

199 News

CAW 199
NIAGARA

The official publication of CAW Local 199

Proudly celebrating over 70 years in the community

APRIL,
MAY,
2008

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



LOCAL 199 KICKS OFF PHASE II OF MANUFACTURING MATTERS CAMPAIGN

SEE MORE INSIDE...



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GM Unit

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DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF 199 NEWS IS WEDNESDAY MAY 28TH, 2008



Summer is soon upon us and there have been a lot of events happening around the hall. With the paper only coming out 5 times a year it gets more difficult to keep things current. We are soon to be faced with a very tough set of negotiations and I must say it is more important than ever that we begin to show some type of collective front. The issues and the chain of events that will surround negotiations will most certainly change the face of our union for a very long time.

There is a misconception that we are greedy in our demands when quite frankly we should be more vigilant when it comes to demanding that our jobs remain in our communities! Our politicians must see that this is critical and that without decent living full-time wages, equitable benefits, basic human rights and rights to health & safety our social fabric will become so frayed that there will be no mend.

Corporations who have prospered on the sweat of our labour have forgotten that not only are we their employees we are first and foremost their dedicated consumers. We are also valued assets as far as advertising the products we not only build but also buy and sell to our neighbours.

Our communities rely heavily on our tax dollars used to sustain our health-care, education, and infrastructures and our social safety nets. They also rely on our sense of social justice. The Manufacturing Matters campaign addresses more than just the loss of good paying jobs it also brings to the forefront issues of concern to all. The fact that there are no procurement laws that protect our jobs, our farmlands, and our own natural resources is absurd!

Why would we spend our tax dollars anywhere else on products that we build and we grow here? Why would any government be so naïve to think that tendering out business outside of our communities and putting our own citizens out of work is a wise investment? Like Dorothy said: "There's no place like home!" All of us, including our government should buy local products, made for and by Canadians or say BYE to our jobs!

We have been very blessed to inherit all that we have without ever fighting for it. Times are changing and we owe it to our retired workers who did fight and to our youth, who like us, don't know how to fight. The gloves must come off and we must be very cautious about what we wish for. It is not just about putting in our time and getting out. It's so much more!

Just a thought...*It seems it is an unwritten rule that the government-elect hurt only the elders who have established our worlds, the workers who build our worlds and the children who dream of new worlds to come. Meanwhile, we the human race have only become better at making things worse as those with little conscience continue to reap the benefits of those who so conscientiously strive to just get by.*

It seems it is an unwritten rule that those people who have empowered that same government-elect sit idly by until the scars of a government-scorned shame them into action. However, there is a written rule that allows all of this to be changed! For the powers far greater than the government-elect are the peoples it serves and their rights to a new and just tomorrow!

caw199news@hotmail.com

Suz

CAW 199
NIAGARA
APRIL, MAY, JUNE
2008

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:

- 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@caw199.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 BARTFAL,
GARY BRADNAM, LARRY GREENHALGH,
ALEX LATHAM, GARY MARTIN, TERRY WHITE



Wayne Gates
Local 199
President

Niagara Region Manufacturing Matters Campaign a Success...

FACTS:

- * 350,000 Canadian jobs eliminated since 2002 through Plant Closures and Layoffs
- * In 2007, 360 manufacturing jobs were lost every single day; more than double the rate of 2006
- * High wage and value added jobs are being replaced by unsecure work in Lower wage sectors



Over 90 members of the CAW leadership and activists in the Niagara region attended the second manufacturing campaign school at our hall on Saturday, April 19th. The daylong event was held to discuss ways local unions can bring attention to ongoing manufacturing job loss in the Niagara region and ways to encourage municipalities to adopt a buy Canadian policy for all public purchases.

The same day we were holding a campaign school; the closure of Can Gro's food processing plant in St. David's was announced throwing 218 U.F.C.W. members out of work at the end of June. This doesn't include the



WHAT'S CAUSING THE CRISIS

UNFAIR TRADE

Canada's manufacturing trade balance has gone from a \$12 billion surplus in 1996 to a \$28 billion trade deficit in one decade, representing massive job losses.

HIGH DOLLAR

The Canadian dollar has risen by 60% in the past five (5) years to one of the highest levels in history.

NO BUY CANADIAN PURCHASING POLICY

Unlike many other countries, Canada still has no established "Buy Canadian" policy for public purchases.

GOVERNMENT INACTION

To date, the federal government has only provided token efforts and hip-service to workers, families and communities impacted by manufacturing job loss.

FOREIGN TAKEOVER

We need policies from federal and provincial governments that are more balanced. They must recognize the continuing importance of manufacturing, soften the rise of the dollar and slow down the surge of foreign takeovers, like Can Gro.

150 peach and pear growers who supply products to the St. David's plant.

The Niagara region produces the best pears and peaches in the world, yet our federal government's response is to give the farmers \$1,600 per acre and have them rip all the fruit trees out of the ground. Why wouldn't we as a country make sure our food source remains in Canada and in this case the Niagara region, not China?

MANUFACTURING JOBS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

CANADIAN MANUFACTURING

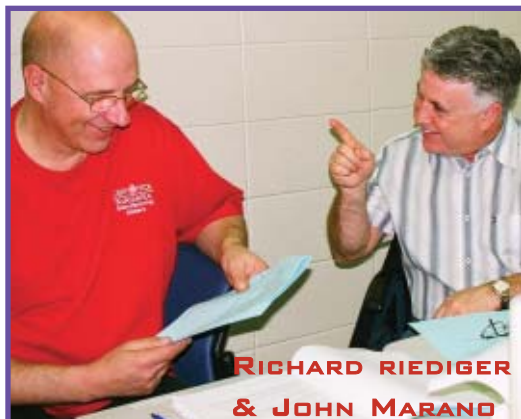
- Accounts for two thirds of Canadian exports;
- Supports millions of other Canadian workers in service industries like retail and hospitality;
- Spends 75% of all private sector research and development;
- Contributes tens of billions of dollars in income taxes each year, helping to pay for social services like education and health care;
- Is the lifeblood for many communities from coast to coast to coast

The auto industry is a mainstay of the local economy yet, the federal government continues to ignore so many of the key issues affecting auto and other manufacturing industries like shipbuilding. The high Canadian dollar and unfair trade with Asian and European countries are creating a growing crisis, the local food banks are struggling to meet demand, local charities and other social service organizations are experiencing a dramatic drop in donations.

If we care about manufacturing and **we must**, the idea

*See the
rest of
Wayne's
article
on Pg. 4*

that it is natural or inevitable for our manufacturing jobs to disappear must be rejected. There's nothing inevitable about it. Canadians and other nationalities continue to buy manufactured products by the boatload. We can and should be able to produce our fair share of those products. Our children and grandchildren's future depend on it.



FIRSTONTARIO

Our members at FirstOntario Credit Union have agreed to a new 3-year agreement with a ratification vote of 96%. The new collective agreement was reached just before the old collective agreement expired. This contract covers 90 members representing four (4) FirstOntario branches in St. Catharines, as well as branches in Niagara Falls, Welland and Thorold.

HIGHLIGHTS OF FIRSTONTARIO AGREEMENT:

Contract language was strengthened in such areas as grievance procedure, harassment, representation and improved job security.

Monetary improvements: Wage increases (all classifications), vacation bonus for part-time, pension improvements, special retirement allowance, family day now a holiday, and bereavement improvement
Benefit improvements: Increase in; orthodontics, life insurance, vision care, health care (part time)

I would like to thank Chairperson Lori Gaboury, her committee-Maria McCormack, Debbie Blair, Carm Lenartowich and Debbie Ugulini for their hard word during the bargaining process. I would also like to thank National representative Doug Orr.



