmental Science & Chemistry Building
- The York University TTC Subway Station
- The National Holocaust Museum

Additionally, OCCDC is also a sponsorer of the Ontario Association of Architects AGM and Conference that is taking place at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre from May 23 to 25. At this event, OCCDC will have both a tradeshow booth to interact with the participants of the conference as well as hosting a “Lunch & Learn” on Wednesday, May 23 with Architects from Diamond Schmitt Architects presenting on their award-winning Environmental Science & Chemistry Building. OCCDC are looking possibly to have Professor Straube present at the Concrete Canada instead doing a Round Table as we normally do.

New OCCDC case studies. [Click here to view.](#)

COCA News

Construction Lien Act Revisions

Bill 142, Construction Lien Amendment Act, 2017, received Royal Assent on December 12, 2017, but the implementations of the changes will be staggered. The Ministry anticipates the regulations that support the modernization of the Construction Lien Act will become effective in the summer of 2018 and that the amendments related to prompt payment, adjudication and liens against municipalities will take effect late in 2019. Keep an eye out for information sessions and training about the changes from your local construction associations and various law firms as the information becomes available.

Bill 148

COCA has joined forces with the Construction Employer Coordination Council of Ontario (CECCO) and the Electrical Power System Construction Association (EPSCA) to seek relief from some of the new provisions of the recent amendments to the Employment Standards Act that came into force with the passage of Bill 148 Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act 2017. Specifically, we are working together to seek relief from the Personal Emergency Leave (PEL), scheduling and vacation provisions.

Western Canada Update

As mentioned two new committees and been struck and work has begun, attending the Buildex shows in both Calgary and Vancouver. Calgary was sparsely attended while Vancouver had a very good attendance showing good interest.

A golf tournament was held in Calgary in early June with 24 golfers enjoying a great day, good food and great discussions. Next year is being planned already in the Kelowna area.

Lastly, ongoing committee meetings with WorkSafe BC to publish a Bulletin concerning working at heights and Fall hazards continues. Look for more information this autumn.

Tarrif Update

What is going on?

On March 8, 2018 Donald Trump signed Section 232, a Presidential order which put in place a 25% tariff on steel imported into the USA from all countries effective March 23, 2018. Shortly after announcing this intention the USA followed up with a second announcement wherein Canada and Mexico were granted temporary exclusions. As you may now be aware Canada's temporary exclusion came to an end effective June 1, 2018 meaning Canada is now subject to Section 232 tariffs.

What does this mean?

All steel products exported into the USA under harmonized codes 72.06.10 through 7216.50, 7216.99 through 7301.00, 7302.10, 7203.40 through 7302.90 and 7304.10 through 7306.90 now incur a 25% tariff when they cross the Canadian border into the USA; un fabricated rebar is one of the products covered by the Section 232 Presidential order.

So what? I'm a rebar fabricator and I don't ship to the USA....

On May 31, 2018 Canada announced their intention to impose countermeasures against the USA in response to the imposition of Section 232 tariffs on Canada. These countermeasures will take effect on July 1, 2018 and will apply to the same harmonized codes named in Section 232, as well as a wide array of other products (list can be found here: <https://www.fin.gc.ca/activty/consult/cacsap-cmpcaa-eng.asp>). Should a trade resolution not be reached prior to July 1, 2018, the Canadian government, with immediate effect will impose a 25% tariff on steel and other products including un fabricated rebar shipped to Canada from the USA. It is understood that the Canadian countermeasure will remain in place so long as Section 232 is imposed on Canada.

That's OK, I'll avoid tariffs by purchasing steel from overseas...

Through the media the Canadian Government has indicated that safeguard measures are being contemplated in an effort to protect the Canadian steel industry. The measures being contemplated are said to be a combination of quotas and tariffs aimed at preventing steel producing countries around the world from causing harm to the Canadian steel industry through the dumping of steel that would otherwise be exported to the USA prior to the imposition of the current tariff regime. To date the Canadian Government has not provided a timeline indicating when safeguard measures could take effect. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-06-26/canada-said-to-prepare-steel-quotas-tariffs-on-china-others>

So what next?

With tariffs set to apply to USA origin steel and the potential for tariffs to apply to steel originating from all other steel producing countries consumers should expect to see prices increase. The magnitude, timing and duration of these increases is largely unknown at this time. However consumers should be aware that effective July 1, 2018 steel shipped from the USA to Canada will incur a 25% tariff (calculated on the value of steel, excluding freight). This tariff is payable to the Canadian Government and is the responsibility of the importer of record.

PLACING MANUAL

Remember to keep your team equipped with our *Reinforcing Bars Placing Manual.*

This is the most comprehensive publication with regards to everything there is to know about installation of rebar. Click n the manual picture to buy direct from our website.

