

199 News

CAW 199
NIAGARA

The official publication of CAW Local 199

Proudly celebrating over 70 years in the community

JANUARY,
FEBRUARY,
MARCH
2008

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2008 - CAW 199 HALL - 124 BUNTING RD.



CAW LOCAL 199 TEAMS UP WITH THE NIAGARA ICEDOGS!

SEE RELATED STORY ON PAGE 2



2008 WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPION
STEFAN LEGUIN



3

PRESIDENT'S
REPORT

6/7

VICE PRESIDENT
REPORT

In This Issue

Center

RETIREES
PHOTOS

GM Unit

PAGE 27

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF 199 NEWS IS WEDNESDAY APRIL 9TH, 2008

As you can see by this issues green theme, spring is just around the corner!

As winter ebbs away many changes have already begun to roll in. Some serious consideration must be given in the

very near future for changes to the 199 News. The executive board is looking at ways to cut overhead costs for the Local as membership steadily declines. Currently we only do 5 issues per year and it makes it very difficult to keep news current and to keep our membership informed of events taking place around the Local. I am desperately looking for ideas and support to keep this paper going. Please contact the hall or the editor with any suggestions or if you are interested in receiving the 199 News on-line as opposed to a hard printed copy. We print about 12,000 copies to all units and retirees and printing costs are huge.

For all you sports fans, the CAW has teamed up with the Niagara Ice Dogs. The Ice Dogs organization supports our Manufacturing Matters Campaign by leasing four General Motors Products from Cullen's. Watch around town for three Equinox vehicles and the Cadillac SRX sporting the Ice Dogs logos. Also try and make it out to see some great OHL Hockey at the Jack Gatecliff Arena where you'll find the CAW ad on the boards. "We're always in your corner!"

I had the pleasure of meeting Ice Dog player Stefan Legein who won a gold medal for Canada at the World Junior Hockey



Tournament in the Czech Republic.

Stefan separated his shoulder during the first shift of the gold medal game but hasn't let the injury deter him from his goal of playing in the NHL. The Columbus Blue

Jackets drafted Stefan as the 37th pick in the second round. He is looking forward to playing in Columbus and upon receiving his signing bonus wants to buy a Yukon! Legein enjoys playing in St. Catharines but misses the "great ice at the Hershey Centre in Mississauga". He loves the "loyalty of the fans here especially now that the Bills are out!" and the Ice Dogs are playing to a full house. When I asked Stefan about his work ethic and his dedication to improving his game he said, "some of it I'm sure is from my parents but for the most part it comes from being small so I have to work that much harder." I can relate Stefan! Good luck to you and all the Ice Dogs and thanks Ice Dogs for supporting local businesses and CAW workers at General Motors and Cullen Motors. Now the trick is to convince the rest of our fair community to do the same. We have allot of work to do to regain the respect of our unionized jobs within the community. With the upcoming set of negotiations we must be sure that our demands reflect well on all those we do our daily business with. Our jobs here have never been so important to our communities as they are now. *Buy Local!*

Suz

caw199news@hotmail.com

CAW 199
NIAGARA

JANUARY, FEBRUARY,
MARCH 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

EMAIL: 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 BARTFAI,

GARY BRADNAM, LARRY GREENHALGH,

ALEX LATHAM, GARY MARTIN, TERRY WHITE



Wayne Gates
Local 199 President

Gloves are off as Manufacturing Matters Campaign continues...

350,000 Canadian jobs lost over past 5 years!

St. Catharines-Niagara hit hardest :

Manufacturing jobs accounted for 1 of 4 local jobs in 80's but now accounts for only 1 of 7. Food Banks are struggling to meet demands. Local Charities & Social Services organizations see a dramatic drop in much needed donations. Municipal governments lose tax revenues from both workers and closing businesses.



Canada's manufacturing sector is in a state of crisis. Over the past five years, the Canadian economy has lost over 350,000 manufacturing jobs as a result of plant closures and permanent layoffs in communities from coast to coast. At the local level, the St. Catharines-Niagara area has been among the hardest hit. Since the Canadian dollar began its meteoric rise in 2002, we have seen close to 5,000 jobs lost in workplaces like General Motors, Affinia and Edscha. To put it in relative terms, in 1980, manufacturing accounted for 1 of every 4 jobs in our area – today it accounts for 1 of 7!

Hardly a week goes by without another devastating blow to our region's manufacturing sector. Most recently, it was announced that the Can-Gro operation in St. David's would be closing if a buyer can't be found. This would affect not only hundreds of employees but also a large number of fruit growers who depend on this company as suppliers. One wonders if and when it will ever end!

Manufacturing job losses impact workers directly but they also have a devastating effect on fami-

lies and the community as a whole. Over the course of our union's "Manufacturing Matters" campaign, we heard many troubling stories at our community forums. Food banks are struggling to meet demand; local charities and other social service organizations are experiencing a dramatic drop in donations; municipal governments are witnessing a decline in tax revenue from both the workers who are losing their jobs and the businesses that are shutting their doors; and businesses are suffering from declining sales as families cope with job losses or face chronic job insecurity.

WHAT HAS CAUSED OUR MANUFACTURING SECTOR'S WOES?

To start with, as was indicated earlier, the Canadian dollar has risen 50% in value since 2002. That means our goods are now 50% more expensive to sell on the global market, a devastating blow to a country so dependent upon the export market.

In 1996, Canada enjoyed a \$12 billion trade surplus—we exported more goods than we brought in. Just ten years later, in 2006, we recorded our worst ever trade deficit of \$28 billion. Why has this

happened? In pursuit of free trade, our federal government has neglected to ensure that the trade agreements are fair. We have given access to our economy to other countries without the same benefits being accorded to Canadian companies. And instead of trying to rectify this situation, the federal government continues to pursue these agreements, most recently with South Korea. Recent studies suggest that we would lose an addition 33,000 manufacturing jobs should this deal be signed.

It is clear that when push comes to shove, the federal government will not do what it takes to help protect Canadian workers. So far, their approach to this crisis has centered exclusively on misguided corporate tax cuts and token investment initiatives.

The promised \$1 billion Community Development Trust Fund, announced last week by the federal government, would only be implemented if the spring budget is passed. It's time that our Prime Minister stopped playing partisan politics at the expense of workers.

Find out WHAT CAN BE DONE in the rest of Wayne's article continued on Pg. 4

SO WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Here are a few suggestions:

Intervene to bring the value of our dollar back to sustainable levels by encouraging the Bank of Canada to further cut interest rates.

Use public funds to purchase goods made in Canada by enacting a "Buy Canadian" policy for public procurement. This should apply for all levels of government.

Create a federal parliamentary task force on manufacturing job loss.

Make significant direct investments in key manufacturing industries and sites to help rebuild communities struggling with manufacturing job losses.

Develop tighter controls for the purchase of Canadian companies by foreign investors.

Create a new Auto Pact to ensure foreign imports are tied directly to investment and jobs in Canada.

Develop a "Green Car" strategy to support and promote the development of fuel-efficient vehicles and technology in Canada.

Our federal government has the tools to turn this crisis around and begin rebuilding a strong manufacturing sector. This is critical for our future and that of our children and grandchildren.



Three Generations of Gates
Wayne and daughters Jacqueline (bottom)
and Chantelle (right) with Grand-daughter
Pricilla at the CAW Kids Christmas Party.

*Please see
pages 24 & 25
for pictures
of the 2007
Annual Kid's
Christmas
Party.
A very special
thanks to
Rob Stevenson,
Ed Gould, and
Tom Balint for
the photo
contributions!*

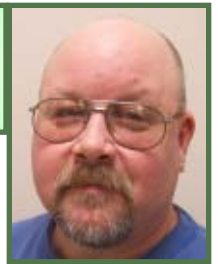
**Remember...please don't drink and
drive.**

JUST THE FACTS : CANADA'S MANUFACTURING SECTOR

- MANUFACTURING JOBS AS A SHARE OF ALL CANADIAN JOBS: 1 IN 8 (2.1 MILLION CANADIANS)
- MANUFACTURING DIRECTLY ACCOUNTS FOR 17% OF TOTAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY
- JOBS LOST IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN LESS THAN 5 YEARS: 247,000
- MANUFACTURING JOBS LOST IN 2006 ALONE: 59,000
- MANUFACTURING TRADE DEFICIT IN 2006: \$28 BILLION
- MANUFACTURING TRADE SURPLUS IN 1996: +12 BILLION
- VEHICLES IMPORTED FROM JAPAN LAST YEAR: 227,000
- VEHICLES EXPORTED TO JAPAN LAST YEAR: 2,100
- ESTIMATED JOB LOSS FROM A CANADA-KOREA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT: 33,000
- PERCENTAGE OF CANADA'S EXPORTS ACCOUNTED FOR BY MANUFACTURING: 72% (TWO-THIRDS OF CANADA'S TOTAL EXPORTS)
- RISE IN CANADIAN DOLLAR VS. U.S. DOLLAR IN FOUR YEARS: 35%
- AVERAGE HOURLY PAY IN MANUFACTURING: \$20.94 (30% HIGHER THAN AVERAGE CANADIAN WAGE)
- AVERAGE HOURLY PAY IN RETAIL: \$15.05
- AVERAGE HOURLY PAY IN HOSPITALITY: \$10.81
- AVERAGE INCOME LOSS FOR RE-EMPLOYED MANUFACTURING WORKER: 25%
- RATIO OF WOMEN IN MANUFACTURING WHO LOST JOBS COMPARED TO MEN: 4:3
- YOUNG WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING WHO LOST JOBS SINCE 2002: 1:5
- YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: 13%
- PAYROLL GENERATED BY MANUFACTURING SECTOR: \$94 BILLION
- INCOME TAXES FROM MANUFACTURING WORKERS: \$21 BILLION (HELPING TO PAY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES LIKE EDUCATION & HEALTH CARE)
- SUPPORTS MILLIONS OF OTHER CANADIAN WORKERS IN SERVICE INDUSTRIES LIKE RETAIL & HOSPITALITY
- SPENDS 75% OF ALL PRIVATE SECTOR RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT
- EMPLOYS MORE CANADIAN SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS THAN ANY OTHER SECTOR

2007 Community Dinner a Success!

by: Mark Roy - Recording Secretary



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our members who volunteered their time for this year's community dinner. Although numbers were down for this year's event, those who attended received a fabulous turkey dinner with all the trimmings and were treated to an afternoon of music provided by a group of our members who jammed the afternoon away.

