

199 News

CAW  199
NIAGARA

The official publication of CAW Local 199

Proudly celebrating over 70 years in the community

NOVEMBER
2008
DECEMBER

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS WEDNESDAY, JAN 21, 2008 - CAW 199 HALL - 124 BUNTING RD.

*Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year*

From Your 199 Executive Board



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REPORT

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REPORT/ H&S

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GET
INVOLVED!

GM Unit

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DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF 199 NEWS IS MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2009

REMEMBERING BROTHER JOHN WASHUTA

Brother John Washuta passed away on September 9, 2008 at the age of 85. Brother Washuta worked at General Motors for 34 years. He served our membership for several years as the GM Unit Plant Chairperson in the 1970s and as UAW Local 199 President from 1976 to 1979.



I first saw Brother Washuta speak at a rally in Montebello Park on October 14, 1976 on the occasion of the Canada-wide work stoppage to protest the Trudeau government's anti-worker wage controls program. Brother Washuta spoke as the president of UAW Local 199 and shared the stage with then St. Catharines and District Labour Council President and Local 199 icon Gordon Lambert.

I knew Brother Washuta as a member of St. Catharines City Council for many years representing my ward. His son Greg subsequently replaced him holding the same position on City Council. In doing so, Greg continued the tradition of his father in being a voice supportive of organized labour.

Brother John Washuta's time on City Council and his time holding top leadership positions in Local 199 comprised an exceptional record of service to members of Local 199 and to our community. We are indebted to him for all of his contributions. He will be missed.



As 2008 draws to an end we approach the New Year with much anxiety. This past year has left us with too much unfinished business and in many cases with no business left at all. The economic crisis looms heavy upon our communities. People don't know whether to spend or to save. Many face uncertainty as to whether they will have a job or face a lay-off. There is no sure answer as to what will happen next and though the effects of this economic trauma are quite unpleasant we must stop becoming a society that eats it's own.

It is important to always understand that people are the only asset that can make a society prosperous. It is about interesting principles and NOT about principals with interest. It is about looking after each other in hard times and it is about sharing the true wealth.

We will get through these tough times as long as we stay united and realize that families and friends are what accounts for our true self worth. Measure your wealth by your greatest riches.

Great health and great happiness to all!

caw199news@hotmail.com

Suz



SUSAN ERSKINE-FOURNIER - EDITOR

The opinions and views expressed in this paper are not necessarily the opinions and views of the editor, the editorial board, and or CAW Local 199

EDITORIAL BOARD

**WAYNE GATES
BRUCE ALLEN
MALCOLM ALLEN**

WHO WE ARE

AN AMALGAMATED UNION INCLUDING
THE FOLLOWING BARGAINING UNITS:

- BORDER PONTIAC
- BRIAN CULLEN MOTORS
- BRUNNER MFG.
- COUTTS LIBRARY SERVICE
- DAVID CHEV / OLDS
- ED LEARN FORD
- EDSCHA
- FIRSTONTARIO CREDIT UNION
- FORBES FORD
- GENERAL MOTORS
- GENAIRE
- IAFRATE MACHINE WORKS
- JOHN BEAR PONTIAC BUICK LIMITED
- NIAGARA MOTORS
- NEPTUNUS
- SECURITAS FIRE & SECURITY
- SENECA MANUFACTURING
- TORA

LOCATION

CAW LOCAL 199 IS LOCATED AT
124 BUNTING ROAD,
ST. CATHARINES, ON
L2P-3G5

PHONE: 905.682.2611

FAX: 905.682.9393

E-MAIL: caw199@vaxxine.com

WEB SITE: <http://www.caw199.com>

REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS:

MONDAY -THURSDAY: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

FRIDAY: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

FOR HALL RENTALS CALL 905.682.7616

MEETINGS

CAW LOCAL 199

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

HELD THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF
EACH MONTH AT 6:00 PM (EXCEPT
JULY AND AUGUST)

ISSUED BY

**THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
LOCAL 199 CAW**

WAYNE GATES,

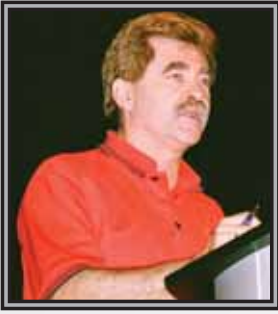
BRUCE ALLEN,

MALCOLM ALLEN, MARK ROY,

BARB ABRAMS, RON ALLEN, JULIE BARTFAI,

GARY BRADNAM, LARRY GREENHALGH,

ALEX LATHAM, GARY MARTIN, TERRY WHITE



President's Report by Wayne Gates

The Executive Board of Local 199 unanimously supported our Financial Secretary-Treasurer Malcolm Allen for M.P. of the Welland riding. The result was Malcolm being elected as the new NDP/M.P. of the riding. Malcolm couldn't have won without the tremendous support of the active and retired members of Local 199. The entire membership would like to congratulate Malcolm and thank him for his many years as an elected skilled trades rep. in the plant and his 8 ½ years as Financial Secretary-Treasurer of our local. We believe Malcolm is the best person to represent the communities of the Welland riding. We look forward to working closely with our CAW M.P. on issues that are important to our active and retired members, our communities and families. Some of these issues will be our jobs, pensions and health care.

AROUND THE LOCAL

NEPTUNUS YACHTS INC.

For the last year we have watched as the company has laid off all of our members of this unit. At this facility the members build luxury yachts which sold for between 1.5 and 3 million dollars. (See photos below) The quality and productivity of our highly skilled workforce at Neptunus was excellent.

We had a number of issues with this employer over the last year. The employer had a downturn in sales due to the increase in value of the Canadian dollar. As a result, in March 2008 the employer implemented its final layoff of employees and it ceased operations.

We filed our grievances on behalf of our members at Neptunus: Remit to the union dues deducted from the employees pay cheques.

