

## Memorial at Jack Point Park Honours Victims of Nanaimo Mill Shooting



Approximately 100 people watched Lorraine McEachern and Marlene Lunn unveil the plaque at Jack Point Park that honours their husbands.

A dedication ceremony for a memorial lookout point in Nanaimo's Jack Point Park was held on April 23rd. The lookout honours Fred McEachern and Mike Lunn, who died in a shooting at Nanaimo's Western Forest Products mill in April 2014.

A former mill employee was charged with two counts of first-degree murder, along with two counts of attempted murder for alleged attacks on two other workers.

Last year's construction of the lookout, located a short walk from the Duke Point ferry terminal, was a co-operative effort involving United Steelworkers Local 1-1937, Western Forest Products, the City of Nanaimo and the Snuneymuxw First Nation.



## Choose To Save Lives – Actively Participate in a Safety Culture

The 2016 Interior Safety Conference is scheduled for May 7th. Building on the success of the Northern BC Forest Safety Conference, the forest industry is holding a similar event in the BC's Interior.

This event is being held in partnership with the Interior Logging Association Conference which is being held on May 6 and 7, 2016, also at the Vernon Atrium Hotel & Conference Centre.

The conference will bring the latest health and safety information to those working in the forest industry.

For more information, please contact Gerard Messier (BC Forest Safety Council) at 1-877-741-1060 or by email at Gerard.Messier@bcforestsafes.org.

## Coming Events

May 1-7 NAOSH Week

May 2-8 Mental Health Week, CMHA

May 5-6 ILA Conference, Vernon, B.C.

May 7 Interior Safety Conference, Vernon, B.C.

May 30-31 Upper Island Safety Conference, Campbell River, B.C.

June 6-17 BC Fed OH&S Summer School, Whistler, B.C.

June 13-14 Workplace Mental Health 2016, Toronto, Ont.

## Walk to End Workplace Violence



Hundreds of people marked the sombre anniversary in Nanaimo on April 30th by participating in the Redshirt Foundation's Walk to End Workplace Violence.

It was two years to the day that a shooting occurred at the now closed Western Forest Products mill.

Michael Lunn and Fred McEachern were killed and Tony Sudar and Earl Kelly were wounded.

The alleged shooter is scheduled to stand trial in September.

In the wake of the shooting, Marlene and Marcy Lunn and a group of friends formed the Red Shirt Foundation – after Michael's love of red T-shirts – which has a goal of raising awareness of workplace violence.

The foundation has recently conducted a research project, surveying five mills. The SAFER Council along with representatives of the United Steelworkers and representatives of the forest industry employers helped to facilitate the surveying of workers.

The objectives of the research were:

1. To understand what behaviors managers and union define as workplace violence.
2. To understand managers' and the union's experiences of workplace violence.
3. To understand what are the drivers of workplace violence in sawmills in BC.
4. To understand what signals the prevalence of workplace violence in sawmills.
5. To understand the consequences of workplace violence in sawmills.
6. To understand to what degree can we STOP workplace violence. in sawmills.

## HAZARD ALERT

Injury: Concussion, laceration, upper body injuries

Industry: Forestry

Core Activity: Cable or hi-lead logging

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.

Date of Incident: 2016-Apr

A supersnorkel (log loader) came too close to the edge of the road on a steep switchback. The machine rolled down the low side bank.

Injury: Amputation injuries to fingers

Industry: Manufacturing - Wood & Paper Products

Core Activity: Manufacture of outdoor wooden products

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Incident: 2016-Mar

A worker sustained a serious hand injury while attempting to clear a board jammed in a wood planer.

Injury: Serious injuries

Industry: Forestry

Core Activity: Manual tree falling and bucking

Location: Vancouver Island/Coastal B.C.

Date of Incident: 2016-Apr

A certified manual faller was struck by a limb that fell from a standing tree after he had just felled another tree.

Injury: Lacerations and fractures to hand

Industry: Manufacturing - Wood & Paper Products

Core Activity: Wooden component manufacture

Location: Interior B.C.

Date of Incident: 2016-Mar

A worker reached into a sawmill moulder to remove a piece of wood before the machine had come to a complete stop. His hand contacted the rotating moulder knives.

Injury: Fatal

Industry: Forestry

Core Activity: Cable or hi-lead logging

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Incident: 2016-Apr

A worker operating a log yarder was fatally injured when the steel spar on the yarder collapsed and crushed the operator's cab.

Injury: Close call

Industry: Manufacturing - Wood & Paper Products

Core Activity: Wooden component manufacture

Location: Interior B.C.

Date of Incident: 2016-Mar

An outside baghouse (an enclosed wood dust collection system that uses filter bags) caught fire when a mechanical fan bearing failed. There were no injuries, and the local fire department responded to and extinguished the fire. Fire damage was minor and limited to individual baghouse filter bags.

## April 28th Marks Day of Mourning Ceremonies Across British Columbia

Every year we commemorate April 28 as a day to remember those who have been killed or injured because of their work. The April 28 Day of Mourning is now recognized in more than one hundred countries world wide. Last year in BC, according to WorkSafe BC, 122 workers died from workplace injury and disease.



In Port Alberni Courtenay-Alberni Member of Parliament Gord Johns lays a carnation in memory of killed and injured workers.

Wearing black armbands, employees of Merritt's Tolko sawmill gathered outside their office around a half-mast United Steelworkers flag to recognize the National Day of Mourning.

The mill hasn't had an incident that resulted in an employee missing work since June 22 of 2015.

USW Local 1-417 safety director and SAFER Council director Harbinder Hara said, "these achievements are a reflection of the changes the mill made to its safety program last year. One change

was increasing the frequency of safety talks with crews at work." Hara said, "the mill went from one safety talk per month to bi-monthly talks and currently has these talks bi-weekly." He added "they investigate where accidents occur in the mill and what body parts are being hurt, focusing safety education on those areas."



Tolko Merritt crew took time to pay respect to workers injured and killed. Courtesy Merritt Herald

SAFER Council  
#300 3920 Norland Ave.  
Burnaby BC, V5G 4K7  
Phone 604 683 1117  
Fax 604 688 6416  
Contact: Rosanne Grazier  
rgrazier@usw.ca



SHARP Trustees  
Suite 400 - 299 Victoria St.  
Prince George, BC V2L 5B8  
Phone: (250) 564-5166  
Fax: (250) 563-3124  
Contact: Cam Meroniuk  
cam@conifer.ca