

Building our new home

Mine Mill 598/CAW ground breaking ceremony

May 20, 2010

Welcome to the future site of a new era. We are finally here, after several years of hard work and planning.

I would like to thank all the past Presidents of our local that have worked so hard at maintaining and promoting Local 598 Mine Mill 598/CAW commitment to our community and our great City.

This new administration building (our home) will promote and enhance this commitment and ensures our future here, as a labour organization, in the City of Greater Sudbury. In upgrading our 35 acres on Richard Lake, our local has made a commitment to improve this area and allow the public more access to recreational activities.

The local has had this property since 1952 when our membership was twenty thousand. In the mid sixties the membership changed and we were left only with the Xstrata Nickel (Falconbridge) membership of 3900 members. Over the years it dropped to 650 after the latest lay off, but with the assistance of our CAW National office and our Community Based Organizer, Anne-Marie McInnis, we have grown to be 17 companies strong with over 1600 members.

In the fifties and sixties the property was a large camping ground with a beautiful sandy beach which families could enjoy. In the seventies, eighties and nineties most of the luster and buildings were lost due to a shrinking membership and more public beaches downtown.

In 2007, we formed a coalition with the Mine Mill 598/CAW retirees Chapter, the Métis Nation of Ontario, the Ontario Freedom Riders, the Richard Lake Stewardship Community Committee and most recently working with the local First Nations on several projects and events.

Last year, the coalition applied to the Trillium Grant Foundation and received a grant to upgrade and fix some existing buildings on the grounds, to purchase camping tents and equipment. We also are planning on re-establishing the ball field for the community and the Métis Nation of Ontario will set their large tent up again for this season.

We are a Union that is not afraid to look towards the future and because of that , this building will be have new state of the art training rooms and offices, will be green and will have the features of having totally geothermal heating and cooling systems. The inside of the building will have enhanced insulation values such as double outside walls, triple glaze pane and gold plated windows, energy efficient lighting, etc...

In order to maintain the prestige look of our campground and blending in with our natural resources, the layout and outside look will ensures this happens.

All of this is made possible because of the accepted vision of the CAW membership, the Executive Board, the Mine Mill 598 CAW Retirees Chapter, the past Presidents, the coalition, the City of Greater Sudbury, the mayor Mr. John Rodriguez and his council and of course the builder of this fascinating building, Mr. Peter Nault from Northern Home Builders, all our volunteers, other labour organizations and finally our community. We are very thankful for your hard work, your commitment to this project and continued support.

Thank you very much for being part of this event as you have witnessed the beginning of a new era with the construction of our new home here at Richard Lake.

Richard Paquin

President

Mine Mill 598/CAW