Forward to the benefit carrier Great West Life monies deducted from employees pay cheques to cover their share of the cost of premiums for benefit coverage for the first three (3) months of their layoff.

Pay termination pay in lieu of providing notice of termination of certain employees laid off in 2008, pursuant to Section 57 and 61 of the Employment Standard Act. (ESA)

Pay severance to employees who were laid off and who had five (5) years of service with the employer pursuant to Section 64 and 65 of the ESA.

These four grievances went to arbitration and the grievances were upheld; and the employer was ordered to pay:

\$6,934.48 to be paid to Local 199 for non-remittance of union dues.

\$16,500 for non-remittance of monies deducted for benefit coverage.



\$298,767.20 for failure to pay termination pay in lieu of notice of termination to the relevant employees pursuant to Section 57 and 61 of the ESA.

\$350,691.89 for failure to pay severance owed to the relevant employees pursuant to Section 64 and 65 of the ESA.

I would like to thank the membership of Neptunus for their support. I would also like to thank Chairperson Randy Wedler and National Representative Doug Orr. Without their support and hard work, this award wouldn't have happened.

...con't on page 4

BRUNNER MANUFACTURING

Early in the bargaining process, the company tabled concessionary demands that included a two-tier wage structure, co-pay for healthcare benefits, changes to classification wage table and no language changes. The company told us they had lost money over the past two (2) years and cited intense competition, a slowing of the U.S. economy, the rapid rise of the Canadian dollar and increase cost of steel and oil. We didn't dispute an unhealthy business environment exists. Forming a collective agreement in today's environment poses significant challenges. I'm proud to report the bargaining committee resisted all concessionary demands of the employer. We are also proud to report we have a new three (3) year collective agreement which maintains our health care benefits, improves wages throughout the life of the agreement and addresses an important issue to our members that management would cease. Performing bargaining unit work as well as strengthening job posting language and the grievance procedure. The membership ratified the new three (3) year collective agreement by 88%.

I would like to thank the bargaining committee of Bob Lohrke-Chairperson, Tim Koop and Bruce Burke-Committeepersons, and CAW National Rep. Doug Orr.

NIAGARA MOTORS

We have a new three (3) year collective agreement at Niagara Motors. The bargaining committee would like to thank our members for their patience and support during difficult and extended contract negotiations.

We also want to thank the members for your strong strike vote which assisted our committee in being able to make additional improvements to the contract in the final hours of bargaining. The ratification vote was 76%. Highlights: improved vacation entitlement, improved bereavement leave, improved prescription glasses and vision care, improved health and safety, increased company paid portion of benefits, increased wages (2% per year of agreement). There was also a signing bonus.

I would like to thank chairperson Rob Kocis, committeeperson Laura Mark and National rep. Mike Menicanin for the hard work at the bargaining table.

IAFRATE MACHINE WORKS

The bargaining committee expected this round of bargaining to be remarkably difficult due to external economic factors. The high Canadian dollar, price increases in steel and of course, continued reduction of plant volumes created a perfect storm. The employer tabled concessionary proposals to take away the vacation bonus, create a co-pay benefit structure and reduce in plant representation. The bargaining committee resisted all company concessions and have agreed to a one (1) year collective agreement which maintains wages and benefits at today's level and language changes that will enhance our member's rights in the plant.

I would like to thank chairperson Darren Perkin, committeepersons Kurt Dollinger and Kevin Juras for their commitment to their membership in a tough economic time.

I would also like to thank Gary Bradnam who filled in during the bargaining process when I was off work. Gary is the unit chairperson of all the other units of Local 199. The membership of Iafate ratified the collective agreement by 100%.

IN CLOSING...

I would like to personally thank the membership of Local 199 for their support prior to and after my surgery. On behalf of myself, my wife Rita and our three daughters Tara, Chantel and Jacqueline we would like to wish everyone a safe and healthy Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

REMEMBER...DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!



THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

by: **Mark Roy, Recording Secretary**

To no one's surprise, a recent census report indicates that the pro-business free trade policies of the past 25 years have seriously damaged the economic well being of most Canadians.

Despite assurances from a gaggle of so-called experts, our economy is **not** fundamentally sound. The bailouts from Wall Street for corporations, and the nationalization of banks in the world's dominate capitalist country (once thought a mockery just a few short months ago) have now become a reality.

Because of failure of the global financial system, an opportunity for working people to re-assert ourselves as vital to the recovery of our economy genuinely exists. No longer can western countries decree the only way to prosperity is through the market. For the past quarter century, this neo liberal model has been the dominant force in the global economic forum and as a result, we have witnessed good paying jobs lost in all sectors most notably in manufacturing. Economists of all stripes agree that between 400,000 to 500,000 manufacturing jobs have left Canada for foreign shores. To

make matters worse government policy on trade and investment has allowed the unprecedented sale of our natural resources

and domestic businesses. What this means is our raw materials are exported very cheaply and then imported back as expensive finished product with the profits staying off shore, providing little or no benefit for Canadians.

All is not doom and gloom however. As I stated earlier, government has taken dramatic action to save the financial sector. These same governments can intervene just as drastically in the rest of our economy. A minority federal government in Canada allows us to get our agenda back on the table. Our government

can abrogate or renegotiate NAFTA, calling for fair-trade as opposed to free trade. Trade that protects our natural resources from foreign stewardship; reciprocal trade that benefits the population as opposed to corporations as well as producing an environmental policy that will actually accomplish improvements in our world ecosystem. To say this is impossible. I point out again that only months ago what we are witnessing now in the global markets would be considered impossible.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone and their families a very happy holiday and all the best in 2009!

