

# NEWSLETTER

CAW Local 127

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



March, 2009

## WHAT IS HAPPENING AT OUR LOCAL

### Food Drive:

I want to thank everybody who donated and supported this year's food drive. We dropped off 3 truck loads of food. In total we raised well over \$3500.00. A big thank you to Zellers who gave us a discount to purchase what Outreach for Hunger needed.

Also a thank you to our corporate sponsors 1) Navistar, 2) Versa Cold, 3) First Student Bus lines, 4) Sonoco Containers, 5) Woodbridge Foam (Blenheim, Tilbury) and also to Local 35.

Thank you to our Community Services Committee for their dedication and devotion to help those most vulnerable in our society.

Thank you also needs to go out to all of the people who took the time to help raise money Through 50/50 draws and who also passed the bucket throughout their respective work places.

It is very humbling to be helping this Organization and Brenda LeClair sends her regards. We will do this again next year.

### Bargaining:

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

- 1) Versa Cold - ratified a new 3 year deal 100%. We bargained wage increases every year, increased benefits and made some pension improvements. Congratulations to Bro. Bev Rylett and his membership..
- 2) First Student: we are going back to the table Thurs Mar 26,2009 to finish off their agreement. We have secured most of the non-monetary issues and are ready to proceed with monetary issues. Continued good luck to Brother Doug Richardson and his committee as we continue bargaining in this unit.
- 3) Riverview – it is because of the collective will and determination of our Local Union that we are able to secure a date of Mar 11/09 to exchange proposals with Riverview Gardens. After a lot of discussion with the municipality, we decided to hold an information picket on Thus Feb 26, but on Wed Feb 25<sup>th</sup>, we secured a date for bargaining. I want to thank all of our members (active, retired and laid off) who were willing to take to the streets in support of these sisters and brothers. To the membership of Riverview gardens be inspired, this was your Union working for you. We are back at the table on April 3rd, 8th, 9<sup>th</sup> and 23rd 2009 to continue bargaining. Good luck to Sister Deb Harris and her committee.
- 4) Navistar - after many meetings the new committee will be proceeding into bargaining on May 4<sup>th</sup>. I want to wish Sister Cathy Wiebenga and her committee all the best as they go into this round of bargaining.

### ORGANIZING:

We are still organizing

- 1) Dana – I have just issued another letter to all Dana Chatham Workers. If you know anyone in this unit please contact the hall.
- 2) MPP Blenheim- I have been out on Wed, Mar 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009 to do a gate drop. This is a CLAC unit that will soon be open

### LOCAL 127 ACTION CENTRE:

It has been reported that we are very close to opening the action centre. We will continue to try to work with all of our employees to secure more funding. Congratulations to Bro. Jason King for this initiative as he and his committee continue to work hard towards the opening of the centre, which is open to all of our members.

The official address is 462 Riverview Drive Unit #7.

**Rick Kitchen Memorial Golf Tournament:**

Please be advised that the date for this years tournament is on Sat May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Proceeds this years will be split 50/50 with the Children's Safety Village and all local food banks in Chatham Kent. The committee decided that this would be better felt in our community.

Thanks to Locals 35, 127, 580, 1738 and 1941 memberships who continue to support this initiative year after year.

**Sat. May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009**  
**Deer Run Golf Course**  
**\$80.00 per golfer**

**Includes - green fee, cart, dinner and prize. Dinner at the CAW Hall 3:30- 5:00pm**  
**Call the hall for details.**

**United Way**

I attended the Touchdown meeting on Fri Feb 27, 2009. I am very encouraged by our activism and know that our members will continue to give what we can, in order to make this years campaign a success. Even though, the overall number was a bit shy of the target, the United Way realizes what kind of turmoil our workplaces see on a daily basis. So thank you and we look forward to another good campaign.

**Elections in our Local**

**Sonoco** - congratulations to Bro. Kevin VanBasteler, newly elected chairperson of that unit. I want to thank Sis.Joanne Crow for many years on the executive board and many years as the chair of that unit. Continued good luck to everyone else who was re-elected.

**Martin Rea-Fabco (Ridgetown)** - congratulations to Bro. Chris Giannakas on his re-election. Again congratulations to those who were re-elected and to those who were not, please remember that the true strength of our local is our grass roots activism. I would encourage all to remain active in our local union.

***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 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

- 3 -

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 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Not Our Kids walk in Tilbury.

It will be held on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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.

**April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – Day of Mourning – see notice****Mar 21<sup>st</sup> - International day for the Elimination of Racism.**

Mar 21<sup>st</sup> was declared the International day for the Elimination of Racism by the General Assembly of the United Nations. In Canada it took a further 22 years for the Ministers from the Federal, Provincial and Territorial governments in 1968 to agree to commemorate Mar 21<sup>st</sup>.

Our Union has always strived to achieve justice and equality for all.

**Earth Hour** - Sat. March 28<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 to 9:30

See notice

**Aradco/Aramco**

On Wednesday Mar 18<sup>th</sup> I attended the gates of these 2 units in Windsor to show our support for these workers, it again shows the need for today's government to implement a workers first policy.

Occupying a facility just to get severance after 26 years in a workplace is absolutely unacceptable in today's world.

We will be actively pursuing our Local MPP Pay Hoy on this issue.

**Closing Thoughts:**

As we grow into 2009, we continue to be a determined and active local union to better serve our membership and our community.

These are without doubt unseen times that require extra concern at the bargaining table and in your respective workplaces. I want to personally thank all of the elected representatives, activists and members in all our units.

Our local has always had a history of challenging the political landscape and helping those most vulnerable in our society.

So please stay strong, stay involved and remember that your Union can only be an active, progressive Union if you allow it to be.

**Did you know!**

The last 3 months of 2008 saw business insolvencies grow 21% over the same period from the year before. In October the numbers climbed by 41%.

- today's government can play a role in protecting workers

- in the recession of the early 80's Bill Davis's government introduced severance pay legislation

- in the early 90's, Bob Rae's government introduced the Employee Wage Protection Program(provided compensation for separation monies only to a maximum of \$5000.00.) This was later repealed by the Harris government, currently only 42% of unemployed Canadians qualify for EI benefits at any given time.

Until next month!

*I remain, In solidarity,*

AARON NEAVES

President; CAW Local 127

[aneaves.local127@bellnet.ca](mailto:aneaves.local127@bellnet.ca)

AN:dc