



AIRCRAFTER

JULY 2008
VOL.8 ISSUE 1



Bombardier • Northstar Aerospace • MacDonald Dettwiler • Hewitt • L-3 SPAR • Toromont • Vitafoam • Woodbridge Foam



LOCAL 112 VOTES!

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The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editorial Committee, the local union or the CAW National Office.

THE NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

Nick D'Alicandro, Editor

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new editor of the Aircrafter. I would like to begin by thanking our previous editor, brother Terry Stanton for all his hard work, and also congratulate him on a job well done. Terry, you leave behind some big shoes to fill and I'm more than ready for the task. I would also like to thank the editorial committee for their support. We have a great team and we will definitely keep up the tradition of producing a great magazine. That said, Sisters and Brothers this is your magazine. I encourage you to get involved and submit your articles, rants, and pictures. Make yourself heard! This is our best way to communicate and keep members and other locals up to date on our ongoing issues. With this in mind, please feel free to contact me through email editor@caw112.on.ca. Until next time, keep on writing, communicating, and getting involved.



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FACING CHALLENGES HEAD ON

Roland Kiehne, President



I want to express my sincere appreciation to all Local 112 members for your confidence by again allowing me the honour and privilege to represent you as your President. I will continue to work hard on your behalf over the next three years. Congratulations go out to not only those elected but also to everyone that participated in the elections. It is through this democratic process that we are able to build a strong and vibrant local union. I look forward to working with the membership, elected Executive Board members and leadership teams in all eight units of Local 112. Together, we will meet the challenges head on.

The C-Series & Canadian Aerospace Jobs

Canada is in the midst of a crisis in manufacturing. 110,000 jobs have been lost in the sector in the last year alone. Amongst all this job turmoil, the country's aerospace industry is flying high. The Conference Board of Canada reports that the industry is set to post its highest profits in five years with production surpassing its pre-9/11 peak. However, this high plane that we are riding will descend rapidly and crash land unless the government and companies like Bombardier act in the interest of Canadians.

We need a Made in Canada purchasing policy that will stimulate job and revenue growth in this country. This policy would not only benefit the aerospace sector but also virtually every sector of the nation's economy.

The lofty loonie's continued ascent

and the lure of low-wage jurisdictions has resulted in export based firms like Bombardier setting up shop in Mexico and India at the expense of Canadian jobs in an effort to mitigate profit loss brought on by the dollars near parity with the U.S. greenback. Recently, GM announced it would be building its new hybrid truck in Mexico instead of Canada. This trend will continue unless the government uses the tools it has to take some thrust out of the dollar.

Much of Bombardier's success can be attributed to responsible, government targeted, repayable financial support in the areas of research and development and aircraft sales. Every major global aerospace manufacturer enjoys similar financial inducements from their respective countries. Without this support, Canada would not have an aerospace industry. However, the government must ensure that every penny afforded Bombardier is used to grow the sector in this country.

Bombardier is considering awarding final assembly of its proposed 100-149 seat CSeries jet to the State of Missouri and components to Mexico. The Canadian government has committed millions of dollars to keep the work in Canada but is now embroiled in a game of one-upmanship with Missouri as Bombardier watches wringing its hands in sheer delight.

The CSeries represents an incredible opportunity to grow Canada's aerospace industry well into the future. A moment like this only comes along once every 20 to 30 years. For a Canadian company like Bombardier that has reaped the benefits of taxpayers support to even consider putting final assembly and component work outside of this country at a time when we are hemorrhaging good-paying manufacturing jobs is reprehensible. This new work could come to Toronto to offset

the loss of the DASH 8 200/300 assembly line. Not a penny of taxpayer's money should go to Bombardier if they don't act in the interest of Canadian workers and their families. **The CSeries jet must be built in Canada.**

Woodbridge Foam Bargaining

This round of negotiations was the most difficult the workers and leadership at our Woodbridge Foam (WF) unit have ever faced. The challenges facing the auto and auto parts sector are well documented and WF workers are not immune to this crisis. Tens of thousands of jobs have been lost in the sector with no end in site.

This is the environment in which we entered negotiations. The company was determined to win back many of the hard fought gains achieved by the workers in good times. For its part, the Committee did make some sacrifices, understanding the circumstances under which the corporation was operating. However, no concessions in wages, benefits and pensions were relinquished.

