

NEWSLETTER

CAW Local 127

www.cawlocal127.ca



February, 2009

WHAT IS HAPPENING AT OUR LOCAL

Special Membership Meeting:

The results from the meeting on Thursday, January 22, 2009 are as follows:

100% approval for the Membership of Local 351 to join our Local. We will now wait until Local 351, have their meeting with their Membership and I will obviously continue to inform this Local as to the outcome of their meetings.

Open House / Rally at VanKesteren's Office.

Thank you to all who come out and braved the cold weather. To the hundreds of members who came out to show support but better yet to send a message to this Federal Government that things better start to change or they will continue to see and hear us more.

On behalf of the Executive Board, I am very proud and excited of this activism, it truly shows that after 67 years in this community we can still come together. I want to also thank those other Local Unions who came out to support us. Thank you to Locals 1941; 444; 200; 1973; 195 and the other affiliated Unions with Chatham-Kent & area.

I spoke to Brother Lewenza and he wanted me to tell everyone how incredibly inspired he was to see so many people come out.

Food Drive:

By now, the boxes should be out in your respective workplaces. I would encourage all to help this initiative.

Our Local donated \$200.00 and we are calling on all of our employers to match our donation.

We will be delivering the food on Friday February 27, 2009.

Federal Budget:

The Federal budget was delivered on Tuesday, January 27, 2009 and what an absolute disgrace for working men and women across this country.

With the loss of 129,000 jobs in January, 100,000 in manufacturing. In the last four months, 213,000 jobs have been lost, and no mention of a Buy Canadian procurement strategy, or any real E.I. reform (eliminate the two-week waiting period) and increase the benefits rates and reduce the number of hours needed to qualify. This would be a start to help those who need it.

Bargaining:

At this time of writing, we are currently bargaining with:

- 1) Versa Cold (tentative deal)*
- 2) First Student: we are scheduled to exchange proposals on Wednesday, February 18, 2009.*
- 3) Riverview – unfortunately, we received a call from the Municipality they cancelled our exchange of proposals scheduled for Tuesday, February 17, 2009. This is the second such cancellation. The expiration of that agreement was December 31st, 2008. WE have the right to free bargaining with the Municipality but unfortunately they seem not to want to bargain. So we have organized an information picket on:
Thursday, February 26, 2009
Riverview Gardens – 519 King Street West
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm*

Please support these sisters and brothers who are deemed an essential service and therefore can not strike.

Chatham-Kent Injured Workers Coalition:

Please note that there will be a meeting at our Hall on Wednesday, February 18, 2009 at 6:00 pm

General Membership Meeting:

Will be held on Thursday, February 26, 2009 at 7:30 pm, please attend.

Courses available through the Local:

We are putting on:

- 1) Manufacturing Matters Course, March 7, 2009*
- 2) Basic Stewards Course – April 18, 2009*

If you are interested, please contact your Chairperson or call the Hall to register.

Family Education Program:

The schedule for the 2009 CAW Family Education Program has been announced.

Session 1 – is Sunday, June 28 to Friday, July 10

Session 2 – (French language only) Sunday, July 12 to Friday, July 24 and

Session 3 - is Sunday, July 26th to Friday, August 7, 2009.

Applications are available at the Hall or see your Chairperson.

I would encourage everyone to take advantage of this course.

CAW National & CAW Council Bursaries:

The National Union and CAW Council annually offer a total of 25 bursaries that are for \$2,000.00 each; each named after outstanding unionists and social activists.

To be eligible, you must be a son/daughter of a CAW member (in good standing) and you must be entering into their first year of full-time post secondary education (University, teachers college, nursing school etc.)

Applications are available at the hall or see your chairperson.

CAW Group Insurance Programs:

As I have mentioned before, the CAW Group Insurance Program is available to all active and retired CAW Members. Also eligible are spouses, dependent children and surviving spouses of these members.

The Program staff are licensed insurance professionals who are also fellow sisters and brothers of Local 1524.

To obtain a quote call 1-877-CAWINSR (1-877-229-4677).

Heinz Days:

The H.J. Heinz Company of Canada have agreed to open their “Company Store” again this year. The following dates are available.

April 6; 7; 8

April 14; 15; 18

April 20; 21; 22; 25

April 27; 28; 29; May 2, 2009

The store is located at 85 Wilkinson Drive in Leamington (AMCO Storage building)

The hours are: 9:00 am - 4:45 pm (Monday – Wednesday)

8:00 am - 11:45 am (Saturdays)

** payment is by debit card only*

** please have your Union card or pay slip ready for I.D. purposes.*

Not Our Kids! Walk:

We have been asked to participate in the 2nd Annual Not Our Kids walk in Tilbury.

It will be held on Sunday, May 3rd, 10:00 ;am at Memorial Park (Stewart Ave) in Tilbury.

Thank you goes to Brother Terry Scratch (Local 1941) who does a tremendous amount of work for injured workers and for the prevention of injuries. Please support this initiative.

Past Presidents/Financial Secretaries of Local 127

We have decided to honour those past Presidents/Financial Secretaries that have served this Local with pride and honour. We will start with the past presidents.

Their pictures and length of terms will be proudly displayed outside of our office. Since our original Charter on July 17, 1942, here is our past Presidents:

<i>Brother James Bassett</i>	<i>1942</i>
<i>Brother Syd Croucher</i>	<i>1943</i>
<i>Brother Neville Lewis</i>	<i>1944</i>
<i>Brother Stan Green</i>	<i>1945 – 1971</i>
<i>Brother Ron Moon</i>	<i>1971 - 1978</i>
<i>Brother Dick Charlton</i>	<i>1978 - 1986</i>
<i>Brother Harry Warner</i>	<i>1986 - 1993</i>
<i>Brother Charlie Formosa</i>	<i>1993 - 2008</i>

At this time of writing, I am unable to secure pictures of Brothers: Bassett; Croucher and Lewis. I hope to be able to secure a picture, if not we will honour them with a name plaque. If anyone knows these brothers families, please contact myself or Annie and we will make arrangements.

Remember, we can not go forward until we know where we have been.

Closing Thoughts:

On a personal note, Local 127 and the Labour movement lost one hell of an activist in Romeo LeBlanc. Brother LeBlanc served his membership at the Motor Wheel until its closure in 1991, then continued to help teach and motivate through the Workers Health & Safety Centre. I want to wish the LeBlanc family all of our best, as they deal with this loss. Job well done Brother LeBlanc, God bless you my friend.

Brothers and Sisters - We remain committed to representing this membership every hour of every day. We will be challenged for some time yet, but through education, dialogue and solidarity we will prevail. To the Sisters and Brothers who are laid off, we will continue to challenge our Federal Government for changes to the Employment Insurance Program. You must still play an important part of this local. So please call or email if there are problems.

Did you know!

Since 1996, Canada's auto imports from Korea have grown 710%. But our exports to Korea have declined 75%. Our Auto Trade deficit with Korea equal \$1.7 billion.

Since September, the Federal government and its agencies have announced financial support for Canadian banks totaling over \$100 billion.

Ontario's long-term care facilities now lag 54 minutes behind the national average of care time per resident. In 1986 we were only 6 minutes behind.

Until next month!

I remain, In solidarity,

AARON NEAVES

President; CAW Local 127

aneaves.local127@bellnet.ca

AN:ab