It is remarkable what our members will do to provide a positive experience for those less fortunate in our community. The day before our dinner, the kitchen in our hall was a beehive of activity as our cook Ben Manley and a group of CAW members and their children did all the prep work.

The following morning was much the same as volunteers set up the hall readying for our first guests to arrive. It is times like these that make one proud to be a member of the greatest union in the world.

As I stated earlier, numbers were down for our dinner this year. We don't have a clear reason as to

why this happened, so we will plan next year's event the same as past years and re-evaluate how we proceed if we have a low turnout again in December 2008. It would be satisfying to know that the numbers are low because those in need have had a bit of luck and are prospering more but unfortunately; this is probably not the case.

Again an event of this magnitude does not come together without a lot of help from a lot of people. To name only a few, sisters Doris Maxwell, Lorie Peacock, Sue Erskine-Fournier and brothers Mark Osborne, Nick Delarmo of Riganelli's Bakery, our cook Ben Manley, our Local 199 executive board, the St. Catharines and Niagara Falls Transit, St. John's Ambulance and again all our volunteers (Named and Unnamed).

Solidarity Forever



ONTARIO'S INJURED WORKERS MAKE MODEST GAINS

by: Bruce Allen - Vice President

On January 1, 2008 injured workers in Ontario received a very modest 2.5% increase in Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) benefits prompting many of those receiving those benefits to inquire what this was all about. This increase in benefits followed another 2.5% increase in benefits this past July 1st and will be followed by yet another 2.5% increase on January 1, 2009. These very modest increases completely fail to make up or the devastating effects of malicious attacks of the previous Tory provincial government on the WSIB benefits paid to injured workers.

Nonetheless these benefit increases still represent important gains for injured workers won by injured workers organizations, like the Ontario Network of Injured Workers Groups (ONIWG),

and their allies in organized labour. These gains are also important because they provide some badly needed relief to the many thousands of injured workers in Ontario who live in deepening poverty as a direct consequence of the actions of both the employers who bear responsibility for their injuries and the failures of Ontario governments, past and present, to enact legislation delivering real justice to injured workers.

These monetary gains for injured workers are otherwise important because they show the need for and the value of sustained activism and relentless struggle for injured workers. Indeed, had injured workers organizations and their allies not relentlessly demanded that the provincial government address the deepening poverty endured by so many injured workers due to govern-

ment policies these benefit increases would never have been achieved.

In other words these gains for injured workers are the fruits of the struggle. They inform us in no uncertain terms of what can be gained through struggle. They teach us that if injured workers and our allies intensify our struggle for justice many more and bigger gains can be won. These gains also demonstrate the critical need to and importance of, stepping up efforts to forge a much more powerful and effective injured workers movement across Ontario and beyond.

DAY OF MOURNING
APRIL 28, 2007
REMEMBER THOSE WHO
WENT TO WORK AND
NEVER MADE IT HOME

RESOLUTION TO THE 2008 CLC CONVENTION

'JUNE 1ST, INJURED WORKERS DAY'

The following resolution has been sent to the 2008 Canadian Labour Congress Convention (CLC) by both CAW Local 199 and the St. Catharines District Labour Council. Essentially, CAW Council adopted the same resolution last year. If the CLC adopts and seriously implements this resolution; it will potentially be tremendously important. Action by the CLC made the *National Day of Mourning* for Workers Injured and killed on the Job a significant recognized event across Canada. Action by the CLC can do the same with respect to Injured Workers Day.

WHEREAS injured workers across Canada continued to be denied justice and growing numbers of injured workers live in deepening poverty due to the failure of governments to legislate policies that provide dignity and fair compensation to all injured workers and

WHEREAS provincial workers compensation boards collaborate on an ongoing basis to produce the policies that are responsible for the plight of injured workers across Canada and

WHEREAS provincial governments have shown they are more concerned with reducing the costs of their workers compensation systems to employers than they are in addressing the needs of all injured workers for dignity and fair compensation.

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Ontario Federation of Labour declare its support for making June 1 a Canada-wide day of action to intensify the struggle for justice for all injured workers and call upon the Canadian Labour Congress to do the same.

E.I. CHANGING THE SYSTEM

by: Larry Greenhalgh & Greg Brady



In the near future, the Human Resources and Social Development Canada will be demanding anyone in automotive employment to do an application for employment insurance on line. This short form (E.I. application on line) is designed specifically for temporary layoffs.

The application requires six (6) areas of information to be entered:

1. **A REFERENCE CODE.**
2. **SECURITY INFORMATION**
(such as your mother's maiden name).
3. **PERSONAL INFORMATION**
(your social insurance number).
4. **DIRECT DEPOSIT INFORMATION**
(if you have not already made application).
5. **EMPLOYER INFORMATION**
(clock number and first and last day worked).
6. **THIRD PARTY AUTHORIZATION**
(if anyone is doing the application on your behalf, you will be asked to enter their name).

According to E.I., this process is to encourage the use of filing for your benefit on line. 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.



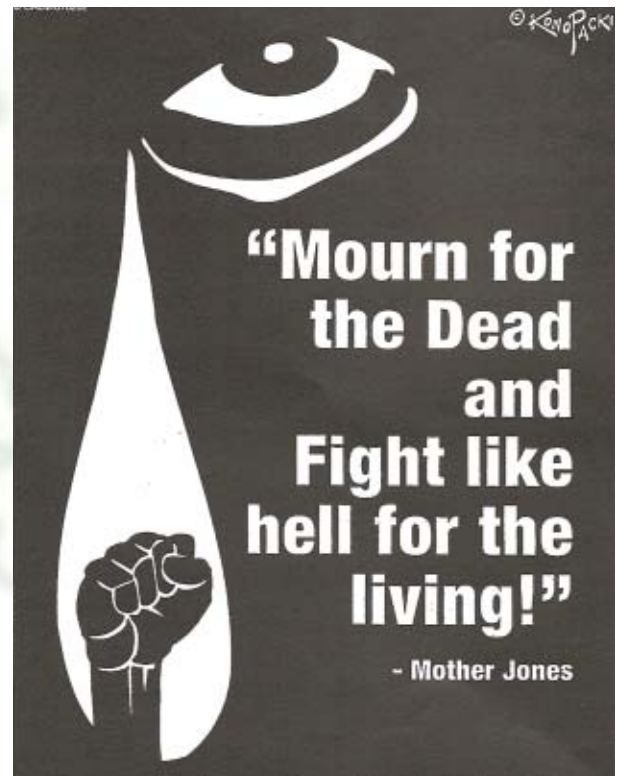
LARRY GREENHALGH: COMP: 905-684-9688

GREG BRADY: ENGINE: 905-641-6419

(2441-IN PLANT ONLY)



BRUCE ALLEN, MOHAMMED NAZIR AND PETER KORMOS BRAVE THE COLD TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INJURED WORKERS RALLY IN DECEMBER 2007. MORE THAN 20 YEARS AGO THE CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS DECLARED APRIL 28TH A NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING FOR WORKERS KILLED OR INJURED ON THE JOB. THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF CANADA'S LABOUR MOVEMENT THIS DAY IS NOW OBSERVED IN MORE THAN 100 COUNTRIES. IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES. WE MUST CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR PROTECTIONS FOR WORKER'S HEALTH & SAFETY, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND FOR WORKERS WHO HAVE BECOME INJURED OR SICK.



DAY OF MOURNING APRIL 28

BENEFIT HIGHLIGHT FACTS...

by: Mark Roy and Rick Jones

Thank you all for your patience as I continue to grow along the learning curve as your benefit rep.

The following information is from the highlight sheet from our last set of negotiations. You should find it very useful and may I suggest you file it some place where you can easily refer to it for some of the more common benefits we have achieved.

EYE EXAMS (NEW): One eye exam every 24 months, paid to a maximum of \$65 per exam.

Vision Care: Single vision-\$200 every 24 months, Bifocal-\$255 every 24 months, Multi-focal-\$325 every 24 months, Contact lenses-\$210 every 24 months. Up to \$325 may be applied to the cost of laser eye surgery.

DENTAL PLAN: The annual maximum has been established at \$2,800. The orthodontic lifetime maximum will now be \$3,600. Coverage for supplementary bite-wing x-rays will be provided once every 12 months.

