



Vol. 1. No. 1

November

**Executive Committee  
Local 229**

**President**  
Andy Savela

**Vice President**  
Katha Fortier

**Recording Secretary**  
Marg Arnone

**Financial Secretary**  
Josie Vickruck

**Trustees**  
Jason Cummings  
Peter Saubourin  
Nancy Taylor

**Seargent-at-Arms**  
Amy Rubino

**Director for Outlying Regions WEST**  
Gary Muzyka

**Director of Women's Issues**  
Cherie Mcevoy

**CAW Council**  
Marg Arnone  
Katha Fortier  
Andy Savela

## **Local 229 Launches Members Newsletter**

Welcome to the first edition of our new information and Education tool for members "Local 229 Express".

The strength of any organization lies with keeping it's members informed and interested and we hope this newsletter will be one of those vehicles to accomplish that.

Timely and interesting articles will provide our members with the knowledge to make informed decisions and contribute to the local as a whole and to their own workplace in particular.

Look for your newsletter to evolve for some time until we have product that is the most useful and enjoyable to read. Your newsletter committee is always looking for input and constructive criticism aimed at making our publication suit the needs of the members. We would appreciate you put any of these thoughtful suggestions in writing or you may submit whole articles for consideration in future editions. Mail your ideas to the office "care of the communications committee" or email them to the general website (see below).

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

[www.caw229.com](http://www.caw229.com)

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## Local 229 News

### **Name the Newsletter Contest**

The winner of the Name the Newsletter contest was Brother Ed Fisher, a paramedic from Beardmore. He was awarded a CAW jacket. Congratulations to Ed and Thanks to all who entered the contest.

### **New Sergeant at Arms**

Sister Amy Rubino was acclaimed as our new Sergeant at Arms for the local. Sister Rubino works as a counselor at the Smith Clinic and has been active in the local for many years, currently chairing the Education Committee. Congratulations Sister!

### **CAW December Council**

Sister Josie Vickruck will be attending the CAW December Council. It was felt that in her position as Financial Secretary, it was important that she meet people she deals with at the National Level.

### **Farewell to Brother Oram**

Glen Oram, Bargaining, Grievance, Arbitration Director will be leaving the Local to take a position in another trade union, effective November 1, 02. We extend our best wishes to Brother Oram in his new position and look forward to seeing him in and around the labour movement. Sister Katha Fortier will be taking over his duties in the interim.

### **Payment of Dues**

At the last General Meeting a local policy was passed regarding reimbursement for dues. The Policy addresses the dues structure and the method required to apply for reimbursement for those members who work in more than one CAW 229 workplace. Your Unit Chairperson will have a copy for your information.

### **In Memoriam**

*Doris Haney*, Atikokan General Hospital  
*Bonny Fummerton*, St. Joesph's Hospital

## Committee Reports

### **Health Care Committee**

The long term care campaign kicked off with a well attended picket at City Hall on September 9, 2002. A large contingent of local 1075 members were there to show support. A big thank you to all who attended. Our president Brother Andy Savela, also wrote a letter to the Editor of the Chronicle Journal. In it he asked the Question "*How many of us consider the possibility that someday we may require care in a long-term care facility?*" He goes on to say "*Based on what the provincial government has been able to accomplish in the last seven years (to health care) not many people realize the amount of care that has been taken away.*" This article is a very good read and quite an eye opener. Call the local office for a copy if you have not seen it. The Ontario CAW Health Council will be coordinating the campaign across the province.

### **Committees looking for local help**

Both the Election Committee and the Education Committee are looking for a few good people! Email or call the office if you are interested.

### **Web Site Update**

The Newsletter and Communication Committee has been busy working on the web site, especially Sister Heather Oram and Sister Katha Fortier. Please visit the site at [www.caw229.com](http://www.caw229.com).

## **Training Programs**

### **Community Based Organizer (CBO)**

#### **Training.**

CBO training will be taking place in Thunder Bay in December. So far 3 people have signed up. If you are interested in organizing and would like to take part please contact the Local office. Organizing does take a lot of time and commitment, but can be a very rewarding experience.

### **Health & Safety and WSIB Training**

Eleven members will be taking Level 1 and 2 WSIB training the first week of November in Thunder Bay. Sister Sharon Harietha will be going to Port Elgin for Health and Safety Training, and will work actively with the H&S/WSIB Committee.

### **Violence in the Workplace**

A Workshop will be held at the Local 1075 office October 23. Instructors are provided by the National. Interested members are to register through their unit chair.