**SOLIDARITY
FOREVER!**



ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF CANADA'S

AUTO INDUSTRY

135,000 DIRECT JOBS

440,000 JOBS (INCLUDING SPIN-OFFS)

\$94 BILLION IN SALES

ALMOST \$80 BILLION IN EXPORTS

\$8.8 BILLION IN PERSONAL INCOME (DIRECT JOBS ONLY)

\$2.2 BILLION IN PERSONAL INCOME TAXES (DIRECT JOBS ONLY)

\$430 MILLION IN MUNICIPAL TAXES

BIG 3 SUPPORTS 50,000 PENSIONERS (\$1 BIL/YR+)



INJURED WORKERS MUST BE ON POLITICAL AGENDA

by: Bruce Allen - Vice President

AVOID PRESCRIPTION CO-PAYS

Workers with occupational injuries who have had WSIB claims allowed for them are entitled to receive health care benefits and can have prescription medications prescribed for your occupational injuries paid for by the WSIB **without co-pays**. As long as medical findings provided by your treating physician demonstrate the need for these medications workers with occupational injuries not only do not need to pay the co-pays required in their employee benefit plans they should not. If you have an occupational injury get your treating physician to submit a written request for the needed prescriptions supported by medical findings and citing the applicable WSIB Claim number.

MALCOLM ALLEN

Malcolm Allen's election as the new NDP MP for the Welland- Thorold riding marked a historic accomplishment. It was the first time a member of Local 199 has been elected to either federal or provincial political office. During the election campaign I had the privilege of speaking at a campaign rally in Welland along with CAW National President Ken Lewenza in which I addressed the fact that workers need political leadership who know which side they are on and who is there with us. I look forward to seeing Malcolm Allen provide that kind of principled and focused political leadership in Ottawa.

JOHN DEERE CLOSURE

When John Deere announced the closure of its Welland Works in 2009 it said that the move would achieve a significant cost savings and improve its financial results. John Deere emphasized that, "The strong Canadian dollar continues to make this business financially challenging."

The Welland Works were not losing money. Since the closure announcement the market value of the Canadian dollar has dropped sharply meaning the operating costs of the Welland Works have also dropped sharply. Yet the plant is still being closed and neither the federal nor the provincial governments are trying to stop the closure of this plant.

The inaction of these governments under these circumstances and considering the devastating

human consequences the closure will have is nothing less than criminal negligence. What is more this situation demonstrates yet again that if we had strong provincial plant closure legislation which makes corporations truly accountable to their workers and our communities the devastating consequences of plant closures like this could be avoided.

In addition this particular closure demonstrates that the market value of the Canadian dollar is in some cases little more than a convenient excuse being used to conceal corporate greed and the relentless corporate drive to maximize profits with absolutely no regard for the human consequences.

CANDIDATE'S DEBATE

I recently attended a debate between the four candidates to replace Howard Hampton as the next ONDP leader. At the debate I questioned the candidates as to why the WSIB is so intensely disliked and what they felt needed to be done to put an end to the countless outrages perpetrated against injured workers in Ontario. The candidates' answers were all generally good and showed substantial familiarity with issues of concern to injured workers and their organizations. This illustrated the fact that the NDP is considerably better on injured workers' issues than the Liberals never mind the Tories.

Nonetheless it was no less clear to me that had I not posed my question about injured workers issues and Ontario's workers compensation, legislation would never have been discussed at the debate. This mirrors the fact that the concerns of injured workers are never seriously addressed during Ontario election campaigns and very few people raise them between those campaigns. This represents an inexcusable failure on the part of both the labour leadership and on the part of injured workers and their organizations to force these issues to the front of the political agenda in this province. This must change. But it will not change until injured workers become politically engaged in a serious way and become a force to be reckoned with that both politicians and labour leaders will ignore at their own peril.

**FOR WSIB CLAIMS
CONTACT BRUCE AT
THE UNION HALL
905-682-2611**

HEALTH & SAFETY REPRESENTATION: Both of us will be retiring January 1st 2009. Representing the membership and working with the leadership of Local 199 has been a great pleasure. The knowledge and experience gained was priceless.

We wish everyone the same opportunity to retire with good fortune & good health.

THE LAST WORD: With the company's plans to exit work, the future of the Ontario St. Plant looks bleaker every day. This does not mean that the Health & Safety of those still working has to be put in jeopardy. General Motors has always committed that the "HEALTH & SAFETY of its employees is the company's OVERRIDING PRIORITY". It is up to all of you who are still working to ensure that General Motors lives up to its commitment.

Over the years we have endeavored to resolve the Health & Safety concerns with our goal of eliminating the hazards in the workplace. Like our predecessors, we have been very successful in that respect and have also been successful with having strong contract language written that protects everyone. None of this would be possible without the collective support of you the membership and for that, we thank you.

Listed below are the some of the main concerns or hazards that you must insist are kept in check in

order to maintain a safe and healthy workplace.

Guarding on machinery is proper and in place, energy control procedures are up to date, metal-working fluids are maintained in good condition, air suction systems and their filters function when equipment is operating, fresh air units are supplying fresh air, slippery floor conditions and trip hazards are not present, preventative maintenance checks by skilled trades are completed on time, temperature of work areas are no less than 64 degrees Fahrenheit and that lighting not cause shadows or glare and be sufficient for the type of work.

Lastly, if you have a concern that anything in the workplace is a hazard that may harm you, take your concern to your supervisor for immediate elimination of the hazard, if the supervisor fails to protect you, exercise your right to refuse to continue working until it is safe to do so, also if you feel you have been exposed to a hazard and that it is affecting your health in some way, report it to the Medical department so it is documented and shows there is a potential problem in any given area.

CHRISTMAS: We wish you and your families all the best during the holiday season.

Remember, if it can't be done safely, it can't be done!



CONGRATULATIONS JOHN & ROB...YOU WILL BOTH BE MISSED BY ALL YOUR SISTERS & BROTHERS AT LOCAL 199!