CHIROPRACTIC BENEFITS: The annual maximum has been set at \$450.

SPEECH THERAPY: The annual maximum benefit for Speech Therapy will be \$1,100.

PARAMEDICAL COVERAGE: The annual maximums for Naturopaths and Podiatrist/Chiropodist have each been increased to \$325.

PSYCHOLOGIST SERVICES: Up to \$500 will now be available to be applied against the cost of a psychological assessment for children under the age of 14 (once per lifetime) and will be applied against the annual maximum in the year it is claimed.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM: Prescription drugs will be covered at the cost of available generic drugs. Brand name drugs will be provided where determined to be

medically required. The maximum dispensing fee covered under the plan will be capped at \$11 per prescription. The current 35 cents co-pay per prescription has been maintained.

SEMI-PRIVATE HOSPITAL: Semi-private hospital room coverage will be provided to a maximum of \$200 per day.

LONG TERM CARE: The maximum rate for semi-private accommodation will be set at the current level of \$1,724.32 per month. Current residents of long term care facilities will be exempt from this provision.

PSA TEST: Coverage will be provided for PSA tests, once annually, for men aged 50 or older. The maximum payable for this test will be \$15.

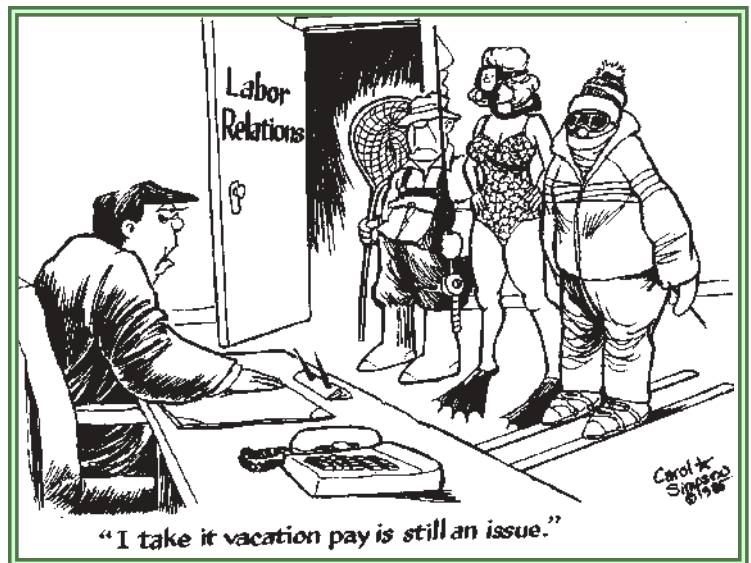
CHRONIC CARE: Chronic Care Benefits will be modified to provide reimbursement for up to \$30 per day for semi-private accommodation and a maximum reimbursement of up to \$60 per day for the chronic care co-pay charge following expiration of the co-pay benefit period paid by the provincial government. Current recipients of chronic care benefits will be exempt from these provisions.

TUITION REFUND FORMS for the 2007 year must be completed and submitted to the GM Benefit Centre **BEFORE** March 31, 2008. Failure to do so will result in loss of benefit.

TRAVELLING OUTSIDE OF CANADA AND THE U.S.: Your benefits remain the same. Should you require medical attention on

holiday, convenient 1-800 numbers are on your Greenshield card. As well, a very handy brochure for members travelling is available at the in-plant benefit offices as well as the union hall. This is a very helpful pamphlet. Pick one up before you travel and leave it in your luggage for future trips. One never knows when illness or injury can strike.

Heading into spring I as well as the rest of your plant representation will be getting ready for GM/CAW Council which will be held in early May in Windsor where we will join benefits reps. from other GM locations to meet with Greenshield and Sunlife officials in an effort to resolve problems that have arisen. We will also network with one another in forming our demands for bargaining in September of 2008. As we move closer to negotiations, more information will be made available surrounding our demands. In the meantime, please feel free to submit your thoughts and ideas on your benefit demands at either plants' benefit office or call me Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 905-641-6444 or Tuesdays and Thursdays at 905-684-9688.



RETIREES' REPORT

by: Barb Abrams



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

Happy New Year and all the best in 2008! I can't believe that another year has gone and we are into 2008.

The automotive industry is facing many challenges in the next year. This is a contract year and our local negotiating team will have a tough contract to negotiate. One thing about the CAW is that they always look after their retirees and spouses. A lot of companies and unions tend to forget about their retirees once they have retired, but not the CAW. There is going to be a rally at the end of January or early February and the Collective Bargaining Conference is going to be held June 10-13 in Toronto. We have sent our recommendations into the National for the Collective Bargaining Conference from our Retired Workers Conference.

The Retired Workers Chapter membership sent a letter to Mayor Brian McMullan congratulating him for not supporting the Korea Trade Agreement.

Our computer classes have started again with a new schedule for 2008. Schedules can be picked up at the main office at

Local 199. Remember, these classes are open to all CAW retirees and their spouses free of charge. Take advantage of this course. Digital camera classes have also been set up.

In February, we are planning to have a Wellness Program at the hall, put on by our Wellness Committee and the Heart Institute of Brock University. The tentative date will be February 20th before and after our membership meeting. I have to have this report in by January 8th so if at all possible, watch the CAW website for more details. I know a lot of things that are in our reports are after the fact but this can't be helped because of having to have the reports in so far in advance.

We had about 300 new retirees come out of the plant in the last few months. We took them down to the Retirees Centre and showed them around. Many had never been down to the centre and were quite impressed. Many promised to come back and enjoy the functions that are available to them. It has been nice to see those who have come back and

enjoy themselves. New faces and new ideas are always welcomed.

I can't say enough about the volunteers that keep our centre running. Without them, we would not have the successful chapter that we have. Our retirees' chapter is very active, being involved in all national issues, conferences and councils. Our delegates that attend these conferences are always speaking out on behalf of all retirees and their spouses. The Pension Charter was not published until the retirees had their say and changes were made on behalf of retirees. A copy of this charter is displayed in the hall for everyone to see.

Please stay positive on issues and I assure you that the Retired Workers Executive and the Local Executive have your best interest at heart and will be working on behalf of all.

Hope to see you at all our upcoming meetings and functions!

ANNUAL MAINTENANCE TRADES 2008 RETIREMENT/REUNION DINNER

TUESDAY, APRIL 8TH AT THE CAW UNION HALL

STARTS @ 3:30 UNTIL?!

COST: \$15

TICKETS AVAILABLE MARCH 1ST AT THE UNION HALL
OR IN-PLANT

10-PIN BOWLING

High Team-

Safaris- 670.5 Pts

High Average (Men)

Leroy Bell - 191

High Triple

Rick Zohnierczyk - 679

High Single

Rick Zohnierczyk - 278

High Average (Women)

Stella Slavinjak - 164

High Triple

Dorothy Krafve - 543

High Single

Rose Small - 235

WE SHOULD BE GREENER

by: Perry Argentino, Norm Roy, CAW Environment Reps

The **BLUE BOX** program, the **RED SCRAP METAL BINS**, the **WHITE GENERAL GARBAGE BINS** and the **BLACK and GREEN RECYCLING BINS** are all put into place to provide a **GREENER** environment for all.

We must fully understand the positive impact that the recycling program will have on our community and the negative ramifications our future generations face without these programs. We must continue to make a concerted effort to improve our recycling practices and programs.

At both St. Catharines' plants

there are many waste streams that are produced. The most critical is general garbage to landfill. The recycling that we do in St. Catharines is paper, cardboard, plastics, tin cans, wood, rubber, plastic, light elements, scrap metal and aluminum chips, media roll paper, grinding swarf, batteries and castings.

I know it can be a struggle to consistently do our part but it's the way everything is moving and the results will be rewarding. I will continue to work for you and edu-

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

THE GREAT LAW OF THE IROQUOIS CONFEDERACY



cate you as best I can as in-plant issues arise.

Look to the upcoming new look on the environment boards at both plants and exercise our recycling mottos.

R.O.A.D.

Respect the environment, Obey the law, Always improve, and Don't pollute.

REUSE, REDUCE, RECYCLE.

WE CAN COMPETE WITH ANYONE IN THE WORLD!!

The following is a letter written by Brian Nicholl (Edscha Unit Chairperson) to the Hon Rob Nicholson, P.C. MP, Minister of Justice, House of Commons

Dear Mr. Nicholson:

I am an employee of Edscha of Canada and we are an automotive parts supplier serving mainly the North American auto industry with some European contracts as well. We are located in Niagara Falls and recently celebrated our 20-year anniversary here in Niagara. We average about 150 employees in addition to dozens more on layoff.

Shortly before Christmas it was announced to us that General Motors was pulling one of our contracts and shipping the work to a Korean supplier. We were not even allowed to counter their offer! This is a major income loss for our facility and in the long run could even result in more job losses. The majority of our workforce is very worried about what could occur next. How many more jobs do we have to lose to Korea and other Asian suppliers? We do not want to lose our livelihood and possibly our homes due to work being "outsourced" to cheaper competitors who do not have equal environmental & Human Rights laws & the same cost of living as we in North America do! Despite what some may say, with a level playing field, **WE CAN COMPETE WITH ANYONE IN THE WORLD!**

I am calling on you and all our other elected officials to re-think the "Free Trade Agreement" with Korea until we can be assured of a level playing field in terms of Fair Trade not Free Trade. In 2007 Korea sold over 109,000 vehicles in Canada and in turn Canada sold 100 new vehicles in Korea! If this agreement is allowed to proceed, there will be an expected loss of 17,400 jobs in Ontario and 8,300 more jobs in Quebec, not to mention how many more in the Niagara region. As Canadian wage earners and taxpayers I think we deserve a better deal than this. I do hope your government will re-consider this trade agreement with Korea and other third world countries.