**ART DALTON LAKESIDE STEEL LOCAL 523,
MARYLOU JORGENSEN-BACHER OPSEU,
SANDY O'DELL WELLAND CITY COUNCILLOR**



**OPTICAL ILLUSION: THE FLAG
FLIES AT HALF-STAFF FOR
LOST NEPTUNUS JOBS**

NEPTUNUS

This is a workplace that about a year ago had 110 members working producing world-class luxury yachts. Unfortunately, because of the rapid rise of the Canadian dollar, all but 2 members are on layoff with a real concern of a plant closure. We have been successful in negotiations and received \$36,000 from the provincial government to set up an action centre to try and get our members placed in new jobs. This is just another example of Canadians losing their jobs through no fault of their own, but because we have a government that continues to support a high dollar workers, families and communities suffer.



BARGAINING

We have a number of units in Local 199 who are either in bargaining today or who will be bargaining over the next couple of months. They include: Niagara Motors, Brunner, Iafrate, Edscha, Neptunus and General Motors.



**MIKE MICHAUD, CAW NAT'L REP
MANUFACTURING MATTERS
CAMPAIGN WORKSHOP**

Remember...please don't drink and drive.

by: **Mark Roy - Recording Secretary**



As we move into the summer, I wish you and your families a healthy and safe holiday season.

<http://www.caw199.com>

DOCUMENT ASBESTOS EXPOSURE!

by: **Bruce Allen,**
Vice President

Asbestos was widely used in Gm St. Catharines plants prior to the 1990s exposing hundreds if not thousands of our members to this deadly carcinogen and putting us at risk of developing occupational diseases associated with asbestos exposure. The Brake Bonding assembly line in the Components Plant was one place in particular where many of our members worked with asbestos without protective equipment and with little or no knowledge of the risks associated with asbestos use. Consequently a small but growing number of workers now have workers compensation claims related to asbestos exposure.

Workers who have a history of having worked with asbestos or

where there was airborne asbestos should take the initiative in addressing the potential dangers of their exposure. This can be done by filing a WSIB Worker's Exposure Incident Form. This will document your history of exposure. It will increase the likelihood of a future WSIB claim related to asbestos exposure being allowed if you develop health problems associated with asbestos.

MCCAIN: WHICH SIDE IS HE ON?

Workers in this country should be very concerned about the prospect of a John McCain presidency. Notwithstanding the lunacy of his eagerness to wage a preemptive war against Iran and willingness to continue the U.S. occupation of Iraq for up to a century, McCain has a hideous track record with respect to worker's rights.

McCain is from a right to work state where closed union shops are legally banned. He has sup-

ported National Right to Work legislation that would make it even easier for bosses to get rid of unions and accelerate the ongoing decline of unions in the U.S. McCain opposes anti-scab legislation. He has brazenly crossed picket lines.

In short, if McCain is elected U.S. President, American workers can expect attacks on unions in the U.S. to intensify much as they did when his hero Ronald Reagan was President. This will make things tougher for unions in this country and all North American workers will suffer the consequences.

Neither Clinton nor Obama are serious about addressing the weakening of unions in the U.S. and the resulting onslaught on the incomes of American workers. The election of either, as opposed to McCain would be positive only insofar as it might encourage organized labour in the U.S. to reassert itself as it did after Roosevelt was elected in 1932. The rapid growth of massive industrial unions followed shortly after Roosevelt's election.

IF YOU WERE EXPOSED TO ASBESTOS OR ANY OTHER CARCINOGEN, I CAN HELP YOU TO FILE ONE OF THESE FORMS. CONTACT BRUCE ALLEN AT THE UNION HALL: 905-682-2611 EXT: 225



**DAY OF MOURNING APRIL 28TH, 2008
LOCAL MEDIA AND ACTIVISTS OBSERVE A MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**PAGE 7 PHOTOS:
TOP LEFT: ST. CATHARINES DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT LARRY SAVAGE LAYS A WREATH IN MEMORIAM AT THE APRIL 28TH ANNUAL DAY OF MOURNING. CENTRE: A NICARAGUAN WORKER HANDLES ASBESTOS WITHOUT PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT BOTTOM LEFT: THE PORT ELGIN EDUCATION CENTRE MEMORIAL SITE FOR WORKERS INJURED, HARMED, OR KILLED AT WORK.**



If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your E.I. reps. and we will help you with any assistance. Please remember when returning to work from S&A or WSIB please come to the benefit office as soon as possible to put your waiting time in to avoid delays in getting your claim processed. You only have three (3) weeks upon returning to work to apply.

LARRY GREENHALGH: COMP: 905-684-9688

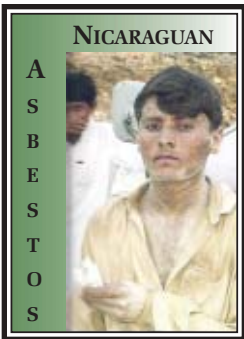
GREG BRADY: ENGINE: 905-641-6419

(2441-IN PLANT ONLY)



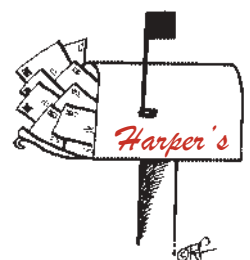
Chilling News About The "Dying" Industry

Asbestos is the greatest industrial killer the working world has ever known. Asbestos-causing cancers account for 80 percent of the increase in Canadian worker fatalities over the past decade and yet 95% of Canadian asbestos is exported to developing countries. Canada is one of the world's largest producers and exporters of asbestos and the Canadian government spends millions subsidizing the asbestos industry and blocking international efforts to curb its use. Many countries have already banned the use of asbestos and the World Health Organization, along with national unions, provincial labour federations, cancer prevention organizations and environmentalists have also called for an immediate stop to the Canadian production, use and export of all forms of asbestos.



RIGHTONCANADA.CA, an internet-based public advocacy campaign for human rights is asking for support for their campaign to send letters to Prime Minister Harper, and other top officials demanding their commitment to ban the use and export of asbestos and provide adequate transition assistance for workers in the asbestos industry. Speak out now!

www.RightonCanada.ca



RETIREES' RECREATION REPORT

by: Barb Abrams

Well, we are getting close to the end of our season. We have had great turnouts for all the different activities at the hall. Beef on a Bun was a sold out event held April 19th. The Sports Banquet was on May 3rd.

Please see photos included. Thanks to Gerry Hom, Sylvia Brown, Ted Fauteux and Bud Sinnett for selling tickets. It was a great turnout and much fun.

May 24th is Hamburger and games night. At the time of writing we are trying to change the menu to steak. June 11th is the Annual Retirees Picnic and June 28th is Casino Night

The April 18th meeting for the golf season was held in the Retirees Centre. Good luck to the 150 golfers who signed up. Tee-times start at 7:00 to 10:00 am every Friday. At this time I would like to thank the great committee I have to help everything run smoothly. That made my first year as your chairperson easy.