A special thanks to photo contributors in this edition:

Bruce Allen,

Tom Balint,

Ron Boyer,

Mike DeGasparis,

Ed Gould,

Mike Gauthier, &

Teri-lin Giesbrecht (Coutts)



Message to the Small Units:

Please contribute to the 199 News and let us know who you are and what's happening.

CAW199NEWS@HOTMAIL.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR WILL BE PUBLISHED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD. LETTERS MUST BE 500 WORDS OR LESS.

KEN LEWENZA KICKS-OFF CASINO DRIVE

CAW National President Ken Lewenza held a press conference in Niagara Falls to kick-off the CAW's next attempt to organize 3000 casino workers at Casino Niagara and Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort.

The CAW is trying to get at least 1,500 more cards signed before an application is filed for union certification. 1135 cards have already been signed.

"If they sign a union card, it will enhance their standard of living, but it automatically enhances the

stability of economic conditions in our community," Lewenza said.



CAW LOCAL 199
ORGANIZING FOR YOUR FUTURE!

Casino workers in Windsor who are CAW members can attest to the many benefits included with membership.

Benefits are improved when negotiated and a collective voice is a benefit that is second to none. If you know any Casino workers who have not signed, encourage them to do so. Call the hall to speak to Elizabeth Ferretti to volunteer on this important organizing drive.

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT COUTTS

Coutts Information Services has undergone many changes in ownership and now leadership. We have had a new manager three times this year! I hope they finally get it right! Our newest VP of Coutts Operations, Mark Edmondson, is located in the UK Office but will be visiting our location on a monthly basis.

All areas are busy for now and are hopeful for new Canadian business to offset loss of work to a new Coutts LaVergne, TN location. They have shown an interest in meeting with our CAW Union Leadership and are trying to correct relations, which were very strained in the past.

In November, the Company hosted a Christmas Party for all

Coutts employees and guests (approx. 115 people) at the Delphi Hall in Niagara Falls. Great food was served; draw prizes were won and a lot of dancing was done until the wee hours of the morning! Please see the photos below.

The Union Committee attended the CAW Annual Women's Commemorative Breakfast on Friday, Dec. 5 at the CAW Hall. Chairperson, Bette Anne Chevalier, who is also serving as a Trustee for the E-TOP Council also attended Council sessions Dec. 3 and 4th in Toronto.

Some of the Coutts members have braved the elements and have participated in the leaflet campaign for the casinos at the Montrose Road location. We are

BY: BETTE ANNE CHEVALIER, CHAIRPERSON

PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY: TERI-LIN GIESBRECHT

hopeful this will campaign will be successful and the casino associates will be joining us.

We are just as anxious as our brothers and sisters in the auto industry, to see this rather dire economic situation which could lead to bankruptcy for the major players of GM, Chrysler and Ford, is resolved and jobs and pensions will be preserved.

GOOD LUCK!

GOOD HEALTH !

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!**





CAW Members: Get a quote & contribute to your local charity!

CAW Insurance is not just about providing our members the best insurance at the best price. It's also about giving back to our local communities. So for each free, no-obligation quote you get on your home & auto insurance, we'll contribute one dollar to your local food bank, women's shelter, or the charity of your CAW Local's choice.

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#1524



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TIME TO GET INVOLVED! HAVE A SAY...

BY: ED GOULD, ST. CATHARINES & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL

Locally our issues of health care and hospital under funding problems still exist and we don't see the government coming to the rescue of our health care needs. Plant closures, loss of jobs and the free trade agreements have destroyed future good paying jobs for our families.

Last month, I wrote about Brother Malcolm Allen. He now has a chance to make a change in

Ottawa and our council wishes him all the best.

You must ask yourself why in the eyes of Government are the banks so important while our jobs and health care are not? It's time to get involved more than ever before. Your labour movement needs your personal help. As each of these issues affect each and every one of us personally. Our electoral system

has spoken and more people voted against the Tory plan for this country. It's your turn to have a say in Canada's future.

Write or call your elected officials to voice your concerns about the importance of our jobs and the necessity to maintain a public and Not for Profit Health Care system.

Demand accountability from your elected officials. It is their job to work on our behalf.



Ontario Health Coalition:
Natalie Mehra, 416.230.6402
Hugh Mackenzie, 416.884.5378
Sheena Nesbitt 705.476.9534
www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca



Fighting Back Makes a Difference...

The numbered photos are campaigns and rallies where both union & non-union citizens have exercised their democratic rights to make a difference by having their voices heard. Photos are (clockwise):

- (1) An angry citizen demands attention to health care & campaigns outside a local hospital.
- (2) Local 199 members support USW Local 6428 striking at St. Catharines Johnson Mathey plant
- (3) Anti -War demonstration Toronto, September 2008
- (4) A message to General Motors and politicians about the Oshawa Truck Plant Closure
- (5) Lewenza addresses the media at a Funeral for jobs outside Stephen Harper's meeting at a Toronto Hotel.

Please check the CAW National website for ongoing campaigns and learn how you can get more involved.

Also go to www.PetitionOnline.com for other important issues that need your voice.



RETIREES' RECREATION REPORT

by: ALMA PELLETIER

RETIREES MONTHLY MEETING - 3RD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH - SPOUSES & ASSOCIATES ARE WELCOME!

Cutter grinder, tool delivery, stock room retirees and friends get together on Friday, April 17th from 1:30 – 4:30 in the Retirees Centre. Current employees are welcome as well. See some old friends and hear some new stories.

Please see the golf sign up sheet in the Retirees Centre. Only golfers who did not play in the CAW golf league last year need to sign up. The Golf meeting will be Friday, April 24th at 2:00 p.m. in the Retirees Centre.

