



CAW LOCAL 127

Navistar Canada Inc.



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The merger of McCormick Harvesting Machine Company and the Deering Harvester Company in 1902 resulted in the formation of the International Harvester Company of Chicago Illinois. International Harvester produced wagons and sleighs until 1922 when Model S series trucks were added to the existing lines. The first truck manufactured at the Grand Avenue plant was bought by the Chatham Fire Department.

During the Second World War the company contributed to the “great effort” with the production of observation vans for the Royal Canadian Air Force. After the war the old plant’s facilities could no longer meet the dramatic surge in the postwar demand for trucks. Consequently, a new 300,000 square foot plant was erected in the new Richmond Street Industrial Park at a cost of \$4,000,000.

Over the years the company has produced a full range of vehicles including: pick-ups, Scouts, cab-overs, Load Stars and Eagles. While many product changes were taking place, facilities also were undergoing alterations. Expansions of the plant where undertaken in 1954, 1964, 1968 and 1978. In the mid 1980’s, the company underwent a major restructuring and at this time the name of the firm was changed to Navistar International. Today, Navistar Canada produces the ProStar and LoneStar heavy duty truck models. Employees of Navistar Canada have been proud members of CAW Locals 35 and 127 since 1944