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

MAY 24TH: HAMBURGER & GAMES NIGHT
JUNE 5TH: ANNUAL L199 RETIREES DINNER
JUNE 11TH: ANNUAL RETIREES PICNIC
JUNE 19TH: WELLNESS FAIR
JUNE 28TH: CASINO NIGHT

EXERCISE CLASS

Tuesdays & Thursdays
9:00am to 10:00am
GOLF
Every Friday
St. Catharines Municipal

5-PIN BOWLING

High Average (Men)
Bud Sinnet - 212.13
Ken Pite - 186.71
Dave Griffiths - 168.61
High Average (Women)
Noreen Locke - 168.27
Joan Fritshaw - 156.67
Erica Rapson - 151.49

10-PIN BOWLING

High Team-
Safaris- 1143 Pts
High Average (Men)
Reg Jodoin - 207
High Triple
Reg Jodoin - 693
High Single
Reg Jodoin - 279
Rick Zohnierczyk - 279
High Average (Women)
Stella Slavinjak - 166
High Triple
Stella Slavinjak - 557
High Single
Rose Small - 235

Congratulations to all the Sports Banquet Award Winners!



RETIREES' REPORT

by: Barb Abrams

RETIREES MONTHLY MEETING - THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
DON'T FORGET - ALL SPOUSES AND ASSOCIATES ARE WELCOME!



Hi everyone. I hope the cold and snowy weather is behind us and we can put away our shovels and look forward to a hot summer.

The Retired Workers Centre activities are coming to a close with the sports banquet on May 2nd. Thanks to all the convenors and recreation committee members that helped out with all the activities that take place throughout the year. Without your help our chapter wouldn't be as successful as it is. Golf will now start and the Retirees Centre will be closed for the month of July and opened for 2 days a week in August.

We are planning a bus trip to Toronto on June 10th to the Collective Bargaining Conference (CBC) to listen to CAW National President Buzz Hargrove's opening address. We are expecting over 200 delegates from various locals to participate in a march throughout the convention hall. This is a negotiating year and we have to let the leadership know that we are behind them in negotiations. We have done this before and it was a great success. If you are interested in going, call the CAW hall and leave your name and phone number. A nice lunch will be provided at the Sheraton Centre. Two resolutions have been submitted by our Retired Workers Chapter to the CBC. One calls for a CAW National Policy

for Collective Agreements and also a Retirees No Concession Policy.

On June 5th, we are having our annual dinner sponsored by Local 199. Tickets can be purchased at the local and we are hoping to have Bob White as a guest speaker. The dinner cost will be \$3.99 and drinks will be \$1.99, at the time of writing Wayne Gates is trying to work out a deal for the

environment, earth hour, the political scene, ongoing campaigns, bargaining, auto and auto parts, Aerospace, Airlines, organizing and mining. Fighting for all Canadian jobs is a very important issue. What's going to be left for our children and grandchildren if we keep losing manufacturing jobs across Canada?

On April 19th there was a manufacturing campaign seminar at the hall. This was the next critical phase of our Manufacturing Matters Campaign.

I took a petition to CAW Council regarding "Stats Can CPI Error" that was brought up at our chapter meeting. Eighteen pages of signatures will be forwarded to the House of Commons on your behalf.

Please plan to participate at the many upcoming events. Hope to see you there!

Elections will be held at our May 21st meeting for various conferences and conventions.

IMPORTANT DATES

MAY 21ST: CONFERENCE & CONVENTION ELECTIONS

JUNE 5TH: ANNUAL LOCAL 199 RETIREEES DINNER

JUNE 10TH: COLLECTIVE BARGAINING CONFERENCE

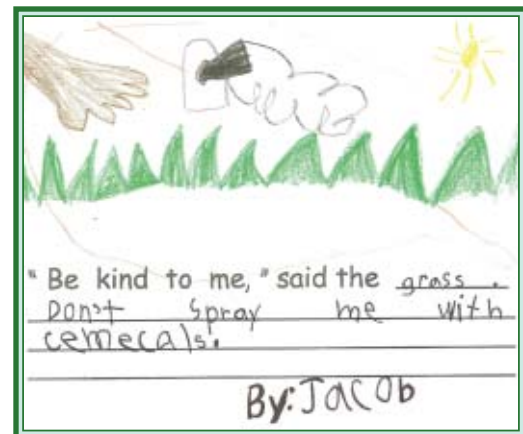
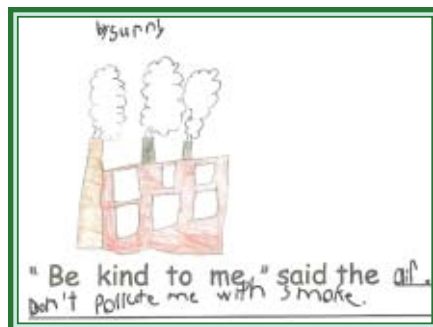
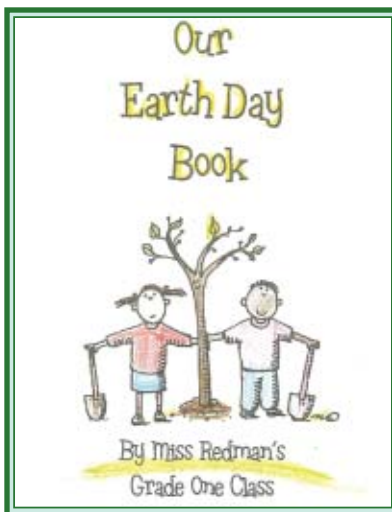
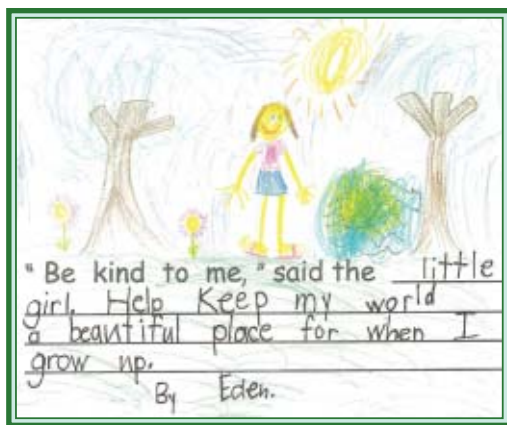
JUNE 19TH: WELLNESS FAIR

meal. Call the hall for tickets and more info.

I have been working with the CAW/GM Wellness Committee for the past 6 months. On June 19th at the CAW Local 199 union hall we are having a Wellness Fair starting at 9:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Various agencies will have booths set up with information that we can all use. Speakers from the National will speak at the fair. This fair is open to all CAW and GM retirees, spouses, partners, etc. Goodie bags will be available for you. Please plan to attend.

At CAW Council in March, 12 recommendations were passed and one was defeated. Buzz Hargrove spoke on international issues, the U.S. election, the economy,



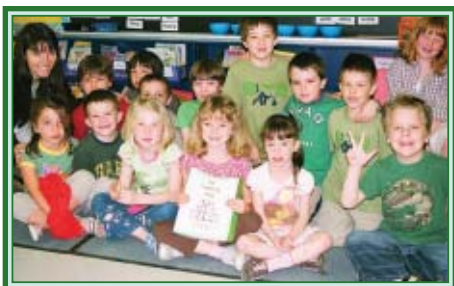


CLOSE TO HOME: WE ARE WHAT WE BUY

by: Angelo Marano,
Earth Day CoOrdinator

EARTH DAY: APRIL 7TH TO MAY 2ND

Local 199 in conjunction with the CAW National Union and the Workers Health and Safety Centre once again offered local schools the



opportunity to participate in the Earth Day program.

This year marked the ninth (9th) consecutive year for CAW/Workers

Centre Earth Day presentations in local area schools. With each successful year, our program has grown in excellence and reach. Keeping in mind school curriculum objectives, presenters and students have learned much from each other.