CAW RETIREE 2008-2009 SCHEDULE

DEC. 20/08	CHRISTMAS PARTY
DEC. 31/08	NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER DANCE
JAN. 17/09	POT LUCK & CASINO NIGHT
FEB. 21/09	CHICKEN ON A BUN & BINGO NIGHT
MAR. 21/09	ST. PATRICK'S PUB NIGHT, CORN BEEF/CABBAGE & GAMES
APR. 18/09	BEEF ON A BUN & BINGO
May 1/09	Annual Sports Banquet
May 30/09	Steaks & Games Night
June 10/09	Annual Retiree's Picnic
June 20/09	Pot Luck & Casino Night

FOLLOWING ARE THE TIMES AND PLACES OF THE VARIOUS SPORTS PROGRAMS

SEPT TO MAY	MON	BOWLING 5 PINS	1:15 PM	FAIRVIEW LANES
SEPT TO MAY	MON	BOWLING 10 PINS	1:30 PM	PARKWAY LANES
SEPT TO MAY	TUES	CRIBBAGE	1:30 PM	RETIREE CTR
SEPT TO MAY	WED	CRAFTS	9:00 TO 11:00 AM	RETIREE CTR
SEPT TO MAY	WED	EUCHRE	1:30 PM	RETIREE CTR
SEPT TO MAY	THURS	DARTS	2:00 PM	RETIREE CTR
SEPT TO JUNE	FRI	SNOOKER	12:30 PM	RETIREE CTR
SEPT TO JUNE	FRI	OPEN EUCHRE	7:30 PM	RETIREE CTR
SEPT TO JUNE	SAT	GAMES NIGHT	7:30 PM	RETIREE CTR
MAY TO SEPT.	FRI	GOLF Co-Ed	7:30 TO 10:00 AM	MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE

EXERCISE CLASS

EVERY TUESDAY & THURSDAY FROM 9 AM TO 10 AM



6							1	9
					1	8	5	3
	1		8			4		
		4		3			7	1
	6		7		8		3	
7	3			2		6		
		3			7		8	
9	8	6	3					
1	7							4

SUDOKU: TOUGH

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RETIREE'S CENTRE NEEDS NEW HEAD STEWARD!

by: Barbara Abrams



On behalf of all retirees I would like to congratulate NDP candidate Malcolm Allen for winning the federal election for the Welland riding. I know that Malcolm will represent autoworkers and focus on the manufacturing crisis that we are currently in. We will miss Malcolm at the CAW hall and his open door policy that was always available when we needed advice or just to talk. We all wish Malcolm the best of luck in Ottawa.

Things are in full swing down at the Retirees Centre. We are getting a lot of associate members who wish to join our chapter. Just a friendly reminder to all our associate members that they need to pay their annual dues each year.

Sym Gill from the CAW National came to our October meeting explaining and answering questions regarding pensions and benefits. Copies of a booklet explaining the changes that we will face in January 2009 will be at the November meeting for all our members. Sometime in the new year we will be getting a pamphlet explaining the changes. Everyone's situation is different because of age, etc.

Delegates from our Chapter along with the Retired Workers National Executive attended the conference in Richmond and Surrey, B.C. Many speakers spoke at these conferences. The speaker I was most impressed with was the Hon. Roy Romanow who congratulated seniors for our willingness to take on the difficult but very necessary task of developing a blueprint for improving and extending the quality of life for seniors. He also talked about our commitment for recruiting younger seniors and strengthening senior's orga-

nizations so they can play a full role in developing this blueprint.

We attended a meeting in Welland where our new CAW President Ken Lewenza spoke on the manufacturing crisis right here in our own back yard. John Deere's announcement that it will close it's Welland facility forcing another 700 members out of work is devastating news. The CAW has been the opposition, the voice that has demanded change from the federal government which continues to ignore how important manufacturing and industry are to the economy.

The Retired Workers Executive is always busy, going to meetings, attending rallies and speaking out on behalf of all seniors and retirees. It is nice to have the support of our brothers and sisters when we attend rallies and meetings. Thanks to all of you who participate in these rallies with us. We can't sit back and do nothing about important issues affecting us all. Your presence is always welcomed.

I'd like to thank the Recreation Committee who work so diligently to keep the Retirees Centre running and for planning the social functions that we all enjoy. We are seeing a few new faces of retirees and their partners coming down to the centre. Come out and see for yourself, we have a great and very active chapter for all of you to enjoy. We are looking for a new head steward to look after the Centre. Henry Wiebe is doing it for the time being, so if you are interested in this position, please get in touch with me.

At our December meeting we will be giving away 40 turkeys and having a light lunch after the meeting. Barrels for Community Care will be set up in the hall for our November and December meetings. Please bring a non-perishable food item.

Our meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 2:00 p.m. Hope to see you there.

Merry Christmas and Happy



THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!

by: **Malcolm Allen, NDP, MP**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the membership for their support over the many years that you allowed me the privilege of representing you. As many of you know I was recently elected MP for the Welland riding. As such I will no longer be able to serve you as the financial secretary. You have given me the privilege and honour of serving as an elected officer of our local union for many years. I will be forever grateful for the faith you placed in me during that time. Although I will no longer be an officer of the local I will still be keenly interested in what happens to our local and in particular the membership. I am only a phone call away and anything I can do to be of assistance to the membership in my new role please do not hesitate to call. I would be remiss if I did not thank all of the elected officials I have worked with over the many years. Unfortunately some are no longer with us, others are retired but many are still in the trenches working hard for the membership everyday to all of you thank you for your support. Once again thank you to all for such great memories
Malcolm



