



Labour Day Picnic

Below: CAW Local 229 Financial Secretary Jason Cummings and President Andy Savela with Ontario Federation of Labour President Wayne Samuelson, NDP Candidate Bruce Hyer and Labour Council President Evelina Pan and others, enjoy the Annual Labour Day Picnic in Thunder Bay



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Local 229**

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

City Homes Redevelopment Campaign Begins.....	page 2
HRM Bargains First Agreement.....	page 2
TBEMS Bargaining Reaches Standstill.....	page 2
Northern Hospital Bargaining Begins.....	page 3
First Ministers Meet on Health Care.....	page 3
CAW Joint Council Report.....	page 3
Ontario Needs a Raise Campaign.....	page 4
Local 229 Bargaining Updates.....	page 4

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

www.caw229.com

CAW CANADA LOCAL 229
101 N. Syndicate Ave. Suite 512
Thunder Bay, ON P7C 3V4
(807) 474-4229 ext. 5

EMAIL US AT:

caw229@tbaytel.net

Campaign to Redevelop City Homes for the Aged Begins/ Sept. 04

CAW representatives will make a deputation to City Council Monday September 20, 2004 asking them to revisit their decision to not rebuild Dawson Court and Grandview Lodge.

Local 229 President Andy Savela says that this is only one step in our fight back strategy to ensure that these beds remain under public administration. "We know that these two homes have been D-listed and are no longer suitable for our seniors, so we need to ensure that our elected representatives commit to fixing this problem." He continues, "We are willing to work with City Council to do whatever it takes to make this happen."

Representatives of the Local have already met with Local MPP's and MPP Monique Smith, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health and the following letter has been sent from the Local Union.

Dear Madam;
On July 21, 2004 you met with representatives from the CAW led by Robert Chernecki, Assistant to the President. One of the issues raised was the situation with the Homes for the Aged in Thunder Bay, where the City has decided not to rebuild two D-listed homes in which CAW Local 229 represents 600 members.
First I would like to say that I appreciate your offer to CAW to follow-up on this situation. To our end, we have met with area MPP's Michael Gravelle and Bill Mauro and written to Minister Smitherman, but to date have not received an official reply. I have attached a copy of the letter to Minister Smitherman which outlines our specific concerns and while we recognize that this is a complex issue, we would truly appreciate a quick response as this matter remains very unsettling, not only for our members, but for the residents in these homes and the community.
I thank you for your attention to this matter, and look forward to your reply. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you would like to meet or have further questions.
Yours truly,
Andy Savela
President, CAW Local 229

A march to City Hall on October 20 in support of the redevelopment will begin at Patterson Park at 5:00pm. All CAW Local 229 members are encouraged to attend and invited to spread the word to other supporters of this cause.

Hogarth Riverview Manor Bargains First Collective Agreement/ July 04

A three year collective agreement was ratified by 100% by the membership of CAW Local 229 at Hogarth Riverview Manor, a new nursing home in Thunder Bay, run by the St. Joseph's Care Group.

Gains were made in many areas and included wage increases that ranged from 9% to 11.5%, an annual RPN retention bonus, weekend premium, harassment language, violence against women language, and Paid Education Leave.

The bargaining committee consisted of Unit Chair Lorraine Frappier, Sheri Filograna, and Donna Lee Anderson, and they were assisted by National Staff Rep Tom Murphy and Local 229 Vice-President Katha Fortier.

Frappier was pleased with the efficiency of the negotiations. "Our membership wanted a decent and fair agreement and didn't want to wait months or years to settle and we were able to deliver." The collective agreement will expire February 2007.

Thunder Bay Emergency Medical Services Bargaining Reaches Standstill/ Sept. 04

An October 1st date has been set for conciliation meeting with the City of Thunder Bay after bargaining came to a standstill on September 1, 2004. If an agreement isn't reached on Oct. 1st, the bargaining unit will be in a legal strike position in 21 days.

The bargaining committee, Unit Chair Pat Dixon, Jeff Monas, Enn Kurm, and Randy Oleski are preparing for all possible outcomes. Dixon says that they are well aware of what has been bargained in this sector recently and that the members are not prepared to take anything less. "Paramedics work daily in high stress situations delivering critical life-saving care and their compensation needs to reflect this."

The bargaining committee is assisted by Local 229 Vice-President Katha Fortier, and National Staff Representative, Tom Murphy.

Women's Committee Resumes Monthly Meetings/ Sept. 04

Chair of the Local 229 Women's Committee Suzanne Pulice invites all interested women to join them on the second Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm at the Local Union Office.

Northern Hospital Bargaining Begins/ Sept 04

The Unit Chairs from the ten hospital bargaining units in Local 229 met by teleconference September 7, 2004 with the Unit Chairs from Local 1120 based in Sault Ste. Marie to discuss the joint bargaining process that will be undertaken this fall.

The bargaining committee will be assisted by Bob Chernecki, Assistant to the National President, Tom Murphy, National Staff Rep, and Katha Fortier, Vice-president CAW Local 229. Fortier and Murphy, along with CAW Local 1120 President Tim Thibault will meet with the employer on Sept. 22, 04 to set bargaining conditions and dates. The collective agreements expire Oct. 10, 04.

Fortier reports that the master committee will be made up of a mix of experienced unit chairs and some new faces who are extremely keen. "I anticipate a good round of bargaining and feel certain that this team will negotiate a solid agreement within a decent time frame."