Last year in the Niagara Peninsula alone, over 12,000 students from 60 schools participated in our Earth Day program. (Over 104,000 students across Canada).



This year we talked to students about key concepts related to sustain-

able consumption and how they impact broader issues such as; climate change, waste management and toxic pollution. The impact of poor consumer choices on environmental and human health, the many ways young people and their families can make better consumer choices, and the many ways schools, workplaces and governments of all levels can help was also discussed.

In the Niagara region, Local 199 members present the Earth Day program. The one-hour program includes a video and classroom interaction.

The response and excitement by this program has been overwhelming. Both students and teachers have complimented the CAW for taking the initiative to discuss these important issues.

Congratulations to the following 199 members who helped make the Earth Day program a success.



Sherry Barrett, Malcolm Corfield, Lynda Greer, James Johnson,
Bob Ratelle, Norm Roy,
Daniela Russell, Jerry Stoker

MAKE EVERYDAY EARTH DAY!

by: Cathy Franklin, Rob Jukosky, & Norm Roy

Springtime has finally arrived and people are heading outdoors to enjoy the warmth of the sunshine. Springtime is also the time of year when we are reminded of our effect on our planet.

In March there was Water Awareness Day to remind us to use this resource wisely. Then Earth Hour on March 29, to make us aware of how much we rely on electricity and where it comes from. To close out the month there



MALCOLMSON PARK

was the 1st annual ECOFEST Niagara organized by St. Catharines Climate Action Now and held at the CAW Local 199 Hall on March 30. This

event was well attended and much information was available on a variety of subjects relating to the environment.

GM provided a hybrid Malibu for display. Cathy Franklin made a presentation about the wind turbine to be built in Port Elgin at the CAW Family

Education Centre and our local environment committee had an information booth about the Earth Day presentations that the CAW and the Workers Health & Safety Centre sponsor. Angelo Marano and Marion Mueller provided outlines of our presentation to enquiring teachers and the public. The topic of the presentations made in area schools this year is "Close To Home".

The school presentations take place during the month of April and we reach in excess of 10,000 local students each year.

April 22nd was Earth Day. This is meant to be a day where we do a little extra to help out our environment. Some activities are



CAW LOCAL 199 MEMBERS

planned and others are self-initiated such as; park clean up, riverbank clean up and tree plantings.

Doing our part to make everyday Earth Day will provide a healthier environment for all to live in.

"In our every deliberation we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations."

THE GREAT LAW OF THE IROQUOIS CONFEDERACY

Congratulations to Retiree Bob Braid, Local 199 Securitas Unit. Shown with Bob at his retirement party are his sons Bob Jr., Gary & Michael.



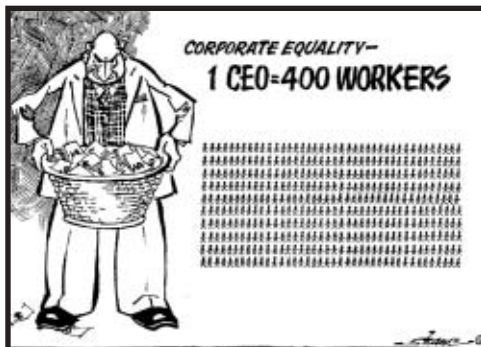
Congratulations to all members recently retired from Local 199 units. The Executive Board and Membership of Local 199 wish these members the very best.

My apologies to retiree Michael Kozachenko for the mistaken identity in the last issue.

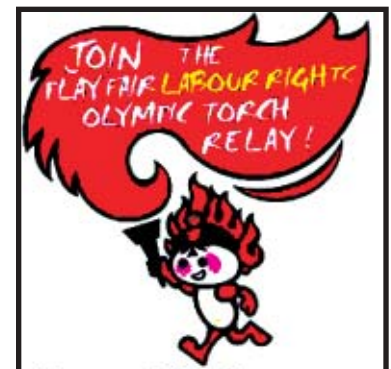


In the RED?

GM gave its top 5 Executives a raise this year. Including salary, stock awards, options and other income, they collectively made over 38.9 Million!



Join the Play Fair Labour Rights Olympic Torch Relay! Forward the flame towards Beijing! Visit: catchtheflame.org





Niagara Regional Council has adopted a Buy Niagara policy to promote local products. Regional Council is also appealing to the other twelve surrounding municipal councils, Provincial and Federal governments to do the same.

IT'S ABOUT TIME!

Various levels of government accumulatively, spend millions of our tax dollars on food, wine, cars, buses, armoured vehicles, and many other products which if our governments had supported over the last 20 years, would have also supported our manufacturing base.

360 manufacturing jobs a day are lost in Canada creating a severe crisis situation. Ironically as Governments sit idly by and ignore this crisis they are losing a considerable tax base that they are dependant on.

According to the Niagara Falls Review, "Regional headquarters has a cafeteria that can be stocked with local foods, and the Region hosts events from time to time that can be catered with local food."

All levels of government need to extend this policy to all products made in Canada. Why would any vehicle purchased by our municipal or regional governments not be built in the Niagara Region? Police, ambulance, parking authority, city buses, are products that could save Canadian manufacturing jobs.

Our Federal Government actually tenders contracts for supplies needed by our troops that are not made and supplied by Canadian workers. Why do these contracts go over seas? Why do our Canadian governments support other countries over their own tax-paying citizens?

We may not be able to control government spending but we have absolute control over which products we as individual consumers purchase. We must start by

supporting our local farmer's to mandate our produce is accessible to Niagara residents. Why would we send our fresh food overseas to have it processed and returned to our markets when there are few regulations governing the

canning processes in foreign countries? Recently canned pears imported from China were tainted with arsenic.

WHAT'S THE NEXT STEP?

Ask yourself and the business you deal with; "What kind of vehicle are they driving? Your dentist, chiropractor, corner store owner and real estate agents should all be driving the cars that "your neighbors helped to build." It is important that these types of businesses recognize the fact that without our good paying jobs and negotiated benefits many of us would not be able to support their business. It is crucial they support ours!

Consider the following example as depicted by an editorial in the Niagara Falls Review; "A couple in Toronto are having a romantic evening with some wine, fruit and

roses. If the peaches come from California, the wine from New Zealand and the roses from Columbia, the goods would have travelled a total of 32,000 kilometres to get to that couple. But a bottle of VQA wine, with Niagara peaches and roses from a local greenhouse have a combined distance of only 300 kilometres."

Imagine the more gentle impact on our environment if these products were transported in a Chevy truck as opposed to coming across the ocean in a freightliner.

We can make a difference. We can make a change.

**OUR COMMUNITIES,
OUR ENVIRONMENT
AND OUR FUTURE
DEPEND ON OUR
ACTIONS. MANUFACTURING MATTERS!**



CANADIAN-MADE. UNION-MADE. WE BUILD AWARD-WINNING VEHICLES RIGHT HERE IN CANADA

DaimlerChrysler

Dodge Caravan (minivan)
Chrysler Town & Country (minivan)
Chrysler Pacifica (sport wagon)
Chrysler 300 Series (car)
Dodge Magnum (sport wagon)
Dodge Charger (sport sedan)

Ford

Ford Edge
Lincoln MKX
Ford Freestar (minivan)
Ford Crown Victoria (car)
Mercury Grand Marquis (car)

General Motors

Chevrolet Impala (car)
Chevrolet Monte Carlo (car)
Pontiac Grand Prix (car)
Buick Allure/LaCrosse (car)
Chevy Silverado (pickup)
GMC Sierra (pickup)
Chevrolet Equinox (SUV)
Pontiac Torrent (SUV)
Suzuki XL7 (SUV)

Built in:

Windsor
Windsor
Windsor
Brampton
Brampton
Brampton

Oakville
Oakville
Oakville
St. Thomas
St. Thomas

Oshawa
Oshawa
Oshawa
Oshawa
Oshawa
Oshawa
Ingersoll
Ingersoll
Ingersoll

IN OTHER'S WORDS...

