

# NEWSLETTER

CAW Local 127

[www.cawlocal127.ca](http://www.cawlocal127.ca)



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October; November; December, 2009

## **WHAT IS HAPPENING AT OUR LOCAL**

- Thanks to everybody who showed up at our Adjustment Centre on Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009, to support MP London North Centre Glen Pearson. He was well received and we spent about 1-1/2 hours with him. Explaining the frustration of a lack of a Federal Procurement Policy, he committed to talk to the Federal opposition on our behalf.

- I also attended a meeting on Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the UAW Local 251 hall in Wallaceburg. Andrea Horvath (the Provincial NDP leader) was there speaking about different issues (Harmonized Sales Tax; Health Care; crisis in the manufacturing sector). During the question and answer period, I raised with her why she hasn't raised the debate and position on inter-provincial trade. I used the most obvious example of the Province of Quebec, where they have mandated that the fabrication, installation and service of the wind turbines must happen in that province. This results in new jobs, new training and obviously new opportunities for working people. I challenge her to raise this issue along with the deadlock in bargaining with Navistar during questions period. I have to be frank, I never thought that she would. But to her credit she did, and did that create a huge controversy in the province legislative last week. As you remember last month, I reported that I raised with Sandra Pupatello Navistar bargaining and she stopped talking. Well last week Minister Pupatello told the elected officials that we are in current talks with that Company. Obviously she is misinformed, but it worked, it kept the issue current and the debate ongoing. We need to pressure all of our different levels of government on the issues relevant to working people.

- I meet with Mayor Hope on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009 along with National Rep Richard Laverty, to raise the issue of bargaining with Riverview Gardens and the reluctance to offer our members the H1N1 vaccine. Our chief Medicare Officer of Health claims that the front line medical workers need to be one of the first to receive this. But I was in the facility on Thursday, October 22, 2009 and heard another version of this. I have two scheduled meetings Wednesday October 28<sup>th</sup> with the CAO of Chatham-Kent Rob Browning to also address these issues.

On Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday October 27<sup>th</sup> we handed out a bargaining update to the members of Riverview Gardens. I am putting every officer, delegate, rank and file member (active laid off and retired) on notice, be ready to mobilize when Sister Harris, Brother Laverty and/or myself say when we are going to begin the information pickets. We will prevail and we will bargain a Collective Agreement with this employer. We, as taxpayers, must demand more and better activities with this Municipality.

- I would also remind everyone of the current United Way drive currently underway. More now than ever, pretty much sums it up. Please give if you can.

## **Poor Boy Luncheon**

- *Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009. I encourage all Executive Board members to actively support this initiative. To the Unit Chairs, Please ask your respective employers to donate to a prize table. All proceeds to the Chatham-Kent Goodfellows. Thank you to Brother Ken Neville who can not be involved because of another commitment this year. With the loss of Brother Gordie Labombard we will need volunteers to help fill the holes. A big thank you to Sister Kelly who spear headed this ten years ago. Well done! (tickets & notices) let's make this year's the biggest and best !*
  
- *Began Bargaining with Woodbridge Blenheim on Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009.*
  
- *On Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 we began a mass demonstration at Daymonds. It has begun as a blockade to stop the dies and finished product from leaving the facility. We got a call Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in the afternoon. Thanks to Brothers Johnston, Kerrigan and Brother Gary Kennedy from that unit. I was in Sarnia and Joe McCabe was on his way back from Toronto. These Brothers mobilized and put our members out front until we were able to get there and talk to the police. We set up a 24-hour information line, this is not a strike, whether it is an information line, to tell the community what is happening to these members. It is due time to lobby for "workers first" legislation. Under the current Employment Standards Act (ESA) in Ontario, workers are eligible for two types of pay when they are laid off or fired without cause. Termination pay is provided in lieu of written notice of termination, while severance pay is provided for longer term workers who have five or more years of service with the employer. Both termination and severance pay are provided on a sliding scale depending on how long workers have been employed at their facility. In this case, it is apparent that this employer has clearly ignored their obligation to this membership. I will let Brother Massender expand some more in his report. We will do what we have to do for our members.*
  
- *On Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, we assumed bargaining with Riverview Gardens. This was accomplished because of our meetings and discussion with Mayor Hope, CAO Rob Browning and several Councilors. Tonight the Municipal Council will discuss our tentative wage proposal. We are back to the table this Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009. We ratified a new three-year agreement on Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 93%.*
  
