

NEWSLETTER

CAW Local 127

www.cawlocal127.ca



January, 2009

I would like to welcome everyone back from a well deserved holiday.

WHAT IS HAPPENING AT OUR LOCAL

Special Membership Meeting: Thursday, January 22nd, 2009.

We have called a Special Membership Meeting for Thursday, January 22nd, 2009. This meeting is for discussion and vote on Local 351 (Accurcast) to merge with us. The meeting will be at the Hall at 7:00 pm. Please take this opportunity and come out and have your voice heard.

Open House / Rally at VanKesteren's Office.

As everyone is aware, we have scheduled our Open House from noon until 4:00 pm this Saturday, January 24th, 2009. There will be door prizes, 50/50 draws, our standing Committees and Social Coalition partners will have displays. We are also kicking off our food drive for Chatham Outreach for Hunger. So please bring a canned good /donation to help.

We are expecting a great turnout for this event. Please bring your family, friends and co-workers out to this event, as we have secured Brother Ken Lewenza to speak. Brother Lewenza always draws a good crowd and lots of media, so let's not let him down.

If the state of today's political environment and economy is a concern of you and your family, you should make the time to attend!

Rally at Vankesteren's Office:

As part of our Open House, and since Brother Lewenza is here, we have asked the Chatham-Kent Labour Council to hold a rally in front of his constituency office, on the corner of King and William Street. This rally will be about three major issues:

- 1) Emergency Employment Insurance Reform Measures*
- 2) Pre-Budget Rally*
- 3) Made in Canada Matters Campaign*

We are expecting to start at 11:00 am, then we go to our Hall for the Open House.

I want to thank everyone for taking the time to sign the E.I. Reform Petitions that have been making their rounds throughout our workplace in the last few months. We are going to be giving them to Mr. VanKesteren on Saturday at the Rally.

Meetings:

On Monday, January 5th, myself, Brother Joe McCabe, Brother Sean O'Donnell (Local 1941) Brother Mike Byrne (President Chatham-Kent Labour Council) had a meeting with MP VanKesteren. At this meeting, we discussed:

- 1) The need for Navistar to build the recently announced 1300 vehicles (Canadian Military) for \$274 million at its Chatham facility. At this meeting, he agreed that Canadian tax payers money must be spent here in Canada, and not in the U.S.*
- 2) How his Government must in the next budget (at the end of January) address the emergency E.I. measures that we are calling for, these are:*
 - a) 360 hours to qualify for entry level EI benefits in all Regions of Canada.*
 - b) Increase benefit duration to at least 50 weeks in all Regions.*
 - c) Eliminate the two-week waiting period.*
 - d) Provide benefits that, are at least 60% of normal earning, use workers 12 best weeks, and suspend the allocation of severance pay.*
 - e) More flexible, innovative user of E.I. work sharing to keep people at work.*

Tuesday – January 6th, 2009:

I was in London with Brother Byrne and Brother Bill Steep (1st Vice-President, CKLC) to discuss with Representatives from the London and Kitchener Labour Councils the issues that we are going through here in Chatham-Kent. This meeting was scheduled by the

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Canadian Labour Congress, mainly dealing with the economy, different procurement policies and protecting workers pensions.

Negotiations:

We have prepared and are ready to go to work with the following units:

- a) Riverview Gardens
- b) First Student Bus line

Please note: I want to put our members (both active and retired) and flying squads on notice that we are going into bargaining with these Units, to try to get a good Collective Agreement. We may need to mobilize and show solidarity one more time for our Brothers and Sisters in these Units.

Chatham-Kent Injured Workers Coalition

Please note that there will be a meeting at our Hall on Wednesday, January 21st, 2009 at 6:00 pm. Everyone is invited to attend and a special thank you to Brother Terry Scratch (Local 1941) for his vision and dedication to helping those Brothers and Sisters who have been injured in the workplace and for those who may have questions/comments or concerns.

Plant Visits:

As I have committed since our election, I have had the opportunity to visit every one of our Units and look forward to continuing this.

Thank you to all of the Leadership and Membership for all of the solidarity that I receive when I go to different Units, it is very important.

Next General Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 26, 2009 at 7:30 pm. Please attend.

On Saturday, January 10th, 2009 I attended a rally in front of City Hall to offer our Locals support towards the ending of violence in the Gaza strip. A big thank you to Brothers Derry McKeever and Ron Cadotte for their work in bringing social justice to those families who are being affected by the ongoing violence.

On Friday, January 23, 2009, I will be attending a poverty round table discussion held by the United Way here in Chatham. I was asked to sit on this meeting, and to send our voice or comments towards ending poverty in our communities.

Closing Thoughts:

As we enter into what can only be described as trying and difficult times, we need to be strong, active and ready to mobilize. Whether it has been collecting used work boots, signing E.I. petitions, rallying in front of the MP's office for Chatham-Kent or passing a Made in Canada procurement policy, we have been busy for these last six months, and we will continue to fight for all of our members and our community. We will continue to draw on our 67 years of representing working people. Keep up the hard work as we all know that fighting back makes a difference.

Did you know!

for every dollar we export to Japan; we import \$135.

for every dollar we export to Korea; we import \$177.

for every dollar we export to Germany; we import \$29.

This is a one-way street. Millions of vehicles come into North America, but virtually nothing flows back the other way.

This year, our auto trade deficit will exceed \$12 billion that represents tens of thousand of lost auto/manufacturing jobs. This is why we need an auto strategy, and it is essential that each and every one of our members stand up and be heard on these topics.

In solidarity,

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