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

To Fellow Members of CAW 199:

I recently had the opportunity to attend a program at the CAW Education Centre in Port Elgin.

The program was very educational and discussions, stimulating.

The accommodations are great, along with many extra activities to enjoy.

I would recommend attending any of the programs offered by the CAW Education Centre.

In solidarity

*David Randy McCullough,
CAW Local 199 Member*



Thank you to all who contributed to this edition of the 199 News.



*Earth Day: Miss Redman's Grade One Class
Manufacturing Matters: Peter Scott, Tom Balint, Ed Gould*

NDP Fundraiser: Tom Balint

Port Elgin Ed Centre (this page): D. Martin

Day of Mourning: Ed Gould

May Day Celebration: Bruce Allen

Retirees Sports Banquet: Alma Pelletier

Great News for our Chapter!

On behalf of the chapter and our families we would like to add our thanks and appreciation to each for your contribution to the success of BLUESAGANZA. The chapter's fundraising activities and the generosity of those in attendance that evening resulted in \$2234 in revenue for the chapter. Thank-you! Thank-you!!

Sincerely,

*Sharon Svob, Staff and Council
Autism Ontario, Niagara Chapter*



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.

**John Alexander, John Allen, John Arbour,
Armand Beaudry, Jim Brocock, Giuseppe Castrilli,
Jim Clarke, Roy Crevier, Arthur Emberson,
Jacob Friesen, Roman Hirniak, Raymond Jack,
Gerard Langlois, Michael Lysick, Fioravanti Marrone,
Antonio Naso, Wendell Nigh, John Popadinac,
Bernard Riehl, Frank Salitrynskyj,
Frank Schwartzkopf, Gregory Shaule, Irvine Smith,
Peter Spokes, Kazmier Telesnicki, Diane Turner,
Stephen Varga, Roger Venne, Edmund Wach,
Desmond Weatherhead, Russell Woods,
Robert Wright**

ZERO TOLERANCE FOR HARASSMENT

by: Julie Bartfai
and Alex Latham

The weather is starting to break so we can finally get over these feelings of “Cabin Fever” that have held us hostage over the long winter months. When feeling pent up we tend to get frustrated and edgy which can cause people to do and say things they normally wouldn’t. These behaviours, particularly in the workplace can have a very negative impact.

Harassment is prohibited by law and is the responsibility of the employer to provide a harassment free workplace. Harassment may take on many forms such as verbal, mental and physical. If harassment is happening to you or a co-worker, stop it before it gets worse. It is important to remember



that harassment has been proven to be detrimental to one’s health and well being. Both GM and the CAW have zero tolerance towards these types of behavior. Let your supervisor know what’s happening and put in a call for your committeeperson and/or your Employment Equity Reps.

Through the efforts of our Local 199 workplace training programs people now have a better understanding on how to identify what harassment is.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank John Hockey for his work here at the CAW local 199. John was also the liaison for the Employment Equity Committee to CAW/GM Council. Thanks for your patience and understanding to all the issues. All the Best John!

**For questions or concerns
contact your Equity Reps at
the following locations:**

Glendale Site:

905-641-6560

Julie: ext #2

Alex: ext #4

Ontario St. Site:

905-641-6990

Union Hall: 905-682-2611

Harassment

Harassment is defined as “a course of vexatious comment or conduct that is known or ought reasonably be known to be unwelcome”, that denies individual dignity and respect on the basis of the grounds such as: gender, disability, race, colour, sexual orientation, or other grounds prohibited by applicable human rights laws.

Some yesterday faces of the General Motors Indoor Soccer league. The 1985 GI Joes were the league champions.

Recognize anyone?

Top Row (L-R)

Miro Posa, Phil Gorchinsky,
Frank Ogrizek, Al MacPherson,
Paul Martin, Dennis Parsons,
Malcolm Corfield, Gerry Leary

Bottom Row (L-R)

Bob Dupuis, Cam Mallabar,
Ralph Zavadil, Daniela Russell,
Kevin Allen, Rod Brown



Those Were the Days!

Photo Submitted by: Daniela Russell & Malcolm Corfield



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Q: *I am an active employee and my personal benefit summary says I can receive an unreduced pension in a certain year; what does that mean?*

A: The year and month you can receive an unreduced pension is when you turn 60 years of age. This unreduced amount is not the same as a 30-year pension. It simply refers to your benefit rate for retirement. \$81 monthly for skilled trades or \$68.50 for tool setters per year of service.

Q: *I am retired and would like to withdraw from my life insurance, is that possible?*

A: The only retirees who can withdraw from their life insurance are those who retired on a total and permanent disability pension. The amount is paid out in 50 monthly instalments and is tax-free.

Q: *Is the pension indexed to the cost of living?*

A: The pension is indexed and this increase takes place every October 1. You receive a statement to show the increase. In pension contract years, the increase is usually late and there is retroactive money paid out later.

Q: *Do all retirees get the same increase each year?*

A: No, the increase depends on which pension contract you retired under. These occur usually every six (6) years but in 2005 there was a three (3) year agreement. Another factor determining the increase is whether you are still in receipt of a special allowance on your pension. Pre 2000 retirees with 30 years service receive a special allowance until age 60. Post 2000 retirees with 30 years service retain their special allowance until age 65.

Q: *How do I take more tax off my pension?*

A: The pension rep. is at the union hall daily from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. and forms are there to increase your tax deduction. A retiree's signature is required.

Q: *How do I change my address or pension deposit when I am retired?*

A: The pension rep. can order you're a direct deposit form from the GM Benefit Centre to change your deposit. To change your address, it must be a personal request from the retiree to the GM Benefit Centre and you require a password to do this. If you need assistance, come to the hall. Please use the Important Info box (right) to keep this information handy.

To try on your own call the GM Benefits Centre at 1-877-442-4625.

Q: *Is the pension money safe if GM has financial trouble?*

A: As of November 30, 2006 the most recent pension plan valuation, the benefits payable under the GM Pension Plan are 83.4% funded, assuming the plan continues in operation indefinitely.

Q: *Can GM retirees and their family get discounts on new cars or miled-out vehicles?*

A: There are discounts available to GM retired members and families but not every discount applies to everyone. If you have a specific inquiry about a particular discount, give us a call and we'll see if it applies to your situation.

Q: *If I marry, re-marry or live common-law after I retire can I take a survivor option so that part of my pension goes to my new spouse if I should die?*

A: As long as the survivor option was not waived at the time of retirement than a survivor option election can be taken. This election must be applied for during the first year of co-habitation. If you leave it past the first year, you will be denied, no exceptions. Some retirees think that by putting their new spouse on health care benefits, that covers the pension as well. This is false. Health care benefits and pension benefits are two different categories. There is a financial cost to the survivor election on a pension.