Woodbridge Foam has made the decision to move work out of the Kipling plant which will result in the loss of about ninety jobs. We were able to negotiate very good exit packages for our senior members. Those members eligible to retire will receive two weeks pay or \$2,000.00 whichever is greater for every year of service. It is our hope that many of our senior members will take the package thereby minimizing the impact of layoffs on our less senior members. I want to thank the membership for its perseverance during this very tough set of negotiations.

In closing, on behalf of the Executive Board, I want to wish all Local 112 members and your families a safe, healthy and fun-filled summer vacation period. **A**

BACK TO BUILDING THE LOCAL

Sherry Hillman, Financial Secretary, CAW Local 112



Let me begin with heart felt thanks to all those who supported me during the recent elections, and those who took the time to share ideas and engage in discussions about how best to build our union. It's good to be able now to look forward and plan the next three years, putting many of those ideas in practice.

But before putting the elections behind us, I want to congratulate not only the victorious candidates, but everyone who ran and those who put in long hours organizing and counting the vote. It's your involvement that makes our democracy work. It's time consuming and costly – for candidates and the Local, but it is the most important event in the Local's life: the time when the membership have a direct say and hold the leadership accountable.

Despite some concerns during the first round, the balloting and count were very transparent and efficient, as all the scrutineers will verify. However there is always room for improvement, and before the next elections we will be benchmarking best practices from other CAW locals, soliciting suggestions from the membership and considering alternative methods.

I am really looking forward to working with all the members of new Executive Board and Plant Committees over our new term of office. The membership, in its wisdom, has chosen a good balance of experience and renewal. And all seem committed to putting old rivalries behind us and working together to build unity to strengthen the Local for the challenges ahead.

Building the Local

With the elections behind us, we can get back to building a better and more active Local Union. And we are already off to a running start, as you will see in the following pages.

Our Picnic Committee has several new members this year with lots of fresh ideas for fun activities, surprises, and great prizes to ensure everyone has a great time. Our special guests Dora & Diego are sure to be a big hit with their treasure hunt for the under five set. We are happy to be back at Centre Island, by popular demand, with their midway rides and all our usual picnic races and games to entertain the kids of all ages. We'll be busy next week putting final pieces in place, including lining up leadership volunteers for the dunk tank! We are looking forward to seeing you there and meeting your families on July 5th.

Our new editor Nick D'Alicandro is busy producing his first issue of the *Aircrafter*, with lots of creative ideas. I am anticipating the awards already. Congratulations to past editor Terry Stanton and the Editorial Committee for the two well deserved awards we received at the CALM Conference in May. With all the ideas and skills that committee members gained from the conference workshops we attended, you can expect to see future improvements in our communications, especially the website.

CAW Bargaining & Political Action Convention

I was honoured to be part of Local 112's delegation at the CAW Bargaining & Political Action Convention

June 10 – 12 at the Sheraton Centre. The highlight was undoubtedly the fightback of Local 222 GM workers against the flagrant violation of their freshly inked Collective Agreement. When the company announced their intent to close the truck plant. Local 222 members blockaded GM Headquarters. Local 222 delegates, all sporting their red "Made in Canada" t-shirts, spoke about their pride in their members and leadership for waging this struggle, while leadership from all other sectors and regions across the country pledged support. One delegate struck a chord quoting a note written by the ten year old daughter of Greg Moffat, Plant Chair of the truck plant. "Love you Dad," she said in the note he found in his lunch pail the day after the rally, "I'm so proud of you for fighting to save everyone's jobs and trying to get the government off its ass."

Phil Fontaine, Grand Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, was the most memorable of several impressive guest speakers who brought messages of solidarity. Chief Fontaine was visibly moved as he told us of the significance – historically and personally - of the federal governments apology to survivors of the native residential schools. He thanked our union for our commitment to working to end first nations' poverty, and in keeping with Native tradition presented a gift in return. Our Local can take pride in our significant contribution to both the GM workers' battle to save their jobs and the first nations' struggle to end poverty.

Flying Squad Solidarity

We sent a dozen of our Flying Squad members to the GM blockade the first

day the call went out, and several of us returned for the rallies on the weekends and the big rally June 12th at the truck plant. Local 112's distinctive red Flying Squad flag and t-shirts could be seen prominently on all the television news coverage of the event. Kudos to all our dedicated flying squad activists, who answer the call for solidarity - usually on their own time, and make our Local so proud. We are now supporting the Woodbine Race Track security guards strike and if you have any free time to help CAW members in struggle, we always welcome new Flying Squad members.