We can compete globally when the cards are not stacked against the worker. And please, simply stating "Buy Canadian" isn't an answer or a solution, at least one that we will accept! I look forward to a written response from you in the near future.

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

HERE'S A BRIGHT IDEA!

by: Cathy Franklin, Rob Jukosky, & Norm Roy

A very simple & easy way for everyone to help out the environment is to change the light bulbs in your home. Thomas Edison invented incandescent light bulbs in the late 19th century. They are being replaced by more energy efficient alternatives.

A compact fluorescent light bulb uses small amounts of inert gas and can last up to 13 times longer than incandescent bulbs. Incandescent bulbs heat wire or tungsten filaments to produce light and waste a lot of energy. 90% of their energy translates as heat, not light. A compact fluorescent light bulb produces 70% less heat than incandescent.

The Canadian Government has promised to phase out inefficient bulbs by 2012. This will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 5 million tonnes per year.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A CFL BULB?

The proper size of bulb, the quality of Kelvin's (the lower the Kelvin rating, the warmer the light) and the wattage. The CFL bulb only uses a quarter of the wattage of a standard bulb to produce the same amount of light. In comparison, a 100-watt incandescent bulb is equal to a 29 watt CFL bulb. Another term you might hear is lumens. A lumen measures the power of light that radiates from the source. The higher the lumens rating, the more powerful the light output. The CFL bulbs only heat up to 20C compared to the incandescent, which can reach a temperature of 100C. The CFL bulb does contain mercury. It is only about a fifth of the amount found in a watch battery or equal to the tip of a ballpoint pen. Most of this trace amount gets absorbed into the glass. It is important to dispose of the bulb properly. If you break a CFL bulb, sweep up the fragments & phosphor powder. Do not vacuum, as that will spread the mercury into the air. Clean the area with a damp paper towel. Dispose of the used or broken CFL bulbs through your local hazardous waste collection. To use the example of replacing a 60-watt incandescent bulb with a 15-watt CFL bulb, here are the cost savings. The CFL will save about \$45 over the life of the bulb, which will burn for 10000 hours compared to 1000 hours for an incandescent bulb.



CAW NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD STATEMENT ON EARTH HOUR

The issue of climate change has been universally acknowledged as one of the greatest challenges currently facing the planet and its people. On March 29th at 8:00 p.m. (local time) citizens in dozens of cities around the world will turn off the lights in their homes and workplaces in recognition of the role each of us has in stopping climate change.

Earth Hour, which began last year in Sydney, Australia, is the symbolic act showing that through collective will, counteracting climate change is possible. Turning off the lights for one hour also reminds citizens that the world's resources are indeed limited and over-consumption comes at a high cost to us all.

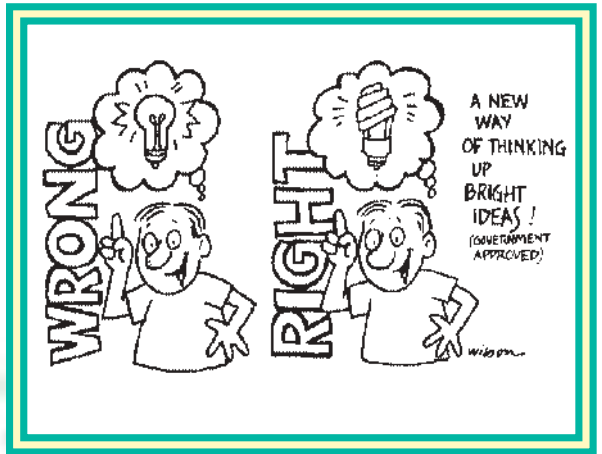
With the recognition of the CAW's important role as a socially progressive union, the CAW National Executive Board has fully endorsed the union's participation in

Earth Hour. The union will join the hundreds of organizations around the world in making a statement that action on climate change is possible.

CAW leadership will encourage all members across the country to take an hour for earth on March 29, 2008. CAW members should also urge their municipal councils to endorse the event, for those who have not already.

Through our participation in Earth Hour and other similar events, the CAW will reconfirm its commitment to creating a sustainable future for our members and all others with whom we share the planet's limited resources.

Adopted by the National Executive Board on February 8, 2008



Eco-Fair

Sunday, March 30th
at the Union Hall.

Co-hosted by
Climate Action Now
Watch for Leaflets in
the plants!



Buy Local
and learn
about the
100 mile
diet

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



Vic Boru



Dave Carr



Rex Welsh



Don Richardson



Andy Daoust, Ken Campbell, Jerry Jadwiszczak, Dane Bremner, Don Cole, Dave Kinnear, Al Ker, Mario Ferrusi, Jim Richber, John Cecckin, Frank L'Ecuyer



Jim Martin, Denis Hughes, Wally Ogryzlo, Al Boldt, Loreto Chiochio, Stefan (Riflemman) Fedchyshak, George Otta, Mike Kozachenkn, Frank Popp



Frank Villella, Moe Bisson, Barry Gillis, Bernie Hamilton, Edgar Dent, Rob Sampson, Maria Tergeson, Margaret Upper, Vic Martens



Dave Smith



Mike Quill



David Jugoon



Keith Jennings



Don Hodgkins, Barry Boekestyn, Gord Ripenburg, Larry Lemmelin, Dave (Kozy) Kozub, Orlin Clarkson, Barb Sipos, Dave Millar, Ray Nickel



Grant McLean, Terry Davidson, Phil Rodrigue, "Pink Floyd" Shearing, Jeff McLean, "Bucky" James, Len Sabo, Howie Canham



Tom Halsall, Ron Haymes, Don DeForest, Luke Bastien, Ivan Rehak, Jack Carrier



Brian Seniuk, Peter Vanderende, Jeannot Gaudet, Chris Smith, Mike Piggins, Val Klodnicki



Mike (Masher) Gaspich, Al Blay, Mike Hambling, Tim Robins, Bruno Albano, Jim Farbychuk

Congratulations to all Retirees!



Terry Porter, Joe Foley, John Unger,
Gail Papineau, Joe Degiuli



Sal "Sam" Candeloro, Glen Page,
Richard A. Moody, William John Neil



Dave Nunnamaker, Simone Patrick,
Darlene Smith,
Kathleen Patterson, Dave Rochon



Tim Slack, Mike Burke, Don Boccinfuso,
Earl Ryan, Carl Cimprich



John Gatecliff, Pat Garand, Pat Grau,
Terry (Popeye) Davidson, Ben Foschini



Art Stubbins, Mary Muller,
Wendy Hyndman, Mary Anne Iker,
Lou Sider



Frank Bauer, Tom Boyer, Gord Geady,
Ted Teleki, Eric Wilson



Gus Forest, Roger Pipe, Gary Dyker,
Gerry Brazeau, John Proper



Don Bauer, John Canal, John Unruh,
Paul Shugg, Rick Green



Neil Haverkamp, Jakle Burghout,
Steve Elcich, John Sidiropoulos



Patty Mather, Ross Corbett,
Janet Willms, Cec Martin



Kevin Novak, Larry Sorrell,
Claude Lanthier, John Daniels



Roger Thibault, John Marion,
John (Cowboy) Barclay



Al Saracino, Charles Myke, Joanne Garant,
Pat Samuel, Zdenek (Sted) Stedron,
George Korince, Leslie Smith



Jim McCamely, Terry McCormick,
Ed Marcynuk



Bryan Hill, Jon MacDonald, Bruce Schinkel,
Brian Ferguson, Brian White, John Meller,
Larry "the King" Ebert



Diana Green,
Lynn Tufts



Roy Hopkins, Paul Robitaille, Dave Steingart,
Jim Sirianni, Bill VanSoelen, Bill Blake, Jim Coon

STOP WITH THE AUTO SALARY ENVY!



A commentary by Windsor radio personality, Patty Handysides

I'm really tired of hearing people saying others don't deserve the pay they get. You know, radio may seem a glamorous career but it's certainly not in the upper brackets of income but I don't begrudge what others make and that's why I'm defending the autoworkers' wage.

As we watch the jobs slip out of the city and those with top-notch incomes go too, we need to stop and really see what that means to our fair city where nearly anyone with a job can afford a home and a car. The standard of living here is great and with a healthy paycheque you can have a really great house and two cars and a boat and

a huge screen TV and pizza every weekend and dining out a couple of times a week, and huge amounts of income tax that goes back to Toronto and Ottawa and pays for our schools and hospitals and our roads. Don't forget the Taxman, every dime we get paid gets split nearly in half to go to the government. Those with big paycheques, especially those who spend it on boats and TV's and pizzas and not on investments and tax havens also spend a lot on our country's infrastructure whether they like it or not.