## **The People of 229**

### *ANDY SAVELA*

Andy Savela is the current President of Local 229. He was elected in the first set of official elections after the new Local was formed in 2001.

Born and raised in Thunder Bay, Andy attended Redwood Public School and Sir Winston Churchill High. In 1990 he became an Registered Practical Nurse and began working at Options North West as a Residential Counselor. There he met his current wife Doreen and they have 3 children, Robbie 16, Travis 5, and MacKenzie 3.

As an R.P.N. Andy strived to obtain a more fulfilling and meaningful life at work. He realized that the Union was the only group actively trying to improve working and living conditions. This is why he became a Unit Chair 8 years ago. He states “he wanted to help members by ensuring that every member was represented to the utmost each and every day.” He says “I like the idea that our Local Union is fighting for social justice issues—These are issues that impact on all Canadians and this is why it is so important.”

Andy is active in the Thunder Bay and District Labour Council and coaches children’s soccer. Our President wants to see the membership of Local 229 take on more responsibility for what happens to people in

society and on the job by becoming more active in politics. “People don’t always realize that politics affects every aspect of our lives” The need is there to lobby political groups to affect change for the betterment of members, for the people we serve at work and for working people all over the world.

“The members need to know that we belong to a Union that has the power to make a difference and the members need to know that they have to participate to be more successful.”

When asked what he sees himself doing in 10 years he replied “I see myself being more involved in the Labour Movement and perhaps looking forward to retirement.” When asked what advice he had for members he replied “A lot of great things are happening in the Local Union----GET INVOLVED.”

## **Editorials**

### **Some good news on the Flu Shot!**

The Ontario Government has finally announced that Paramedics employed in Ambulance Services will no longer be legislated to take the flu shot. You may remember last year that a number of paramedics across the province were suspended for refusal. Paramedics were the only health care providers in Ontario that were legislated to take flu shots, though it was expected that if this was successful with paramedics, it would likely be legislated for other health care workers too.

### **CAW Flying Squad**

Union Activist Scott Drake from CAW Local 1075 spoke at our General Meeting this month on the CAW Flying Squad and encouraged our members to join up. The Flying Squad is a group of activists who join picket lines to bolster support for other unions or social justice issues. Pickets are arranged by email or phone, and it is not expected that members will be available for every picket. More information will be posted in the workplace. Scott can be reached at [tbflyingsquad@shaw.ca](mailto:tbflyingsquad@shaw.ca)

### Save Public Medicare Campaign

On October 2 a public meeting was held at the Frank Obljubek Hall here in Thunder Bay. This meeting, which focused on the campaign against for profit healthcare, featured Maude Barlow, Chair, Council of Canadians and the author of the McMaster study on deaths in for-profit hospitals. Also speaking were Micheal Hurley, President of OCHU (Ontario Coalition of Hospital Unions) and CUPE, and Natalie Mehra, Director of Ontario Health Coalition. Maude Barlow in her publication “Profit is Not the Cure” starts out by stating:

*“Although we Canadians treasure our universal health care system, it is now the target of the most sustained assault ever mounted against it. So fierce and relentless is this attack that, unless we unite to defend Medicare, it will not survive.*

*Two national examinations of Medicare – one by a royal commission led by former Saskatchewan Premier Roy Romanow, the other by a senate committee chaired by Senator Michael Kirby – are currently examining “all possibilities” for reform, including privatization and user fees. Ontario, Alberta, and British Columbia are not waiting for the work to be completed. They are already committed to establishing private, for-profit hospital services, delisting now-covered services, and introducing regressive funding mechanisms, including increasing health insurance premiums. In effect, these provinces are already committed to establishing a two-tier health care system for their citizens.”*

This was a very interesting, and scary discussion that took place and there was even a gentleman from the United States who stood up and discussed the horrors of the US system and that now living in Canada he truly valued our public system. More information about the Medicare issue is available at the local office as well as mail

in post cards to send to provincial and federal government personal to let them know that you want to keep our Medicare system public. Please call, **now is the time**, before we lose the best system we have. Several internet links for Save Medicare information and support are available on our new web site.

### CAW Local 229 Committees

Education  
Chair: Amy Rubino

Newsletter / Communications  
Chair: Lorraine Wardle

Organizing  
Chair: Andy Savela

Health Care  
Chair: Angie Granholm

Health & Safety / Environment  
Chair: Heather Scarcello

Recreation  
Chair: Peter Sabourin

Women’s Issues  
Chair: Suzanne Pulice

Good & Welfare  
Chair: Marg Arnone

Election Committee  
Chair: George Saarinen

### Local Email Addresses

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