CAW's EI Conference

Unemployment Insurance (EI) is part of my portfolio, so I attended the CAW's annual EI Conference June 20 - 22, along with DH Benefit Rep Gord McAlpine, where we were updated and trained on legislative and procedural changes. Unfortunately with layoffs increasing, EI Appeals are becoming ever more relevant to protecting our members' interests. There was a lot of interest in severance packages and the effect on EI claims, as well as the problems with the new on-line claims system. We heard from the Workers' Commissioner, Trish Blackstaff, about Labour's Supreme Court challenge alleging the government's "theft" of \$54 billion dollars from the EI Program constitutes an illegal tax. When that \$54 billion, from premiums workers had contributed, was taken to pay down the deficit, EI benefits were cut, duration of claims were reduced and training funding was slashed. Less than half of Canada's unemployed are now eligible for EI. The new Crown Corporation created under the Tories'



last federal budget to give employers more say in setting EI premium rates, is desperately and deliberately under funded to force further reduction of EI benefits and training, just when more workers than ever need it. Campaigns are underway to back Private Member Bills to put the \$54 billion back into EI, and to lower hours required to qualify for benefits.

WSIB Training

This week I am at our Education Centre in Port Elgin taking the WSIB Medical Orientation course to better decipher and use medical evidence when representing our members in ARO and WSIAT Appeals. I am grateful we have such extensive training available as my cases and the jurisprudence are becoming more complex and require more research and prep time. I am confident that this fourth week of training will strengthen my advocacy skills on behalf of our members. In fact, the way the instructors are working us I think we'll qualify for a medical degree. Despite the serious and sometimes tragic nature of the cases we are dealing with, we have to keep a sense of humour just to keep on going. Our classmate "Bones", seated to my right in the photo, helped in that regard.

Labour Day

Since this will be the last Aircrafter before Labour Day, I'd be remiss if I didn't make a final pitch. CAW is in se-

cond spot this year, which will put us into the CNE early enough to catch the Air Show, take in the midway attractions and rides or the variety of exhibits. And we'll end the day with a nice meal together at the Hall as usual. Plan to bring the family and make a day of it. It's a great way to end the summer.

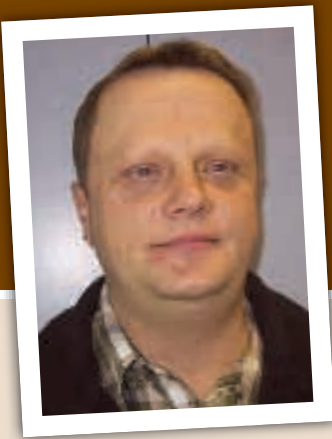
Financial Report

Our Local's finances are in great shape, with nearly \$600,000 in the bank at the end of May, but we have had some very large expenses recently with our elections, Bargaining Convention, Picnic and Labour Day coming up, which will reduce our bank balance. As long as our membership numbers remain stable we can recover from these large expenditures quickly, and continue to build up our savings for rainier days that are undoubtedly ahead.

FINANCIAL REPORT MAY 2008

Balance forward	\$592,698.53
Income in May	\$209,093.34
Total	\$801,791.87
Less Expenses	\$204,534.09
Balance	\$597,257.78

In closing, I'll wish everyone a happy and restful vacation with your families and friends this summer. I know I'm looking forward to some R&R and spending some quality time with my family. ⓐ



NEW CONTRACT REACHED AT WOODBRIDGE FOAM

Kevin Robertson
Woodbridge Foam, Plant Chair

“Always take the high road and never deviate from that.”

It has been awhile since I have submitted an article to the *Aircrafter*, and the reasons for this are many. I would like to reflect on the past 3 years. No question this has been the most difficult period of time the membership and leadership at Woodbridge Foam has ever faced.

During this time we had been perpetually meeting with the company in an effort to reach a new collective bargaining agreement. For 3 years your bargaining committee was committed to achieve a fair agreement with Woodbridge Foam and finally on May 30, 2008, your committee accomplished that. Despite the very difficult times in which we are living, your bargaining committee along with Local Union President Roland Kiehne and National Representative Whitey MacDonald were able to put together a very respectable collective agreement.

We negotiated packages for all Woodbridge Foam Kipling workers. They ranged in value from \$20k to \$85K depending on years of service. Woodbridge Foam showed the most senior plant the respect that it deserved. Although the company has said that it will be aggressively going after new work in the North end, we don't know what the future will hold for the remaining members. We are confident that what we were able to negotiate as far as protection will serve members well when the day comes for them to leave the company.