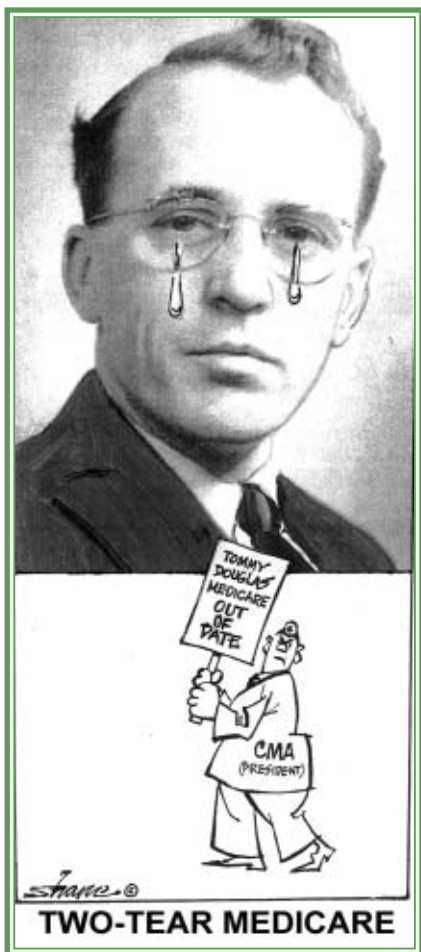
So with those paycheques disappearing thousands at a time; the realtors suffer, neighbourhoods suffer with so many houses up for

sale, boat shops and marinas suffer, TV sales lag and even pizza shops have to close.

So before you get on that high horse you keep around in case the conversation turns to auto job losses, just remember who's helping pay our bottom line from hamburgers all the way to health care...

Note: Patty Handysides is a former autoworker (TPT at GM Trim) who knows what the work is like and currently works as the Municipal Affairs Reporter at Windsor AM800 CKLW Radio.

pattyh@am800cklw.com



Windsor radio station AM 800 recently conducted an online poll asking whether the CAW should accept wage reductions to "turn around the auto industry."

Undercutting workers is not going to save the auto industry or any other industry and when the poll originally was posted 70% were in favour of taking the pay cuts. As you can see by the final results of the poll there was a dramatic turnaround.

SHOULD THE CAW CONSIDER WAGE CUTS TO HELP TURN AROUND THE AUTO INDUSTRY?

NO 59.6%

YES 40.4%

TOTAL VOTES: 3224

**2008 SPECIAL INCENTIVE RETIREMENT CANVASS**

A total of 180 production employees and 60 skilled trade employees made application for the 2008 retirement event. At the time of writing, approximately 60 production and 25 skilled trade workers have retired in this event. It is anticipated that all the skilled trades employees will have an opportunity to retire by September 1, 2008. Production employees will have to wait and see if any more surpluses appear by September. There has been a high withdrawal rate this time around and the lowest production seniority employee able to participate at this time is May 24, 1978.

PERSONAL DOCUMENTS FOR RETIREMENT

In anticipation of the possibility of another canvass for retirement after the 2008 collective agreement it is time to make sure you have all your supporting documents in order. You require a birth certificate for yourself and your spouse, your spouses' S.I.N. and your marriage certificate or affidavit of common law status. Waiting for these documents can delay payments in some cases. If you have a spouse on file on your health benefits or on your pension then the General Motors Benefit Centre will run your pension papers with a survivor option for your spouse even if you are separated. It is important to let us know if you are divorced or separated at the time of retirement application so we can have you complete a declaration of non-spousal status to run your papers as a single pension as opposed to a joint and survivor pension. If you are married or common-law status and wish to not elect a survivor pension, then you and your spouse must sign a waiver to get your pension papers run without survivor pension benefits.

REVIEW YOUR BENEFICIARIES

Many members and retirees are not aware who their beneficiaries are for life insurance and pension. It is important to review these issues periodically as circumstances change in your life i.e. the death of a spouse, marriage breakdown, or a new partner. It is very disconcerting for those who are left behind when beneficiaries are not changed and kept current.

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**

PENSION LEGISLATION UPDATE, DECEMBER 14TH, 2008, www.canadianlabour.ca

OTTAWA – Canadian workers have finally won new legal protection for their wages and their pension contributions when their employer goes bankrupt. Bill C-12, a series of amendments to existing insolvency and wage protection laws, was approved by the Senate and received Royal Assent. The Canadian Labour Congress and its affiliated unions accomplished this after an extensive three-year campaign to change bankruptcy laws that unfairly put workers last in line to get paid.

Working men and women lost an average of \$50 million a year in unpaid wages when companies claimed bankruptcy while waiting for two years to receive only 15

cents on the dollar.

"Finally, workers no longer have to fear the prospect of lost earnings owed to them while dealing with the blow of the loss of their jobs. It took three years of hard work to convince parliamentarians to put individual working Canadians ahead of banks and other financial institutions," says Ken Georgetti, President of the Canadian Labour Congress.

This victory marks the end of a long and determined campaign by the labour movement to change bankruptcy laws, which too often saw employees suffer the loss of wages, benefits and even their pension savings because banks and other creditors were given priority. The Act

also provides for protection of unpaid pension contributions.

"Canadians have been waiting a long time for these protection measures. It is not just unionized workers that will benefit but every working woman and man in Canada – whether they are in a union or not – that will have this protection as soon as the government proclaims the Act," says Georgetti.

The Canadian Labour Congress, the national voice of the labour movement, represents 3.2 million Canadian workers. The CLC brings together Canada's national and international unions along with the provincial and territorial federations of labour and 136 district labour councils.

NEW McMASTER AND CAW COURSES NOW AVAILABLE...

by: Peter Scott, Tina Raimondo, Karen Golub

McMASTER LABOUR STUDIES

CAW LOCAL AREA SEMINARS

<i>Opportunities & Challenges in Multilateral Disarmament in the Post 9/11 World</i>	<i>2 Monday Nights, March 17, April 14</i>
<i>Prospects for Peace in the Middle East in 2008 Iraq, Afghanistan, and Iran</i>	<i>2 Monday Nights, March 31, April 7</i>
<i>Tools for Success at University</i>	<i>Tuesday Nights March 4, 11, 28, 25</i>
<i>Introduction to Ergonomics</i>	<i>12 Weeks ONLINE Starts April 15</i>
<i>Labour in the Media</i>	<i>4 Thursday Nights April 3, 10, 17, 24</i>
<i>Research Methods</i>	<i>2 Saturdays March 1, April 19 2 Thursdays May 1, May 15</i>

<i>Human Rights</i>	<i>3 Days, April 24, 25, 26</i>
<i>Health & Safety</i>	<i>Saturday, March 29</i>
<i>Manufacturing Matters Campaign Workshop</i>	<i>Saturday, April 19</i>

CAW NATIONAL WEBSITE

www.caw.ca/education

REMINDER! 2007 TUITION ASSISTANCE FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO GM BY MARCH 31, 2008 (PLEASE ALLOW 10 MAILING DAYS)

McMASTER UNIVERSITY WEBSITE

<http://socserv.mcmaster.ca/labourstudies/index.html>

For Course info contact Peter Scott :
905-682-2611ext.238
caw199wtp@cogeco.net

As the newest member on the Education Committee I am excited to be a part of a committee that does such a comprehensive and effective job; hopefully I can make a positive contribution. The Education Committee offers a wide range of courses developed by educators from McMaster University and the CAW National Union. The courses vary from one-day seminars to three-month on line courses.

Personally over the last three years, I have been utilizing my GM tuition refund for McMaster courses. I find the courses current and resonate to our lives and jobs here. We all read the newspapers to get a grasp on what is going on with our society and economy but these courses go well beyond the surface of the media. The McMaster Labour Studies offers a more accurate view of the underlying dynamics in the global forum and brings it back to us as workers. The courses are very relevant to our struggles.

Most of the courses through McMaster are done by a video conference link that connects you to six other

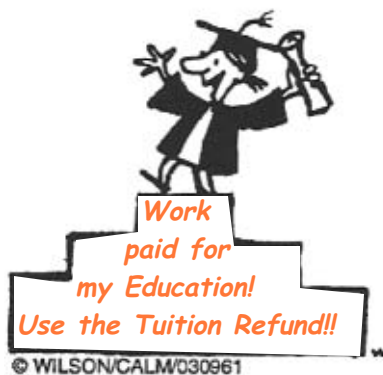
locations and most importantly, to speakers from around the globe. The speakers are leaders, experts and activists in their fields and offer a wealth of knowledge. They are energized by the prospect of engaging the class in great discussions and counter opinions. I have found every course to be thought provoking and the theory and knowledge gained has been useful in discussions and further readings. It is a unique way of learning.

In taking courses, I better understand the true cost of developing the Tar Sands versus the immense value of the Tar Sands, (Canada's Oil); I appreciate the impact of privatization in Canada and how we need to protect our health care system with greater urgency. Our actions will reverberate on to other things we hold dear; our water will be on the privatization hit list, (U.S. Imperialism); the scary reality of the deep penetrating affect of transnational companies and what it means to our jobs and the future of manufacturing in the Niagara area, (Globalization).

I highly recommend these programs. They will offer tools to help you expand your knowledge base, develop skills and allow an opportunity to spend time with like-minded individuals.

Karen Golub

Local 199 Education Committee



We would like to introduce the newly elected members to the committee. They are Susan Erskine-Fournier, Elizabeth Ferretti and re-elected Irene Lowell. We would like to extend an invitation to all members to become a part of the Women's Committee or attend our meetings and our functions. Come out and see what we do within our great union and the community.