SUB & EI REPORT

BY: **LARRY GREENHALGH & GREG BRADY**

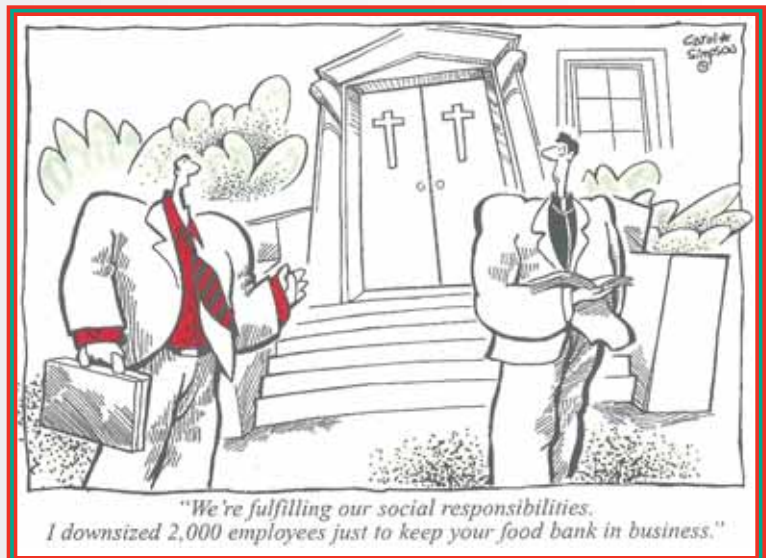
SUB credits are credited to hourly employees at the rate of a ½ (.5) credit unit for every week worked. SUB credits will be cancelled at the rate of one credit for each week benefits are received. The maximum number of credits you are allowed to accumulate is 104. SUB credits are topped up annually, every 3rd Sunday in November.

If you have concerns on SUB credits, please contact your SUB reps.

The up and coming year looks like a very bumpy one and all units could be facing layoffs.

PLEASE NOTE:

Your SUB reps are finding it increasingly difficult to get any additional help from the local EI office in trying to rectify claims due to government cutbacks and work overload. We are in the process of setting up a meeting with St. Catharines M.P. Rick Dykstra and newly elected Welland M.P. Malcolm Allen to try and alleviate this problem. At this time, we would like to congratulate Brother Malcolm on becoming the Welland riding new M.P. We know he will work hard in Ottawa and will be a very positive influence for this area.



We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe New Year!

NEW COURSES AT LOCAL 199

by: Education Committee;

Peter Scott, Tina Raimondo, Karen Golob

The CAW Local 199 Education Committee would like to thank all of our membership for the great response to the courses offered in 2008.

November proved to be a very busy month for everyone with the many courses and seminars being offered here at our Union Hall.

CAW Local 199 hosted an evening with "The Worker's Economist", Jim Stanford on November 13th. Jim is a fantastic motivational speaker, who communicates with people in a language that they can understand. Feedback from the sold-out event was very positive and many left feeling empowered.

Two, one-day courses were offered in November, a WSIB course, and the second phase of Organizing. We saw tremendous participation from members not only from our Local, but from other CAW locals as well. These one-day courses provide a no-cost opportunity for those who would like to learn, and share their views and concerns with other CAW members in a positive union environment, close to home.

"We can only remain a strong, articulate union if we have an informed and active membership from which to develop the dynamic leaders required to meet head on the challenges of tomorrow. We can only develop those leaders through education."

To wrap up the fall session, three CAW/McMaster Labour Studies Courses were also offered during that month. Two computer courses and an Environment video-conferencing course were also well attended. Again, congratulations to all of the students who graduated this year with their

CAW/McMaster Labour Studies Certificate.

Looking forward to 2009, the Education committee hopes to serve the membership by offering courses that you are interested in. Please contact us at 905-682-2611

ext 238 with any ideas on subjects for courses that you may want to see in the future.

We are ringing in the New Year with a one-day, *Women's Activist* course to be held at the CAW Local 199 Union hall on *Saturday, January 24th, 2009*.

For more information, log on to our website at www.caw199.com to view this and other upcoming courses for 2009.

We would like to wish all of you and yours a happy holiday season and a happy and healthy new year! Peter Scott, Tina Raimondo, Karen Golob



A WOMAN'S WORK IS NEVER DONE!

by: Irene Lowell, Susan Erskine-Fournier, Elizabeth Ferretti

In our last article we referred to the 2008 Women's Conference attended by members of our committee in August. The conference theme was "EQUALITY ONCE AND FOR ALL!!"

It was very disturbing to learn about the blatant economic inequality induced by our Federal government. Prime Minister Harper has proven to be anything but a supporter to the cause of Canadian women and children. His cuts to a planned universal childcare program and the 3.7 billion dollars cut in Children's programs will have a detrimental effect on all Canadians. Harper and his government have also cut 5 million in funding to women's programs and closed 12 of 16 Status of Women's offices across Canada. The Conservatives believe women are equal within our great country and that these services are redundant. This we know is completely untrue; currently 2.4 million women and over 1 million children live in poverty and need these services more now than ever.

White women earn 70 cents on every dollar that a man earns outside of a union. Women of colour and immigrant women earn 64 cents and even more appalling aboriginal women earn 42 cents. On average, women

working full time earn 29.5% less than men. As long as women, aboriginal people and workers of colour can't access higher paying jobs: as long as some jobs continue to be undervalued in our society: and as long as some sectors remain largely non-unionized the wage gaps will continue. These facts are not indicative of equality. For more information on these disturbing facts please see the CAW national website. www.caw.ca



Recently, a breakfast was hosted by the Coalition to End Violence against Women Forum. CEVAW's "motto" is to Stand Up, Speak out on Family Violence Own it, and End it. This organization consists of agencies from within the community who deal with women and child abuse and violence. There were displays from various agencies and guest speakers within the CEVAW coalition.

We held our annual December 6th Commemoration Breakfast paying tribute to the 14 young women who were senselessly murdered at L'Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal simply because of their gender. This year we focused on the current Violence Against Women situation. Please refer to the Stats Canada 2006 report on Family Violence in

Canada for more disturbing facts. There were 28,000 incidents of spousal violence reported to police: 84% of victims were women. Over a ten-year period men were more likely to be the perpetrators of spousal violence. In Chronic abuse 97% of the respondents were men. The 2005 Annual report to the chief coroner concluded that domestic violence fatalities are not gender-neutral events. Of the 100 cases they examined during 2002 to 2005; 93% of the victims were women. Those 1 in 4 women will be a victim of an assault in their life.