As I write this article, it is not only disheartening but also infuriating to

think of the hundreds of thousands of manufacturing jobs that have been lost and the impact this has had on workers and their families while the government takes no action.


This leads me to my next point, the contract that “Buzz” Hargrove and Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) leadership negotiated with General Motors (GM) and what GM did two weeks after the deal was signed. This issue is not just about GM violating the terms of the negotiated collective agreement, the issue in fact is about every single collective agreement that exists in Canada. If we as working Canadians don't raise hell today on this issue and lend our voices to the discussion we will be all put into this situation one day in the future. This will mean you may come to work today and everything might be ok, then the next day you come to work and management will say “Oh by the way we don't recognize your collective agreement anymore so your wages and benefits will be cut effective immediately”. Brothers and Sisters, this is a fight that we cannot afford to lose! We must beat back companies like GM and send a message to all those other employers out there that we as working class Canadians will not tolerate this kind of betrayal. To the Local and National leadership of the CAW at GM, keep up the fight, you have our respect and support!

At the recent Collective Bargaining council meeting “Buzz” Hargrove spoke on the issue of forcing the government to re-establish the auto pact to protect the auto industry. That tool

protected us as Canadians for many years and forced companies to put permanent investment in Canada. If it was not for the auto pact companies like Honda, Toyota and even the Detroit 3 would have never built assembly plants here in Canada.

Recently, the Harper government was forced to protect our national interests with respect to the sale of Local 112 Unit MDA by blocking a U.S. company from purchasing the company and transferring our technology and intellect to the U.S. I commend our Local President, local and national leadership and the people that fought this fight and forced the government to stop the sale. It demonstrates that, we, the people are the government and if those we elect to sit in Ottawa don't do what is in the best interest of Canadians, they will have to answer to us or be removed from office. This example is what I am talking about “THE FIGHT”. Let's force the issue of the auto pact and make the government in Ottawa reinstate the protection we as Canadians need for our auto industry.

For your information, the Woodbridge Foam Kipling Plant has its own website. Check it out! You will find updates on the plant and the brothers and sisters that work there. <http://wfkipling-spaces.live.com/>

I want to wish everyone a safe summer holiday. Enjoy your family and the finer things in life! Take care and God Bless. 



ABOVE AND BEYOND

Merv Gray
Bombardier, Plant Chair

**“United we stand,
divided we fall.”**

With elections behind us, and all the politics put aside (for now), I would like to thank all the members who supported me in my re-election for plant chair. I would also like to congratulate all those candidates who ran for various positions, both successful or not, good luck over the next three years.

As I canvassed the plant, lots of great ideas were brought to my attention, and of course, with bargaining approaching, your priorities were made very clear, as we prepare for this next set of negotiations.

The plant continues to be fairly busy, and sales are up, especially with our Q400 program, where its popularity is growing as a result of the rise of fuel prices.

Since my last article, we have had approximately 25 more re-structuring packages issued. It is a great pleasure to see our members retire under such great terms, and hopefully this trend will continue, allowing more members to reap these benefits.

The membership is steady at 2500-2600, and the discussions are over the work leaving, and I am hopeful that this can be replaced by new work, or by rate increase of our existing programs.

It was somewhat disappointing that the company announced the closure of the sustaining program in May next. I remember starting here in 1976 and the first aircraft I worked on was the Dash 8 100 series. It was a brand new program, it went into service in 1983, and was our lifeline along with the 200 and 300 series for many years. The projected sale for this program at that time was between 250-300 aircraft. Today as we look back we sit at approximately 650 plus. It speaks volumes to the product that we build here in Toronto.

In closing, I will work diligently to not only replace those jobs affected by the line closing, but I will go above and beyond, to find alternative to keep our members employed, including possible new programs to sustain your jobs.

Enjoy the summer, until the next time. Ⓜ

MDA SALE BLOCKED

Dennis Borden
MDA, Plant Chair



**“I light my candle
from their torches.”**

By way of introduction my name is Dennis Borden and I was acclaimed as the new plant chair person for local 112-MacDonald Dettwillerand Associates (MDA) unit. Let me start by extending my heart-felt thanks to the membership for their support and to Brother Tom Brolley for his years of service to our local, and we wish him well in his future.