IMPORTANT INFO

**GENERAL MOTORS
BENEFITS CENTRE
1-877-442-4625**

YOUR USER ID:

PASSWORD:

**PENSION REP
(CAW HALL):
905-682-2611**

**REP'S HOURS:
MON TO FRI
12:30 - 2:30 PM**

ONE JOB LOSS MAY SEEM INSIGNIFICANT...UNLESS IT'S YOURS!

by: Peter Scott, Tina Raimondo, Karen Golob

On Saturday, April 19th, CAW local 199 kicked off Phase Two of the Manufacturing Matters Campaign. Union members from across the peninsula took a pass on the normal spring activities of the first seasonal sunny day to attend an educational forum on the Manufacturing crisis facing our workplaces and communities.

Recognizing the importance of this event, the turnout was fantastic. Over 100 CAW members, including leadership, members and retirees and activists representing seven different locals and at least a dozen workplaces, came to discuss our security, our jobs, and our future.

As the sun shined outside, the atmosphere inside was dark and gloomy. National Staff Members Carol Phillips and Rick Rose opened the event with presentations on Canada's shrinking manufacturing sector, and focused specifically on what is happening here in Niagara. They outlined the staggering job losses that have occurred across Canada over the past few years.

One shocking statistic presented is the fact that 360 jobs per day were axed from Canada's most important sector in 2007. This is more than double the job loss rate of 2006!

As these jobs are cut, plants are closing and equipment is being sold off. We are not only losing good paying jobs, we are also losing our ability to provide for our needs. ***"The loss of one job may seem to be an insignificant number, until it is your job that is lost"*** As the jobs disappear, our

social safety net that we will need in retirement is threatened. With less employers and a lack of good paying jobs, who will contribute to our pensions, and our health care?



A list of over 34 local plants, many of which were household names; Fleet Industries, Port Weller Dry Docks, Atlas Steel, Hayes Dana, Ferranti Packard, at one time employed thousands but now the buildings and plants are left crumbling.

University graduate, Dayn Gray, shown on the front cover, is the son of a GM worker. Dayn said that he owed his university education to his father's good paying union job. Dayn also added that he might just represent the last generation that can



say that. He asked those in attendance where will the next generation find a good paying job that will help pay the 60,000 dollars required to obtain a much needed university education?

Who will take up this challenge... leadership can only do so much. The reality of the situation is that for this Manufacturing Matters Campaign to have any teeth, the union needs the support of its members.



The question is; what are you willing to do to secure your job and your future? Call the hall today to ask "How can I help?"

Congratulations to all who participated in the CAW

one-day programs offered this spring. We would also like to congratulate our members who have graduated with their first level McMaster Labour Studies certificates. They will celebrate at a ceremony to be held at McMaster in June.

FOR COURSE INFO CONTACT PETER SCOTT
905-682-2611 ext.238
caw199wtp@cogeco.net

GM SPOUSAL AUDITS: PLEASE READ!

by: Mark Roy
and Rick Jones

In the coming months, General Motors will be issuing a spousal audit. This audit is for both active and retired members. The company is doing an audit in efforts to reduce health care costs by having ineligible spouses dropped from coverage. Please see the spouse eligibility rules below.

Not everyone will be the subject of the audit. **IF YOU RECEIVE A SPOUSAL AUDIT IN THE MAIL, DO NOT**



IGNORE IT! You **MUST** complete the audit and return it in the envelope provided with the required documentation. PLEASE DO NOT MAIL YOUR ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS, THEY CANNOT BE RETURNED AND WILL BE DESTROYED.

Remember, it is **YOUR** responsibility to complete the audit and return it within the specified timelines. Failing to do so will result in your spouse being dropped from benefits.

Currently, the GM/CAW benefit representatives from all locations are compiling

demands for upcoming negotiations with GM this September. I will provide updates on this process as we move closer to bargaining. In closing, Rick and I wish you and your families an enjoyable and safe summer.

For questions or concerns contact your Benefits Rep at the following locations:

(Mon., Wed., & Fri.)

Glendale Site:

905-641-6444

(Tuesday and Thursday)

Ontario St. Site:

905-684-9688

Union Hall: 905-682-2611

Dependent Spouse Eligibility Rules

Legal Spouse: The person to whom the employee is legally married

Common Law Spouse: The person of the same or opposite sex who has been residing with and cohabitating with employee in a conjugal relationship, for a continuous period of at least one year, and has been publicly represented as the employee's spouse.

WORKING ALONE MUST NEVER HAPPEN

by: John Pula, & Rob Jukosky
Ontario St. Health & Safety Reps

At our workplaces there are more job cuts therefore, there are more opportunities for workers to be assigned to do work by themselves.

Working alone must never happen. At General Motors we have a set company policy and our contract language Document 74 1 (u) contains working alone language giving direction as to what the policy is to contain.

Your supervisor has access to the company policy on the GM website and is totally responsible for your safety.

The definition of working alone is stated as: describes a situation where a worker is assigned to work in isolation and under conditions which present a risk of

disabling injury, if the worker might not be able to secure assistance in the event of injury or other misfortune. Examples of areas that are considered to be of danger are and not limited to, roof areas, basements, external buildings, confined spaces, high rise complexes, penthouses, etc.

The policy calls for a written check in procedure to track your whereabouts, a communication strategy using a man down radio that is linked to security, limitations to time of day, weather conditions, etc. Ask your supervisor for a copy of the policy.

If you have any concerns or problems, ask your supervisor to contact your CAW Health & Safety Representative.

Regardless of who your employer is, insist that there is a policy to protect you.

REMEMBER, IF IT CAN'T BE DONE SAFELY IT CAN'T BE DONE!!



HATE LITERATURE

In 1996 and again in 1997, the B.C. Human Rights Commission ruled against the suburban weekly North Shore News for publishing Anti-Semitic columns, the writer, Doug Collins, said the verdict was “a direct threat to the freedom of the press.”

In 2002, the federal commission ruled against the notorious Ernst Zundel, ordering him to remove anti-Semitic material from a website. His Lawyer, Doug Christie, characterized the ruling as a threat to freedom of speech.

Again in 2002, the Alberta Human Rights Commission ruled against the magazine Alberta Report for spreading prejudice against Jews. The magazine agreed to give adequate space for a rebuttal. Still, publisher Link Byfield complained about limits on free expression.

Last December, the Alberta Human rights Commission ruled against a Christian Pastor, Stephen Boission, for a letter published in the Red Deer Advocate, calling gays “immoral.”

The federal commission is looking into a complaint against Catholic Insight Magazine for publishing anti gay articles. Its editors condemned “the nefarious

role of Human Rights Commissions in suppressing freedom of speech.”

The pattern is clear. Those hauled before the commission howl “Censorship.”

But the Supreme Court of Canada has upheld the Anti-Hate provisions of both the human rights code as well as the Criminal Code. It ruled that curbing hate speech is a reasonable and justifiable limit on free speech.

That, then, is the law in Canada. But now a Liberal MP Keith Martin wants to change the law and has introduced a private member's bill to delete section 13(1) of the Canadian Human Rights Act, which prohibits messages “likely to expose a person or persons to hatred or contempt.”

Especially right-wingers have hailed him as a hero. There was little or no hue or cry when human rights commissions were ruling on complaints by various groups, but there is when the complainants are Muslims.

Martin and others need to address that if they are not to be seen as hypocrites.

The media oppose human rights tribunals regulating the press.

They do so to protect press freedom, they also point to disparities in the human rights codes in different jurisdictions. Ontario legislation refers to signs, symbols, emblems etc, but not the media. The federal statute, and the ones

in Alberta and B.C are clearer, which is why the tribunals there heard the cases they did.