Our committee will continue to focus on ending all violence and how we as a society can achieve this goal.



FEDERAL FINANCE MINISTER JIM FLAHERTY GETS THE BOOT!

IN OCTOBER, THOUSANDS OF USED WORK BOOTS WERE LEFT OUTSIDE FLAHERTY'S WHITBY CAMPAIGN OFFICE. THESE BOOTS COMPLETE WITH TOE TAGS SYMBOLIZED THE NEARLY 200,000 MANUFACTURING JOBS LOST IN CANADA UNDER THE CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT'S WATCH.

SOME WORKBOOT MATH:
ST. CATHARINES WOULD HAVE MORE THAN 6,000 PAIRS!



RECYCLED WORK BOOTS!
RAFT, COMMUNITY CARE AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WILL TAKE GENTLY USED BOOTS FOR THEIR CLIENTS OR YOU CAN RECYCLE YOUR BOOTS AT GM

LGBT DANCES RAISE \$18,000 TO DATE

by: Tom Balint,
Marion Mueller LGBT

We would like to thank everyone who has helped to make our dances a success. This year's Halloween dance was no exception. We had lots of home made sweets, great music, and fantastic costumes. Everyone who attended had a great time. We made nearly \$1,200 for AIDS Niagara, Winter Solstice, and Youth Line. Total donations from all the LGBT Dances have given charities and support groups over \$18,000.00. Next up will be our Easter Dance, Saturday, April 11, 2008. Anyone willing to volunteer at one of our events please call 905-687-0701 or email caw_lgbt@me.com

The annual winter solstice service for the gender and sexual-diverse community will take place at Silver Spire United Church (formerly St. Paul Street United) on St. Paul Street in St. Catharines on Friday, Dec. 19 at 7 p.m. The theme will be "family". This is an ecumenical service is organized by the St. Catharines chapter of PFLAG Canada and by TransParent Canada, and generously supported through fundraising initiatives by the CAW Local 199 LGBT Committee.

Initially called the "AIDS Committee of Niagara," AIDS Niagara started in 1987 as an advisory committee to the Niagara Regional Public Health Service's AIDS Program. Examining the problem of HIV and AIDS in the Niagara Region, it quickly realized that more had to be done. People in the community were living with and dying of HIV and AIDS, and needed services to be provided.

In response to these needs, the committee evolved into an active, volunteer run, community based AIDS organization. More can be found at: <http://www.aidsniagara.com/>

The Lesbian Gay Bi Trans Youth Line is a toll-free Ontario-wide peer-support phone line for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, 2-spirited, queer and questioning young people. The Youth Line also provides online peer-support through the online forum and email response. For more information: <http://www.youthline.ca/>

Coming up next year is the World Outgames, which will be held from 25 July - 2 August 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark. World Outgames is an international event where they celebrate the talents and contributions of homosexual, bi-sexual and transgender men and women from every corner of the globe. Preceding the Outgames is the Conference on Human Rights. More information can be found at: <http://www.copenhagen2009.org/>

ILGA, The International Lesbian and Gay Association, just celebrated its 30th anniversary. ILGA is a world-wide network of national and local groups dedicated to achieving equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people everywhere.

Founded in 1978, it now has more than 600 member organizations. Every continent and over 90 countries are represented. ILGA member groups range from small collectives to national groups and entire cities.

ILGA is to this day the only international non-profit and non-governmental community-based federation focused on presenting discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation as a global issue. For more information go to: <http://ilga.org/>

The LGBT Committee wishes everyone a Safe and Happy Winter Holiday.



Marion Mueller, Tom Balint



Larry
Greenhalgh



Dorothy &
Friends from OZ



Bruce Allen, Lori Peacock



2008
Childrens' Christmas Party
Sunday, December 14th Noon 'til 3:00 P.M.
 No Registration — Open House Style
 Magic Show at 1:30 P.M.
 Featuring: Shaun Ferguson-The Wizard of Welland
 Face Painters
 Bouncers from Niagara Inflatables
 Colouring Area with Santa & Mrs. Claus
 Clowns
 Everyone Welcome!
 Lots of Pop and Ice Cream

IMPORTANT RECREATION DATES TO REMEMBER...

by: **MATT JACKSON, KELLY PURDY, ROB STEVENSON**

We would like to start off by wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thanks to everyone who is going to help at our Children's Christmas Party this year. We have provided a list of the events coming up in the New Year.

We have opened our Pudge Dawson Golf Tournament to family and friends hoping to bring our numbers back up. Also moving the meal back to the golf course should help as this seemed to be an issue for a lot of past golfers. So get your foursome together and watch for more info on the sign-up date. Please notice the tournament day has changed this upcoming year to a Sunday.



EVENT	LOCATION	DATE
CAW REGIONAL 10PIN BOWLING	PARKWAY LANES	SAT. JAN. 17/09
CAW FALCON NIGHT (VS THOROLD)	JACK GATECLIFF ARENA	FRI. JAN. 30/09
LOCAL 199 HOCKEY TOURNAMENT	THOROLD ARENA	MARCH 27/28/29, 2009
PUDGE DAWSON GOLF TOURNAMENT	WILLOWDALE	SUN. MAY 24/09
CAW GOLF QUALIFIER	BINBROOK	SUN. JUNE 7/09
CAW GOLF QUALIFIER	ROCKWAY GLEN	SUN. JULY 19/09
TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER QUALIFIER	TO BE ANNOUNCED	SUN. SEPT. 20/09

November 11, 2008, Remembrance Day is an anniversary of sacrifice that could arguably be called the most significant single day in Canada's history. This is the one day every year that unites all Canadians coast to coast in tribute to those that gave their lives in service to our country stretching from World War 1 to the present day.