Annually, December 6th is a day of remembrance and commemoration for the 14 young women callously murdered at the Montreal Polytechnique Institute. Our committee hosted a breakfast for 140 people from within the local and our community to pay homage to these women and to all women who have been victims of violence. Our guest speakers included Mayor Dave Augustine of Fonthill, formerly an executive with the newly named Gillian's Place, June Corman, Professor of Women's Studies at Brock University and Cheri Huys, Volunteer Co-ordinator of Niagara Regional Sexual Assault Centre (CARSA). We asked two questions of our guests: "Do you remember what you were doing when you heard about the Montreal massacre and the effect it had on you?" and "What can we do as a community and society to end violence against women?"

Our gracious guest speakers each

answered candidly and gave those in attendance something to think about. We as a committee believe violence in any form is a societal issue and only when society and our governments take this issue seriously will violence end; not only here in Canada, but world-wide. We would like to thank all those whose attendance reassured our committee that we are not alone in the fight to end all forms of violence. We especially thank Peter Scott who put together a moving video that tugged at the heartstrings of each of our guests. Also, a special thanks to FirstOntario Credit Union manager, Janice Cheel for the donation of the lovely door prize, which was won by June Corman

As of this writing, the committee is planning the March 8th International Women's Day event. We will be hosting a luncheon at our union hall Friday March 7th, 2008. More information will be posted in all plants.

Please take a moment to remember women past who have paved the way for the all women of tomorrow. **History is Herstory.**



the Montreal Massacre...
Bells toll for those who dream
no more,
Fourteen chimes then silence.
A young mans' broken
psyche scorned, turned anger
into violence.
He knew no names or not their
face.
A senseless bloody slaughter.
The only thing in common was
they all were someone's
daughters.
A battle of the sexes blamed
gender warfare and it's sins.
A conscious act of violence in
a war that no one wins.
Men who hate - the women
fear and men fear the hate of
women.
And these fears inherent in our
youth keep the violence driven.
A social state of illness gives
the weak too strong a gun.
Will peace only be reality when
all that's left is one?
Bells toll for those
who dream no more,
Incessant chimes - no silence
For all alone save for the gun
Finally no more violence.

susan erskine-fournier, dec-99

LIFE ON THE LINE

Awake to the alarm clock, fall out of bed,
 Life on the line, I often dread.
 Through the drive thru, coffee at my side,
 A much needed treat to complete the ride.
 A swipe of my card, to prove I'm there,
 A smile on my face to show I care.
 A few "hellos" come my way,
 Helping me make it through the day.

Team meetings never used to be,
 Now they are a reality.
 With Steve Krizsan, Tracy & Chris,
 They were something you shouldn't miss.
 Now in my envelope, I patiently stand,
 Sometimes wishing I had four hands.
 A bolt goes here, and two screws there,
 Not really sure what goes where.

Run it down with the gun,
 It's like a race; I'm on the run.
 The light goes off, I don't know why,
 I do it again, give it another try.
 There is a "help" button I can press,
 Someone else can fix the mess.
 The music chimes, loud and clear,
 Team leaders are close, nothing to fear.

Down the line the engines go,
 Time to rotate, and don't be slow!
 I need a drink, or maybe a break,
 Hurray, a few minutes are all you can
 take.

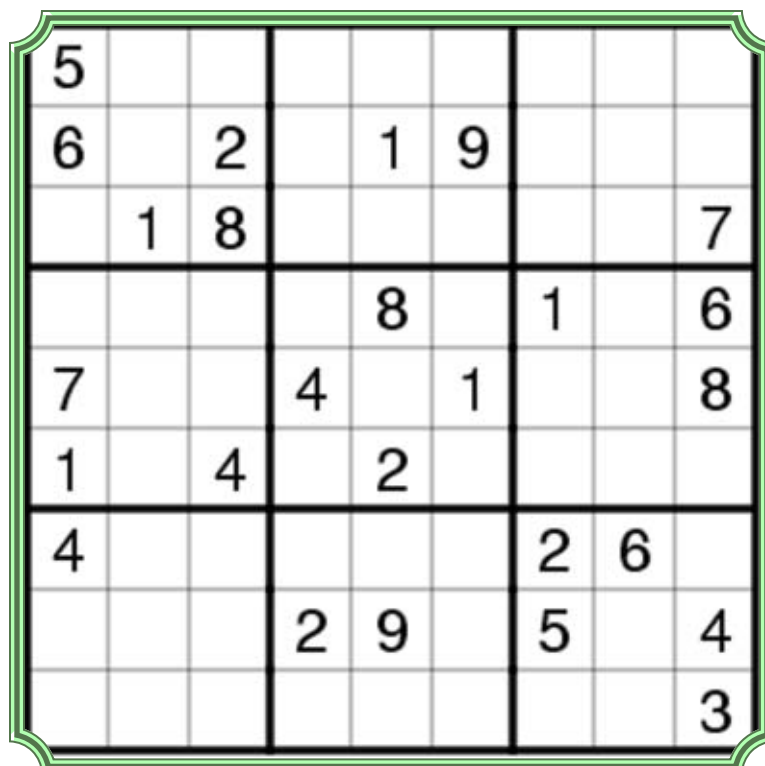
I'd like to sit, but nothing's there,
 Years ago, there was a chair.
 The resting devices are almost obsolete,
 What about our aching feet?

30 years was hard to do,
 I never thought I'd make it through.
 Conversation and a lot of friends,
 Has finally got me to the end.
 My life on the line, will no longer be,
 What comes next, I'll have to see.
 But before I go, I wanted to say,
 I hope I'm around for your retirement day.

Mary Anne Iker, 11/07



*I would like to thank everyone who supported my Retirement/Fundraiser held at the CAW Hall on January 26th, 2008. With your generosity, I was able to give a cheque for \$ 1,040.00 to Gillian's Place (formerly Women's Place). Again, so nice of you, from a very thankful me!
 Cheers to you All!
 Mary Anne Iker*



*Taken from Norma Mamone
D'Agostino, PHD. C. PSYCH*

Imagine what it would be like to hear the words, "your child has cancer." Instantly your family's world has changed forever. Your child, his or her siblings and you as a parent are all faced with the challenges of learning to live with the disruption in daily life caused by the illness and treatment demands and to work through the myriad of emotions evoked by a life threatening diagnosis.

The flood of feelings can include disbelief, guilt, fear of the future, despair, anger and self-doubt. For most, these feelings will resolve themselves with time and support from friends, family and health care professionals. However, for approximately 25% of children with cancer and their family members, the cancer experience can lead to depression.

Cancer is generally thought of as a disease of adults, but each year in Canada, approximately 16 of every 100,000 children are

diagnosed with cancer. Despite its rarity, cancer is second only to accidents as the most common death in 5-19 year olds. This is true despite the fact that 75% of children diagnosed with cancer will be cured of their disease and will become adult survivors.

Depression can also affect development and interfere with the child's progress. Depressed children do not always seem sad and may display troublesome behaviour instead. The presence of depression in children should be considered whenever behaviour problems such as irritability, boredom, changes in sleep or eating habits, frequent day dreaming, learning problems or problems getting along with family and friends persist for prolonged periods of time. Some of the signs of depression can occur in response to the illness itself or in response to normal development stages and thus are often not recognized and treated as depression.

It is important that a comprehensive assessment evaluating

the child's family situation as well as his or her level of emotional maturity and ability to cope with illness and treatment is done when determining a diagnosis of depression in children with cancer.

Siblings of children with cancer also experience stress and fear of losing their brother or sister and are at risk of developing depression.

Parents of children with cancer have been found to display even more psychological distress than the children in the family. Symptoms of depression are most observable in parents, especially mothers, immediately following their child's cancer diagnosis, but research has shown that 25%-33% of parents continue to suffer psychological distress as long as ten years later.

A diagnosis of cancer in a child impacts the whole family. Fortunately, with the provisions of support, most families find the strength and coping ability needed to adjust to the crisis.



Childhood
CANCER FOUNDATION
CANDLELIGHTERS CANADA



**DEADLINE FOR THE
APRIL/MAY ISSUE IS
APRIL 9TH, 2008**

**ARTICLES SUBMITTED LATE
MAY NOT BE PUBLISHED - COMMENTS AND
SUGGESTIONS WELCOME**

FUN AND GAMES...

by: Matt Jackson, Kelly Purdy, Rob Stevenson

We hope everyone had a great Christmas. The children's Christmas Party was a big success as always. Thanks again to the Executive Board for their support and all the helpers who came out that day. Oh yes, we can't forget the most important man of all, Santa Clause (Alex Latham).

We have many events coming up

this year being on a local level or a national level. At the time of writing this report we are about to hold our local Texas Holdem. Everyone always has a lot of fun at this event. The National CAW set a few guidelines for this at the last National Recreation meeting. We are only allowed to pay out \$600.00 for first at a local or qual-



ifying level. The top prize for the National will be \$800.00. The reason being they would rather us pay more people and also keeping the prize money down, keeps the fun element alive.

Watch your bulletin boards in the plant for different events and try one. Get involved and have a lot of fun!