I'm sure all of you as workers have felt that sense of pride, when the company you work for makes the news in a positive way, try to imagine this scenario occurring for two long months with constant uncertainty. Since I have taken over this position a few very interesting events have occurred. The federal government has blocked the sale of MDA to the US firm Alliant Techsystems (ATK). Under the leadership of our president, Roland Kiehne, and national reps Dawn Cartwright and Carol Phillips, we made representation to various departments and ministers in the federal government during a trip to Ottawa to outline what we felt the government of Canada must undertake to ensure the viability of the national space program. The space industry is feeling a tremendous challenge from Canada and the US. Issues such as long term funding, research, and development, and International Traffic in Arms Regulation (ITAR) will continue to threaten the survivability of this industry. If we are serious in maintaining Canada's status as an innovator, a pioneer in the space business we need to pressure the government to show support. In the coming weeks I'm going to approach our manufacturing management to kick start out apprenticeship program in preparation for new work, as well as off set projected retirement of some members. The last new hire in our membership was in 2005, followed by a number of retirees as well as unexpected departures have left the company in a very vulnerable position, unprepared for any influx of new work.

As you can imagine there are many challenges lying ahead, but with some luck, determination and the support of others we shall persevere. Ⓜ



LOSS OF MANUFACTURING JOBS MUST STOP

Melrose Cornwall
Plant Chair

**“Knowing is not enough; we must apply...
Willing is not enough; we must do.”**

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate all the newly elected members of Toromont’s in-plant committee. A special thank you to all members in having the confidence in me to be your plant chairperson for another three years. I look forward working with the new committee. There will be many challenges before us but we will work together to improve the lives of our membership.

I want to take a few minutes to talk about the recent Human Rights investigation that took place in the Tractor Shop. To those individuals who have been offended by the way the investigation was conducted, I want to acknowledge your professionalism in dealing with this very difficult issue. The purpose of the investigation was not to be judgmental of anyone, but rather to find the individual responsible and to put a stop to it. This type of behavior can not be tolerated in

today’s society or workplace. I am however pleased with the level of co-operation and the positive responses I have received from most of our brothers and sisters and in particular from the two individuals who came forward and confessed that this incident was intended to be a joke that simply went too far. The investigation failed to identify the person responsible for putting the noose on the wall. Lets hope that an incident like this never again occurs in our workplace.

I attended the Canadian Labour Congress and Canadian Auto Workers Conventions in Toronto where a great variety of issues were debated and adopted. One of the key issues at both conventions was the loss of Manufacturing Jobs and its effects on communities across Canada. I recall this trend starting in the 70’s and 80’s, when employers began moving their operations to rural areas in order to take advantage of cheaper labour wages and

in many cases trying to dismantle unions. Today this trend has escalated to a different level. Employers are now moving there entire operations to countries around the world in search of lower wages. The reasons remain the same today as they were in the past. In an effort by employers to maximize profits, workers and their families in this country are torn apart and communities are devastated while the government sits back and does absolutely nothing as more and more plants close their doors. I think that’s disgraceful! Our Union, under the leadership of “Buzz” Hargrove has been speaking out over the past few years on the crisis of manufacturing job losses, one would think our Government would be listening by now! In closing, I want to wish all Local 112 members a safe summer holiday.Ⓐ

POST ELECTION — STAY ACTIVE

Scott McIlmoyle, Vice-President

Now that all the elections are completed, congratulations to all!

This was the largest election in my history, it was great to see that there was so many interested in taking a stand and wanting to pursue the different positions in our local union. To those that where successful and to those that stepped up to the challenge to run: it’s a lot of hard work and time, JOB WELL DONE!

You should feel proud of yourself for taking an active role during this process and speaking about the many issues that the local membership is facing. To all the candidates STAY ACTIVE, KEEP INVOLVED.

Local 112 has many committees that require volunteers to help things run smoothly. If you’re interested, stop by the union office or come to a general membership meeting. We are always looking for more support. Some upcoming events that could use YOU are the Labour Day Parade, recreational events, community services drives etc....

I would like to express my personal thanks to the membership upon my acclamation as the Vice-President to the greatest local union...112. ⓑ



SKILLED TRADES WORKERS AT VITAFOAM CHOOSE THE CAW

Ahamad Nabi
Vitafoam, Plant Chair



“Character may be manifested in the greatest moments, but is made in the small ones.”

The long wait is over. Nine skilled trades workers at Vitafoam have finally joined the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW). I would like to thank Brothers Vinay Sharma the National Representative, and our President Roland Kiehne for their respective efforts and hard work in outlining the benefits of joining the CAW to these workers. We are currently negotiating our first contract with the company. We have settled all the non-monetary issues and have had to apply for conciliation as the company refuses to move on monetary issues. This is not surprising given Vitafoam's history at the bargaining table. Your bargaining


committee, along with our President and National Representative Munir Khalid are standing tough. At the time of writing this article, no date has been set for the meeting with the conciliation officer.