Canada in 1914-1918 had a population of about 6-7 million. A staggering 68,000 of our young men died in that war, described by many at the time as "the war to end all wars". My great grandfather was one of those lost. A man I never knew, but his memory lives on through medals, and a silver cross along with photos and memorabilia passed down through generations. This is not uncommon in many Canadian families, only the time and dates change. These are the ashes of war.



This year was different however with a very dramatic and impressive ceremony of commemoration of Canada's sacrifice in World War 1. On the evening of November 4th the Queen unveiled a transatlantic war memorial in London, titled "Vigil 1914-1918." The names of the 68,000 Canadians killed were projected one by one on to the side of Canada House in Trafalgar Square. Each name appeared for 8 seconds and continued on subsequent nights until completion November 11th at sunrise. After it appeared in London every name was then projected in various cities across Canada appearing at the same local time in each location. Beginning on the East Coast in Halifax these names then appeared in Fredericton, the



University of New Brunswick, then to the National War Memorial in Ottawa and then westward to all major cities across Canada. This amazing project created by Toronto actor R.H. Thomson and lighting designer Martin Convoy, thus symbolizes the soldier's silent return home.



Practically all cities and areas large and small will have their own ceremonies, not glorifying war, but in recognition of the tremendous cost to our country. As Kofi Amin, former Secretary General of the United Nations said, "War is the ultimate failure of diplomacy".

Locally, dedication services were held at many Royal Canadian Legion Branches. I attended the very moving service held by Branch 613 on Hwy 20 in Fonthill. This commemorates the memory of those who gave their lives in all our wars while serving over the years. Plaques were donated by local families and featured within the enclosure is a magnificent Peace Garden, which is well worth a visit at any time. You will always be made welcome. Congratulations to Gerald Berkout and his committee for promoting this fine project.

This all illustrates the real cost of war, the human cost. As our casualties continue to mount in Afghanistan it was note worthy to see the statement of the General in command of the British troops, that the Afghanistan mission is unwinnable. The Brits have at least three times the number of troops serving in the southern area of Hellamond Province along side our Canadian forces.

LEST WE FORGET





**TERRY WHITE,
GM UNIT CHAIRPERSON**

MALCOLM ALLEN

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Malcolm on his victory in the Welland Riding in the past

Federal Election. This will be an enormous benefit for the Welland Riding and all working class residents there. Malcolm will continue to be a great friend to Local 199 and this Membership, and I wish Malcolm all the best and look forward to having a strong voice for manufacturing in Ottawa from Local 199.

STATE OF THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

The North American domestic automotive companies have gone to both the Canadian and American Governments for financial assistance. What our government needs to understand is that the automotive industry represents real jobs, and we are the real economy. Our members and our pensioners enable our communities to prosper with spin-off jobs, purchasing power for local businesses, and a strong tax base at all levels of government. If the government lets the domestic car manufacturers fail, this will be a huge blow not only to our members, but also to our communities. It will cause our young people to look elsewhere for jobs and find other areas of the country to reside in. This is about more than just the "Big Three", it is about saving our communities—it's about saving our families, and our Canadian culture. All levels of government need to wake up and support our manufacturing jobs that have made our country

and our communities one of the best places in the world to live.

IN THE PLANT

In the plant, we continue to watch to see how the economic times are affecting General Motors' assembly plants in North America and how this will affect the St. Catharines Powertrain facilities. The Ontario Street plant site has seen a reduction in volumes in the transmission as well as the Forge shop. The Glendale site at the time of writing continues to see some overtime and strong volumes through November. The Shop Committee continues to monitor how volumes will affect our Glendale site and will inform the membership of any changes.

WHAT THE FUTURE MAY BRING

The remaining month of 2008 and all of 2009 could be some of the most volatile times the GM unit and Local 199 will ever endure. Our active and retired members should never be ashamed of the Union gains made over the last decades. Whatever the future brings, we should all be proud of what we've achieved in our communities. Brock University, the Pelham Medical Centre & Bethlehem Place are just a few programs in which Local 199 members played a crucial role. Through our generous community service and monetary contributions these community-based programs strengthen our community. Even in dire times we provide ongoing support for the United Way and Community Care.

CHRISTMAS SEASON

On behalf of the Shop Committee I would like to wish you all a safe holiday. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

OBITUARIES

The Executive and Membership of CAW Local 199 extend sincere condolences to the bereaved families and friends of the following members who have recently passed.

THOMAS ARNOLD,
WILSON CHAMBERS,
PATRICK CAMPION,
HERMANUS DEWOLFF,
NICHOLAS DYCK,
GERRY GARBUTT (EDSCHA),
WILLIAM GUNN,
NORMAN HARRIS,
ROBERT HASTIE,

WILLIAM HOADLEY,
PETER KRAHN,
RENE LAVIGNE,
RICK NORQUAY,
PETER OSTAP,
RALPH PERSIA,
ERWIN PETER,
WARREN ROCKWELL,
ROBERT RUSSELL,

KEN SCOTT,
BARBARA SHUGAN,
ARTHUR SOMERVILLE,
JOHN WASHUTA,
NEIL WHITE,
JOSEF WILLER,
NORMAN WILSON,
DONALD WOODRUFF,
JOSEF ZARAZA



Come Join in the Celebration of a New Year!!

Wednesday, December 31
CAW Local 199 - 124 Bunting Rd

Cocktails @ 6:00 p.m. - Dinner starts @ 7:00 p.m.



Price: \$80 / couple

Menu:

Fresh Garden Salad with Mandarins
Roast Hip of Beef
Oven Roasted Chicken
Roasted Parisian Potatoes
Fresh In-Season Vegetables
Coffee & Tea
Desert



Music by: Spirit of Sound

Champagne @ Midnight / Party Favours