First Ministers Meet in Ottawa to Discuss Health Care/ Sept. 04

During the week of September 13, 2004 while the Premiers gather in Ottawa for a Health Care Conference, activists will meet in regions across the Country trying to put the focus back where it belongs; stopping the games and implementing the Romanow Report.

Katha Fortier, President of the CAW Ontario Health Care Council say that there are several pieces needed to ensure the sustainability of medicare. "The response to this conference is a golden opportunity for Canadians to show support for our health care system and to ensure that reforms must include stable funding, reducing wait times, home care expansion, and the extension of medicare to include pharmacare."

In Thunder Bay CAW members and others will participate in one of several planned media watches Tuesday September 14, 04 and will be available to comment to local press. The media watch will take place at the Local 229 office from noon till 4:00pm and members are encouraged to drop by during this time. The effort is in support of publicly funded and publicly administered health care accessible to all.

CAW Meets Again with MPP on LTC Reform/ July 04

Members of the CAW, including Bob Chernecki, assistant to the national president and Katha Fortier, President of the CAW Ontario Health Care Council met again with MPP Monique Smith, the Minister responsible for the report on Long Term Care Reform for the Minister of Health and Long Term Care.

While the group commended Smith on the report overall titled Commitment to Care (available on the MOHLTC web site at http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/ministry_reports/ltc_04/mohltc_rep04.html) they stressed the need for the government to enact minimum standards to ensure that the additional 191 million dollars went directly to the bedside.

During the meeting Fortier raised the issue of the City of Thunder Bay deciding to not rebuild Grandview Lodge and Dawson Court. "Even though Smith wasn't able to give a clear answer to the repercussions of this decision, she did agree to investigate further."

Public consultation on the long term care reform will begin this fall and CAW will be taking an active roll in this process.

CAW Joint Council Meets in Montreal/Aug. 04

Local 229 council delegates participated in Joint Council in Montreal August 27 – 29. Joint Councils' held every two years differ from regular council as it includes French speaking delegates and is fully translated.

Guest speakers included Jack Layton, Leader Federal NDP, Gilles Duceppe, Leader Bloc Quebecois, and Jerry New, President of COPE, a newly formed Canadian Union. New shared stories of their struggle to leave their international union, which are still ongoing, and bear an eerie resemblance to the difficulties many of us went through three years ago, leaving the SEIU.

A film tribute to UAW activist Victor Reuther was shown to the delegates. Reuther was the only UAW leader to support the CAW when they moved to leave their international in 1985. The film will be sent to all CAW Local's for any members who would like to see the documentary, which outlines much of the UAW/CAW history.



The Ontario Health Coalition Trojan Horse; a symbol of the Ontario Governments' treachery regarding the privatization of hospitals by continuing plans for P-3 (public/private partnerships) took part in the Annual Labour Day Parade in Nipigon. The float and its' message were well received. Other stops were made across Northwestern Ontario as part of a province wide tour.

Ontario Needs a Raise Campaign/ Sept. 04 CAW activists from across the province will be organizing and participating in joint actions with the Ontario Coalition for Social Justice on Oct. 2, 2004. The date marks the anniversary of the Liberals first year in government and will make the point that one in seven Ontarians live in poverty despite the fact that Ontario is on of the richest places to live in the world. We must insist that minimum wage is increased to at least \$10.00/hour, that social assistance rates be indexed to cost of living, and that the claw-back of the National Child Benefit Supplement ends for those families on social assistance. Campaign material will be included with this mailout to unit chairs. Contact the Local Union office if you would like to organize an Oct. 2nd action in your community.

City Homes and Jasper Apartments Bargaining Update/ Sept. 04

The committees have met with the employer to exchange proposals and are expecting to set further dates.

Lakehead University Bargaining/ Sept. 04 The bargaining committee will meet with the employer October 7, 04 to exchange proposals. There will also be a committee meeting and a unit meeting later that day.

Welcome to New CAW Unit Reps/ Sept. 04 Unit Chair Claudia Mitchell and stewards Rob Aiken and Joanne Woilford join Andy Quarrell as the new workplace reps at Roseview Manor. Paramedic Arthur Collins is the new Unit Chair at Atikokan Hospital replacing Cami Lind. Eric Lovas is new Unit Chair at Setterland Group Home in Kenora.

Versa/Roseview Bargaining Update/Sept. 04 The committee's are waiting on clarification on a few outstanding issues and expect to be returning to Toronto very soon to finalize a tentative agreement with the CPL Group.

Organizing Underway in Local 229/ Sept. 04 The Local 229 Organizing Committee is asking for your help. They would like you to talk to your friends and family who work in non-union environments about the importance of unions.

Local 229 President Andy Savela reports that there are several relevant leads in workplaces and discussions are underway to organize inside committees. "We have over 2300 Local 229 members in this district and many of them know the people that work in these places." He continues, "Just a simple conversation can lead to another organized workplace and that improves the lives of all working people."

CAW National Organizing Representative John Aman met with the Local 229 Committee last month in Thunder Bay to provide advice and assistance. Aman stressed that the most successful organizing drives are lead by strong workplace committees and that these leaders would often be connected to current members. If you are interested in organizing or just have a lead that you would like to pass on please contact the Local 229 office.

Union in Politics Committee to Begin/

Four Local 229 members will attend the first CAW Union in Politics Convention in Port Elgin next month, with the goal of activating a strong local committee. UPC's will go beyond election time and work on relevant campaigns in their communities. The National Union will also launch the National UPC, and together with the Locals' will serve as an integral part of the CAW activist fight-back network.

Did you know? In the US the top 10 drug companies on the Fortune 500 list showed more profits last year than all other 490 companies combined.