As for the Ontario commission, it needs to address the irony that it may

rule against a crackpot holding up a sign “Gays pose a threat,” but not a media outlet conveying a similar message to a far wider audience.

The duty of the minister of the crown is to stay neutral and refrain from trying to influence independent tribunals. It is also his duty to uphold the law.

We should get the Human Rights Commissions out of the business of regulating the press. But until parliament and the provincial legislatures do so, the commissions—and the minister of the crown, in particular—have a duty to ensure equal applications of the law for all citizens.



THE ST. CATHARINES & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL, THE NIAGARA ARTISTS CENTRE AND THE CENTRE FOR LABOUR STUDIES AT BROCK PRESENTED AN **INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY CELEBRATION**. THE EVENT HELD MAY 3 WAS HOSTED BY NAC AND FEATURED MUSICAL GUESTS DAVE BIDINI, ANNE FEENEY, AND THE RED RIVER REBELLION BAND. THE EVENING ALSO FEATURED A JURIED ART SHOW AND SILENT AUCTION. MUCH FUN WAS HAD BY ALL!



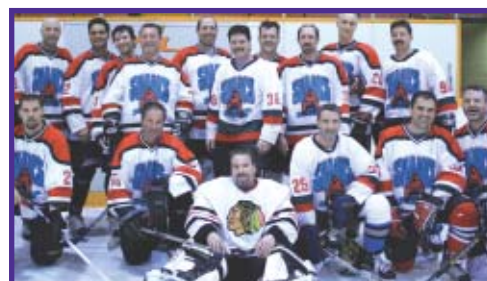


Congratulations to all those who participated in the annual CAW Henry Wiebe Hockey Tournament. Thanks to all the volunteers and to Mary-Anne Stevenson for all the great photos.

The annual Pudge Dawson Golf Tournament will be held May 24th. Come out and join us for some fun in the sun and some great prizes. Please note the Golden Horseshoe Qualifier date is now June 1st and not June 7th as previously printed. Our apologies for the error.

EVENTS LIST:

PUDGE DAWSON GOLF TOURNAMENT - MAY 24TH
GOLDEN HORSESHOE GOLF TOURNAMENT QUALIFIER -
JUNE 1 ST AT BINBROOK
CAW NATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT - AUGUST 24TH
AT BROOKLEA GOLF COURSE MIDLAND
LABOUR DAY- SEPTEMBER 1ST





NATIONAL DAY OF SILENCE FOR SLAIN STUDENT

BY: TOM BALINT & MARION MUELLER

When we set out to segregate a certain group of people, we do harm and injustice to everyone. Racism, sexism, homophobia, attacks on workers and discrimination against people with disabilities and or injured workers all have roots based in fears and/or hatred, prejudice and stereotypes.

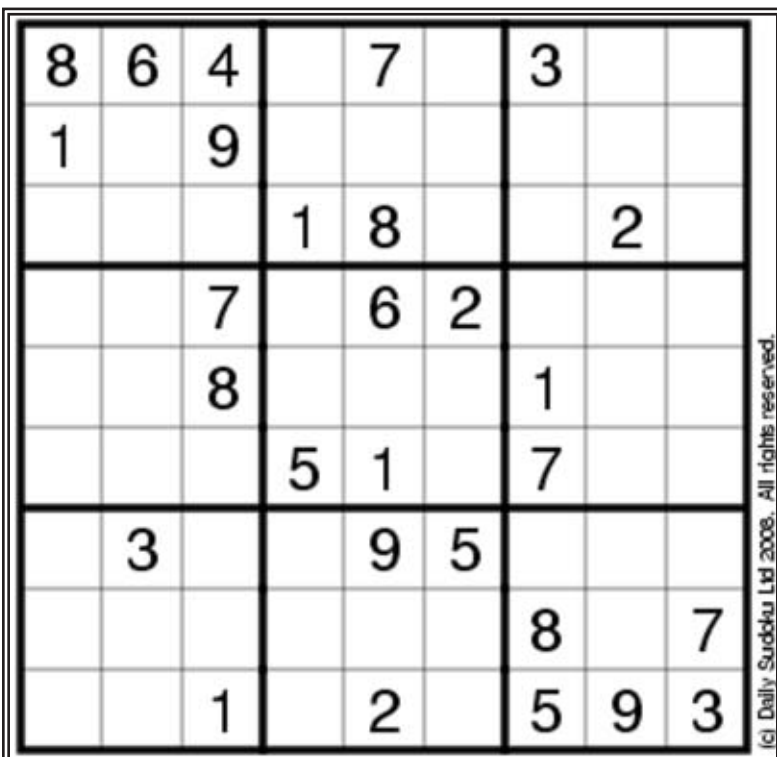
Most of us have families, sisters, brothers, mothers, fathers and children which we love dearly. When we have blood relatives there are similarities, yet still there are many differences. We don't look exactly alike; we don't act exactly in the same manner or dress or wear our hair exactly alike. Yet, still we embrace our similarities and admire or love our differences. While we can admire or love differences in our families, still some of us cannot extend that

love or admiration and respect to our other brothers and sisters of the human race. Racism, homophobia, sexism, attacks on workers and/or injured workers and discrimination based on religion and against persons with disabilities is unfortunately still prevalent in our society. These thoughts bring me to a news story I've recently read. "Day of Silence to Honour Gay Student". On April 25, 2008 the United States' Annual National Day of Silence was dedicated to 15-year-old Lawrence King. This headline sends a chill through my heart.

Lawrence King came out at an early age. He openly wore feminine attire, which made him quite unpopular with the other boys at school. Lawrence was in grade eight. He attended E.O. Green School in Oxnard, California.

later died at the hospital. A 14-year-old student that targeted him, because he was openly gay, shot him. What is wrong with our society when bullying which is wrong, reaches new heights with grade eight students toting guns and shooting another dead? This was a premeditated act by a 14-year-old boy based on hatred, ignorance, prejudice, homophobia and discrimination. What moral values is society as a whole teaching our children? Sadly, mainstream national media failed to report this tragedy (unlike other school shootings) until days later, and several candlelight vigils were held throughout the U.S.A. When the news media fails to report all relevant issues to society, it makes us wonder how much more we are missing. On April 25th, Lawrence King, a child, was remembered; perhaps from this day forward we can embrace our diversities and enjoy a more gentle society. Something is fundamentally wrong with our societal values when a tragedy like this occurs and is overlooked.

On a lighter note, our annual Easter Bunny Hop Fundraiser was a great success. Fun was had by all. Thank you to all the volunteers and sponsors that helped make it happen. We raised over \$1250.00 for the "Out of the Cold Campaign" for the Homeless and the churches that do not discriminate but welcome diversity.



ORGANIZING CRITICAL TO LOCAL

by: Elizabeth Ferretti, CBO



FIVE MONTHS LATER:

The ideology of the community of St. Catharines is that the CAW represents General Motors members only. In cohesively strategizing to change this ideology the prolific benefits of organizing all workplace sectors can be realized.

Although within our Local we can demonstrate sectors other than auto, the dynamics are lost within a multi-generational culture of CAW being a Union for GM Auto workers and its subsidiaries.

Notwithstanding the above, a strategy involving leadership and activists to raise community awareness that the Canadian Auto Workers is a diverse Union and that Local 199 is Organizing in the community could effectively alle-

viate the barrier of an "Auto only" perspective.

Rather than a long-term agenda for change, I would propose a two to four week advertising/ media/ community event "blitz" vociferous enough to create positive change and challenge an individual's perception of CAW.