- *On Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 the Navistar Committee met in Windsor with the Company.*
  
- *Local 1738 have decided to join our Local. This has been done through a series of phone calls to the National and working through that Local.*
  
- *Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – Poor Boys Luncheon – please attend, all proceeds to the Goodfellows, "No child without a Christmas".*
  
- *On Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – I was in Toronto (Placer Court) with Meritor. After their meeting I went to talk to Peter Kennedy (National Secretary/Treasurer) I spoke to him on several issues: 1) the hall; 2) the charter; 3) pay back procedures; 4) cost share for organizing.*

- On Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, I along with about a dozen other members of our Local, attended a mass rally outside of the Aradco/Aramco facilities. I want to thank everyone who came out. This is the facility that Local 195 occupied last Spring. Brother Terry Farnham (President, Local 195) spoke on Saturday at Daymonds meeting and offered their support.

- Please remember December 6 – it is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Montreal Massacre. We must remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice and those cases locally (Theresa Vince and Lori Dupont) and how we must champion these causes each and every day.

- Brother Joe McCabe has had a serious health issue. We want to wish Brother McCabe a speedy recovery and wish him and his wife (Jan, a member of APPlasman) all of our best. Our thoughts and prayers are with them. The National will assign Brother Jim Mitchell to replace Joe while he is off.

- Thanks to everyone who attended the CP Holiday Train on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009. It was a great success.

**CAW Workers Adjustment Centre:**

To all of our laid off members, please take a moment and visit the centre. It's located at 462 Riverview Drive, or you can contact Jason King at 519-360-9595. Again, thanks to the Committee members and the peer helpers for their ongoing support.

Please utilize the Paid Education Programs in your units if you have them. Our centre in Port Elgin is truly the "heart" of our Union. Contact your Chairperson to discuss the possibility of utilizing this facility.

Thanks to everyone who donated toys to the Goodfellows during this holiday season.

A special thanks to Brothers Ken Claes and Marty Mailloux, Wayne Gagnon, Sandra Harris, Sue Robbins, Leo Faubert, Mary Anne Bidell and the Adjustment Centre from the Navistar Unit; and Brothers Mark Woodrow; Bob Cowlan and the Committee people from Meritor. Well done to all. These donations couldn't come at a better time.

Please take advantage of our Insurance program (auto and home) CAW Group Insurance Program. For a quote, please call Breckles Insurance Brokers.

Bob Kerr – 416-292-0984 ext.266

Chris Kiely – 416-292-2020 ext.217

Kevin Kiely – 416-292-0984 ext.265

- Or - [www.breckles.com](http://www.breckles.com)

The members of the Insurance Centre team are members of CAW Local 1524.

*Please note that there will be two courses offered Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at two separate locations:*

**Women Activists**

*at the CAW Chatham Area Office; 200 Riverview Drive, Chatham*

*-and-*

**Organizing Members – Level 1**

*at the CAW local 1941 Hall, 17 Prospect St. Tilbury, On*

*– please register by January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010.*

*Welcome to the members of Local 1738. They have agreed to join our Local and we look forward to working with that membership and leadership of that Local.*

**Bill 33 – Grandparents Rights:**

*- This Bill has been introduced in the Ontario Parliament for some time. Our Local Executive Board, the Retirees Chapter and the Chatham Kent Labour Council have adopted and supported this bill. I want to thank Brother Brian Jacques who approached his Union for support on his initiative to see this becomes law. Sometimes grandparents are put in the middle of a dispute, and therefore are not allowed to see their grand children. We are working on MP Kim Kraiton (Niagara Falls) to come to our hall and speak on this issue. He introduced Bill #33. Please support this bill and watch for any announcement of MPP Kraiton.*

*Inclosing, Brother Johnston and myself along with the Executive Board want to wish everyone a healthy and safe holiday season. Please enjoy this time, it is well deserved.*

*As 2009 closes, let's hope that 2010 will offer more hope for some of our members who have had a challenging 2009. Please remember to use all of the services through our Local, (EAP, Workers Adjustment Centre, week-end courses) to help make any transitions easier on our members, their families and our community.*

*I remain, in solidarity,*

AARON NEAVES

President; CAW Local 127

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