EVENTS LIST:

CAW HENRY WIEBE HOCKEY TOURNAMENT - APRIL 4,5,6 AT THOROLD ARENA
NATIONAL DART TOURNAMENT - APRIL 26 AT ST. CATHARINES LEGION BRANCH 24
(ANY CAW MEMBER CAN ENTER)

PUDGE DAWSON GOLF TOURNAMENT - MAY 24TH

GOLDEN HORSESHOE GOLF TOURNAMENT QUALIFIER - JUNE 7TH AT BINBROOK
CAW NATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT - AUGUST 24TH AT BROOKLEA GOLF COURSE MIDLAND



HENRY
WIEBE



DREW
MCGLYNN

JANET
BAXTER

KEN
WILLIAMS

BLUE SUEDE SHOES SHOW...FRIDAY APRIL 11, 8:00

LOCAL 199 MEMBER MARTY ALLEN PERFORMS HIS AWARD WINNING JOHNNY CASH TRIBUTE ON THE BLUE SUEDE SHOES SHOW. MARTY VOLUNTEERED HIS MUSICAL TALENT WITH OTHER LOCAL 199 MEMBERS AT THE ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER AND GAVE OUR GUESTS A MEAL TO REMEMBER! MARTY IS JOINED BY DJINO LEFRANCOIS WHO WILL BE PERFORMING TRIBUTES TO ELVIS, BUDDY HOLLY AND ROY ORBISON.

THE SHOW TAKES PLACE AT THE C.A.W. HALL, 124 BUNTING ROAD, ST. CATHARINES FRIDAY APRIL 11TH AT 8 P.M. TICKETS ARE \$15.00 ADVANCE AND

\$20.00 AT THE DOOR. TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT: C&C ARTS, FAIRVIEW MALL/C.A.W. HALL OFFICE/ SEMENUK'S SERVICE STATION, HWY 20 AND 58 OR CONTACT JOE WHITE AT 905-356-2786.





LGBT COMMITTEE WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

BY: TOM BALINT & MARION MUELLER

Greetings from the LGBT Committee and welcome to 2008. The New Year is looking to be another successful year for our committee. We are currently preparing for our Easter dance, and in the fall we look forward to holding our annual Halloween Hoedown. May brings with it the International Day Against Homophobia, held each year on the 17th. The purpose of this day is to bring awareness of the ongoing issues surrounding homophobia.

June and December bring together members of the LGBT community and our allies with a summer and winter ecumenical solstice events.

During the warmer months many communities hold Pride events to honour the past struggles that our brothers and sisters have had to endure, to bring awareness to and to protest current injustices, and to celebrate who we are with a fabulous party! St. Catharines holds ours around the end of the second week of June, and of course Toronto hosts Canada's biggest Pride event on the last full weekend in June. The CAW will take part in both these celebrations and we encourage you by joining us to show your support and solidarity.

There is also a new addition to the Committee. Sister Marion Mueller has come on board. We look forward to continuing our work in providing you with information about LGBT, or sexual-and-gender diverse issues, and we will continue the tradition of holding benefit dances twice a year. This year the Easter dance is on Easter weekend, Saturday, March 22, and will take place at our union hall.

And lastly, we can always use more people on our committee, so if any member of CAW 199 is interested in joining the LGBT Committee, please call:

(905) 687-0701.

Anyone wishing to connect a sexual-and-gender diverse support or social group, or are the parents, family, or friends, of the above may find the information needed below.

PFLAG ST. CATHARINES

Call: 905-937-0202.

<http://www.pflagcanada.ca/chapters/stcatharines.asp>

NIAGARA PRIDE SUPPORT SERVICES, INC.

Call: 905-380-4576.

<http://www.niagarapride.com/>

TRANSGENDERED OF NIAGARA

<http://www.transgenderedofniagara.com/BROCK>

<http://groups.myspace.com/brock-pride>

TRANSPARENT CANADA

Call: 905-401-1044.

<http://www.transparentcanada.ca/>

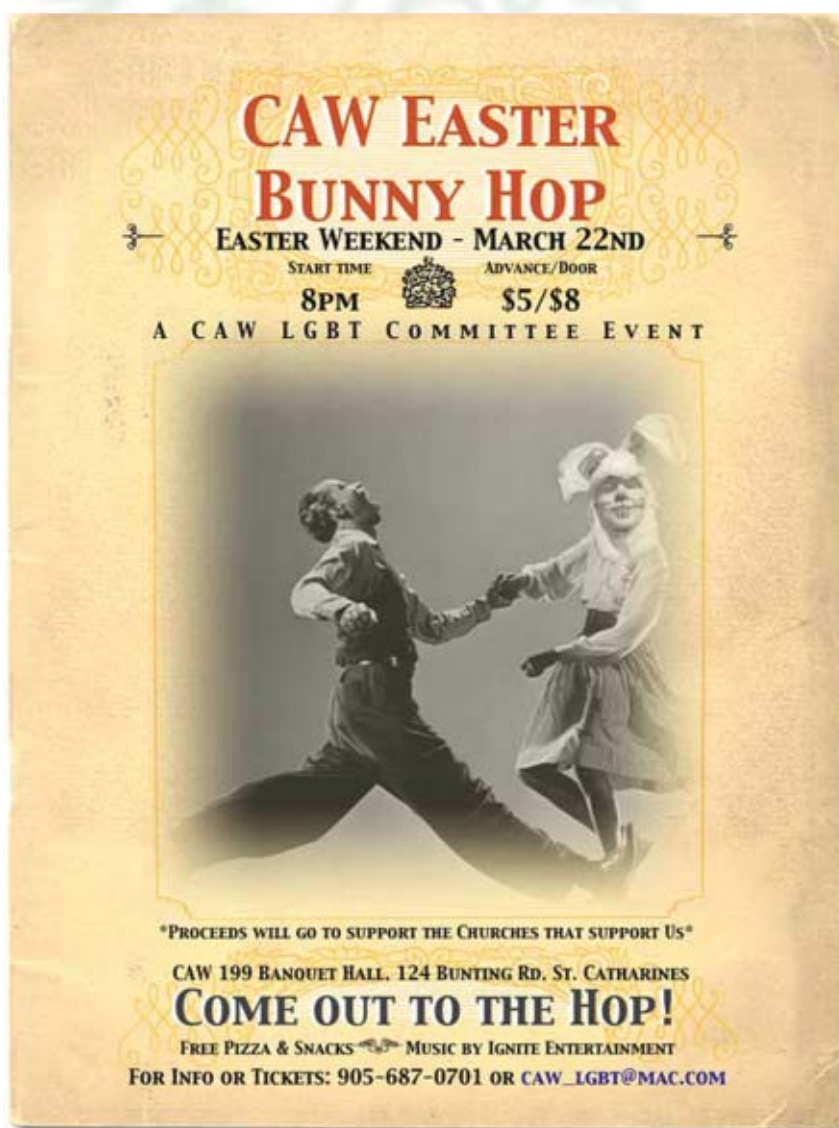
AIDS NIAGARA

Call: (905) 984-8684.

<http://www.aidsniagara.com/>

THE IMPERIAL COURT OF ST. CATHARINES & THE GREATER NIAGARA REGION

<http://www.imperialcourtofniagara.com/>



THE DYNAMICS OF ORGANIZING... by: Elizabeth Ferretti, CBO



Since my appointment as the Community Based Organizer (CBO), I've experienced many challenges and have a new appreciation of the dynamics of "organizing" within our union. I attended a training course in Toronto in November that provided a knowledge base supported by the Labour Relations Act. It was a great benefit to developing confidence and skills to facilitate future successful organizing campaigns.

There have been numerous "field training" events that I have had the opportunity to attend. They included initial meetings with J&M Tire in Whitby, leafleting the Goodrich plant in Oakville and successful meetings with Horizon Milling that prompted a certification vote December 3, 2007. Although the committee worked diligently, we lost the vote 21-24. An organizing lesson in frus-

tration.

Within the local, we have an organizing campaign on with Maple Leaf Milling in Dundas, a potential bargaining unit of 100 workers. We are presently verifying the percentage of signed cards and hope to apply for a certification vote within the next month.

The appointment of a CBO is a new initiative for Local 199 and can only be successful with the promotion of our local union throughout the community. Building upon this premise, I have addressed our retirees at their monthly meetings and union awareness classes during the organizing module to explain the role of the CBO and the necessity to build our local union. The effective organizing of a workplace is dependant on an inside contact



person. If anyone knows someone in a workplace that is seeking organizing within the CAW, I would appreciate an opportunity to speak with him or her.

We are looking for local activists to form an Organizing Task Force that will assist with leafleting targeting workplaces in our region.

A group of 10 to 15 members promoting Local 199 provides a strong message to potential targets than a smaller group handing out random leaflets. Should anyone be interested in participating, please forward your name to the Executive.

In closing, I would like to thank the Executive Board and the membership for their support of the Community Based Organizing Program.

**CAW LOCAL
199
ORGANIZING
FOR YOUR
FUTURE**



THE WINDS OF CHANGE BLOW AT COUTTS...

COUTTS BARGAINING
COMMITTEE

Coutts Information Services -

Coutts has gone through numerous changes due to its recent purchase by Ingram Book Group Inc., which is located in Tennessee.

We are experiencing changes in management from the top down. Our current CEO, Jim Chandler, has announced his retirement from Ingram and will be replaced by Skip Prichard who was hired by Ingram last year in anticipation of this change.