The "Manufacturing Matters Campaign" is a great opportunity to educate residents and Rank and File members of the severe decline in manufacturing sector jobs and the need to organize in non-traditional workplaces to achieve a tangible Union density within the Niagara Region.

Organizing is crucial to our Local's success and a campaigns' effectiveness is entirely dependant on an inside contact person. In as much as Unions like the IWA pay

incentives to a member who provides contact information of \$25.00 per worker upon a successful campaign, the CAW stands on principle alone. We have established language within our Statement of Principles and our Objectives and in the Oath of Office that instills an onus on each and every Rank and File member to endeavor to build and strengthen our Union through Organizing. Through this we maintain our goals of solidarity and equality. Because of this we all have a responsibility to develop an organizing culture.

The barriers to organizing have been identified and the ideologies recognized. Building a campaign encompassing the mandate of Community Awareness and Union Promotion will facilitate future successful Organizing targets.



CAW LOCAL 199 ...ORGANIZING FOR YOUR FUTURE...905-327-9855 FOR INFO



Atlas Steel

Signs of the Times



Robin Hood

FUNDRAISERS!

BY: IRENE LOWELL, SUSAN ERSKINE-FOURNIER, & ELIZABETH FERRETTI

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE



GLORIA



LIN



CHRISTIANA



NINA



SHAZIM

The Women's Committee hosted an International Women's Day Luncheon on March 7th. The event was a huge success. To mimic a United Nations format we invited women of different ethnicities to speak about the International Women's Day celebrations in their former countries.

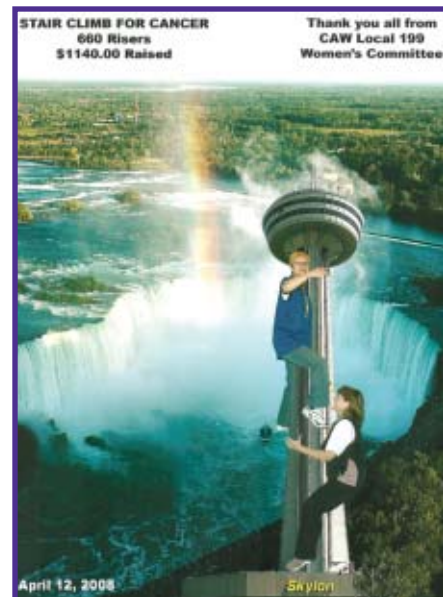
We would like to thank Gloria Garcia from Columbia, Lin Wang who emigrated from China, Christiana Norty who was born in Ghana, Shazim Manzoor, a Muslim women from Pakistan and our special guest Nina Tabin who spoke about the inadequate human rights violations against women in her home country of Iran. We honoured women of all countries with flags from around the world as centrepieces.

Our committee would especially like to thank Chef Ben for the lovely lunch and Ray for his hard work in setting up the hall for us. We wish Ray great health & happiness upon his retirement. We were honoured to give \$2000.00 to Gillian's Place, which was donated by our National Union and \$1000.00 made from ticket sales for the luncheon to Women's Addiction Recovery Mediation (W.A.R.M.) a local non-profit agency.

In April the Women's Committee participated in the Canadian Cancer Society's annual Skylon Tower Stair Climb in Niagara Falls. We would like to thank all those who supported us and with your generous donations we were able to raise \$1150.00 in hope of finding a cure for Cancer. Congratulations to Sue, her daughter Wiley and Irene for making it to the top! We are currently planning other events that help make a difference in our community. We invite all women to participate and join our committee. Come share the FUN in Fundraising! Have a great summer!



BEN



RAY

CAW GETS THE BLUES FOR AUTISM NIAGARA



This year's Bluesaganza was simply outstanding! The musicians, volunteers and the gang at Autism Niagara were all up to the task of making this year's event a great fundraiser making in excess of \$4,000. After all the bills were paid a much appreciated \$2,235.00 went to Autism Ontario, Niagara Chapter. Great job, one and all! Special thanks to Jim Casson for the great lineup of musicians and sound crew, Debbie Wiebe for the Master of Ceremonies duties, the bartending army, the CAW volunteers, Sharon Svob and the Autism Niagara volunteers, and of course Chef Ben and the CAW Hall Staff. A very special thanks to all those who came out to support this very worthwhile cause. See you all next year for a great night of entertainment!

Roy York, Mike Gauthier,
CAW Bluesaganza Event Co-ordinators



Autism Society Ontario
Niagara Region





MANUFACTURING MATTERS!!

TERRY WHITE,
GM CHAIRPERSON

With Canada losing 250,000 manufacturing jobs over the last five years, the second phase of the CAW Manufacturing Matters Campaign is in full force. Phase II is intended to arm union leadership and activists from the Niagara Peninsula and surrounding area with important communication techniques and various other principles that will bring awareness to the plight of the manufacturing crisis. All of GM leadership is supporting this initiative including our reps, Shop Committee Persons, H&S Reps, Off-shift Committee Persons, the Executive Board Members, Workplace Trainers and National Reps Doug Orr, John Hockey and Mike Michaud. This was an informative well-organized day. Thank you to all the organizers, leadership, and local activists who gave up the first good Saturday of Spring because **MANUFACTURING MATTERS!**

AMERICAN AXLE

The American Axle strike is into their eighth week with negotiators close on some small issues and miles away on the major eco-

nomic issues. American Axle provided a sub-par offer that was primarily short on benefits and wages. UAW leadership continues to state that they are battling day by day and are learning American Axle's management tactics. American Axle management continues to state that they cannot compete with their direct competition that has been getting concessionary agreements from the UAW, an argument that holds no water considering AA&M showed a 40 million dollar profit last year. This strike has the appearance of being far from over.

NEW RULES 32 MPG BY 2015

The standards for vehicles built between 2011 and 2015 are more aggressive than some observers expected and raise the possibility that the US government could require US automakers to meet the 35-MPG target they agreed to last year for the 2020 deadline. Under the proposal, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) will raise fuel economy rules to 35.7 MPG for passengers, cars and 28.6 MPG for light trucks.

Currently new passenger cars are required to meet at 27.5-MPG average while sport utility

vehicles, pickup trucks and vans need to hit a target of 22.5 MPG. This proposal could cost automakers tens of billions of dollars. This move also follows passage of last year's energy bill which gave the NHTSA wide latitude to set new rules as long as the industry met the 35 MPG goal by 2020.

2008 BARGAINING

As the union prepares for 2008 bargaining, your demand sheets are given serious attention. This will be the worst set of bargaining that the St. Catharines work force has ever seen due to concessionary agreements in the UAW and long unwarranted strikes by suppliers even though corporations continue to make major profits. The working class is constantly under fire and this leadership must have your full support to weather these issues. Your leadership will communicate all pertinent information regarding this set of negotiations. If you have any questions please get the answers directly from your floor reps who will be in continuous contact with the leadership who will be negotiating on your behalf.

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE
199 NEWS IS SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2008
ARTICLES SUBMITTED LATE MAY NOT BE
PUBLISHED.
COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS
WELCOME
HAVE A GREAT SUMMER...SEE YOU IN
SEPTEMBER!**





You're Invited to our Annual Retirees' Open House

Come Celebrate Local 199's 71st Birthday!

Come Celebrate Summer!

JUNE 5TH, 2008

CAW UNION HALL, 124 BUNTING RD

905-682-2611

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: BOB WHITE

BUY LOCAL!
BUY CANADIAN!
MANUFACTURING MATTERS!