Here at Coutts, it has been

announced that a General Manager will replace the position of President. The position will be filled at a later date. We can only assume that there will be additional changes going forward.

The new Human Resources Dept. is in the process of implementing a Health & Wellness Program here at Coutts, which we are sure will be very beneficial to all our members.

For Christmas, in lieu of individual department lunches, we participated in a potluck luncheon.

There was also an "After Christmas" dinner & dance held on January 12, 2008.

Members of the Committee have attended a number of Union sponsored, one-day training sessions. These have been very helpful and educational. We are hoping to attend the Women in Collective Bargaining program at Port Elgin this year as well.

Our membership is looking forward to a more progressive future as a member of the Ingram Book Group Inc.

199 SUBMITS NEW VOTING RESOLUTION

by: Larry Greenhalgh,
CAW Council Delegate

I decided to write this article about the greatest union in the world as I was so informed at CAW Council December 2007 held in Toronto. When I was elected, I was given the opportunity to act on behalf of all the sisters and brothers of our union at CAW Council and I was honoured to do so. This gave me the responsibility to vote on your behalf on all resolutions and to improve our movement in today's society.

This for me, was definitely a learning experience. I would like to say I was amazed by the number of delegates that attended and when you hear that they come from coast to coast you can be rest assured this is no exaggeration.

While learning the proper procedure for council, I was informed that being a voting delegate was deemed as having the highest privileges at council, this excited me. When present at council or conferences the voting delegates have reserved seating, along with national staff reps and national retiree's executive board. There is also a reserved section for observers (any member in good standing, delegate partners & family etc.) and the media.

When we attend council, we are presented with an agenda and resolutions. If there is a contentious issue the staff reps. go to the microphones to sell the resolution. This does not allow all voting delegates the opportunity to speak on the resolution, while making room for non-voting delegates to speak for their cause. This is where I have a problem. A voting delegate should be able to speak prior to all non-voting delegates as they were elected by their respected local unions.

At our Local 199 Executive Board meeting, the following resolution was passed unanimously by our president, vice-president, financial secretary and recording secretary, all of who are voting delegates. We took this to our membership meeting in January 2008 where it was also passed. It is my hope that in March 2008 in Port Elgin, the site of our next CAW Council, this resolution will be passed, allowing elected voting delegates, to speak on behalf of our members.



**MARK ROY AND
1ST TIME MAGNA
DELEGATE GIVE
CAW THUMBS UP**

The following resolution was submitted by Local 199:

WHEREAS voting delegates to CAW Councils, Conferences and Conventions are directly elected by the CAW membership and;
WHEREAS these voting delegates were elected to determine CAW policies at CAW Councils, Conferences and Conventions and;
WHEREAS CAW National staff representatives are not voting delegates and are mandated to implement CAW policies NOT determine what they will be;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the voting delegates to these Councils, Conferences and Conventions be given the opportunity to speak on all resolutions and recommendations prior to non-voting delegates.



**MP, PEGGY NASH
SPEAKS TO 800
COUNCIL DELEGATES**



**CATHY AUSTIN, CAW LOCAL 88
PRESIDENT REPORTS TO MEDIA
AT CAW COUNCIL IN TORONTO**



**BRUCE ALLEN, LOCAL 199 IS ONE
OF 32 PASSIONATE SPEAKERS
WHO ADDRESSED & DEBATED THE
MAGNA FRAMEWORK OF FAIR-
NESS AGREEMENT. OUT OF 800
CANADA WIDE DELEGATES, 25
VOTED AGAINST IT.**





THANKS TO ALL OF SANTAS
HELPERS EACH AND EVERY
FACE IS SMILING AT THE
ANNUAL KIDS XMAS PARTY



CAW  TCA
CANADA

AUTO & HOME INSURANCE



Your **Union**. Your **Cars**. Your **Insurance**.

CAW Local 199 Members:

SAVE

up to **15%**

**on your
auto & home insurance**

PLUS

FREE monthly finance

AND

No increase in your auto premium after an accident with our 6 and 9 star protector option.

1-877-CAW-INSR

(1-877) 229-4677

www.caw-insurance.com

The CAW Insurance Centre is staffed by members of CAW Local 1524.

Who is eligible? Any member of the CAW who is actively employed, on disability, layoff or is retired from Cami, DCCI, Ford or GM. Also eligible are the spouses and dependent children of these members.

**CALL FOR A QUOTE &
YOU COULD WIN
1 of 50
\$150 GAS CARDS!**

 **Breckles Insurance Brokers Limited**


AVIVA
Traders

Contest in effect until December 31, 2008. Maximum of 6 prizes awarded to each CAW Local.

The Value of One. The Power of Many. That's the difference with group insurance. www.caw-insurance.com



**TERRY WHITE,
GM CHAIRPERSON**

GM HONES PENCIL WITH US BUYOUTS

On February 12 of this year GM reported its biggest loss ever. This 34 billion dollar loss is a huge set back in the turn around plan that GM has in place to gain back market share and become consistently profitable from quarter to quarter. To report a loss like this as GM has been garnering positive press with several great models in the line up including 'North American Car of the Year' the Malibu, is certainly a massive blow. Ironically, this comes on the heels of the biggest concessionary set of agreements in the UAW history that was supposed to put GM on the right path to improve their profitability. GM and auto analysts predict that it could be as late as 2010 before GM could see any significant earnings. As a result of this recent announcement, GM plans to offer

another round of retirement incentives in the US to all of its 74,000 hourly workers. Under this offer retirement-eligible workers could get between \$45,000 and \$62,500 as an incentive to retire with full pension and benefits. Other workers will have the option to leave early or take up to \$140,000 to leave with no pension and health care. These incentives have been put in place in an effort to eradicate the current work force and replace them with a lower paid work force at \$14 dollars per hour.

RIPPLE EFFECT

This situation will unequivocally have a negative and pronounced effect throughout the GM chain to which our Canadian operations will not be immune. GM will certainly try to extract every dollar it can from its operations on this side of the border suggesting that the climate for the upcoming round of bargaining is worsening at an alarming rate. It is painfully obvious now if it hasn't been noticed

before just how important it is that people in the North American market buy our products and not foreign products that are allowed to be dumped on our shores flooding our market and stealing jobs from not just us but our family, friends and neighbors throughout the industry and auto supplier base.

CAFE LAWS IN PLACE

The new CAFE laws are now in place in the US. Automakers now must have fleet averages of 35 mpg by 2020. GM acted quickly on this American legislation by cancelling the RWD Impala leaving only one product for the flex line negotiated in Oshawa, the Camaro. It seems that the environmentalists of the world have softened their position on emissions and are willing to continue to play a part in trying to keep the earth green while striking a balance with jobs in the auto industry as many of our brothers and sisters in the plant have pointed out.

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.

ED ANDRECHEK, HARRY ANDREWS, WILLIAM ARGENT, FRANK BANDI, ROLAND BARRE, STEVEN BENEZOWSKI, CHARLES BERRY, JOHN BYNKOSKI, JACK CLINTON, PETER COBELL, RICHARD CRAWFORD, HENRY CZERWONIAK, PAUL DAKINS, GARY DION, EUGEN FRAJMAN, TOM FRASER, THOMAS GREENE, ARTHUR HALL, PHILIP HUNEALT, FREDERICK JAMES, THOMAS KAINE, DOUGLAS KLAGER, BOB KRYNYCKY, ANTHONY KUBOWICZ, PAUL KVIRING, FERNAND LAFLEUR, ILARION LASICHUK, JOHN LUDCHEN, NICHOLAS MARINOFF, MICHAEL MATWY, MARY MCNEIL, GARY MCPHERSON, ALEX MELNYCHUK, JOHN MELNYK, CARMINÉ MEMME, SETTIMIO NESPECA, RAY PAGE, PETER PETERS, JIM PYSHER, CAMERON ROBERTSON, PETER ROMAK, JOSEPH SAJUR, ERWIN SANIN, ANTONIO SIRIGNANO, BARRY SMITH, WESLEY SOCHA, CYRIL STANDISH, FREDERICK STANGL, WALTER STEED, WILLIAM TAYLOR, LUIGI TOCCHIO, DICK VANATTE, LAWRENCE WALKER, MICHAEL WALORNYJ, ED WITTMAYER.

CAW LOCAL 199 PROUDLY PRESENTS -BLUESAGANZA-

'THE CAW SUPER-SESSION'

CHUCK JACKSON,
JEROME GODBOO, PAT CAREY,
JIM CASSON, JAMIE OAKES,
HARRISON KENNEDY
MARK LALAMA AND GARTH VOGAN

SATURDAY APRIL 19, 2008

CAW HALL 124 BUNTING ROAD
8 P.M. - 1 A.M.

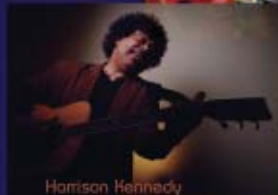
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT: CAW 199 HALL,
FIRSTONTARIO CREDIT UNION (ALL LOCATIONS),
AUTISM ONTARIO-NIAGARA 60 JAMES ST. SUITE 404

\$10 ADVANCE - \$15 @ THE DOOR

Sold out Event Last Year -
Get your Tickets Early!



Jamie Oakes



Harrison Kennedy



Jim Casson



Chuck Jackson



Jerome Godboo



Pat Carey



Mark Lalama

Proceeds to