Business at Vitafoam is still slow. The membership numbers continue to shrink on a monthly basis with no sign of recalls. The company uses every loophole in the ESA to disqualify the workers severance pay. We have four grievances going to arbitration regarding severance pay.

As I mentioned the business is still slow but at the same time our competitors

are very busy. The politics between British Vitafoam and the previous Vitafoam owner, who still runs Canadian operations, has everything to do with the slow business. Unless British Vitafoam takes some action and removes all of the top executives at the Toro Road operations there will be no change.

Lastly on behalf of the Vitafoam members, I would like to congratulate all the newly elected Local 112 leadership in all of our Units and look forward to working with all of you in continuing to build a strong Local Union!

Have a safe and happy summer Holiday. 

REASON FOR OPTIMISM

Graham Davies, Northstar Plant Chair


“Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.”

As we look to the future we can only hope that the revolving door of managers will finally stop revolving. Having gone through a number of years of chaos with at least five different plant managers and a corporation that seemed to have lost focus on manufacturing, I'm optimistic that the vision of our new CEO will bode well for our future here in Milton. All indications are that a commitment of investment will be made in Milton to meet our manufacturing requirements.

With bargaining just around the corner, we can all hope this holds true.

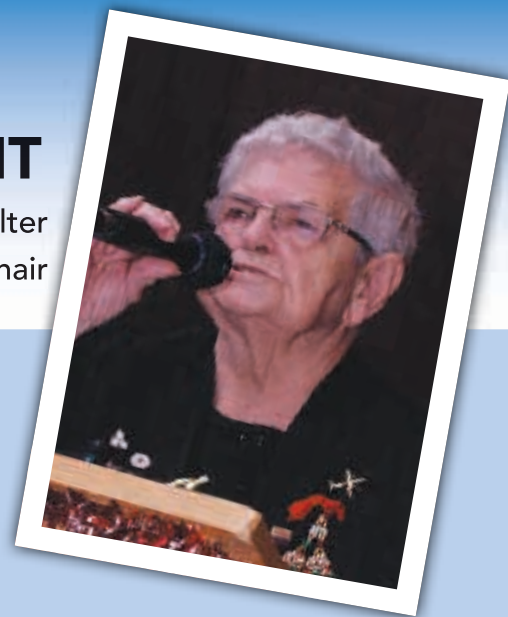
I would like to thank the membership for instilling the confidence in me as your plant chairman after six years as production rep. Both Ram Persaud and Mike Jones, while new to their elected positions bring years of experience from the shop floor to the bargaining table. In the short time since the elections, they have taken grievance handling and collective bargaining courses thorough our paid education program

at Port Elgin. I'm confident that we as a committee will be able to negotiate a fair and equitable contract for the next three years.

I would like to wish all the members of local 112 a safe and enjoyable summer. As summer draws to an end I would encourage all our members to get out and support the Labor Day parade. Make our local union proud once again at this annual event. 

CARING FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT

Maurice Coulter
Retirees Chapter, Chair



On the morning of June 12th local 112 sent a bus load of members and retirees to the G.M. demonstration in Oshawa. Special thanks to our retirees who participated. Those of us who didn't attend the demonstration met for our regular afternoon meeting. We thank our benefit Representative brother Gord McAlpine for his report.

The Environment

In the 1988 Aircrafter I reported that we had for the first time elected an Environmental committee that would emphasize the necessity of protecting our environment. "We must all be aware that strong, immediate action is necessary to protect our water and land. Clean air and safe drinking water are not options, but a necessities for our survival. As a commitment to our future generation we must act now to preserve our rivers, lakes and forests. Protecting Canada's water must become a priority".

Now 20 years later, I believe we would receive a failing grade. Now we all face Global Warming caused by Greenhouse gas emissions.

This is environment week. To fight against climate change we must all work together to ensure that Government, private industry, and every Canadian, work at reducing air and Greenhouse emissions, and water pollution. We must ensure that our Government be committed to finding on going solutions for the remaining environmental problems. In our communities, homes, school, and workplaces all of us must work together to ensure the protection, preservation and sustainability of our environment.

We need to create a water secure future! Who owns and controls this vital resource?

Canada's water legislation is more than 20 years old. We need a water act in Canada that protects and recognizes water as a human right. We have to

conserve water resources, fight for clean water and against privatization!

One of the environmental problems is the one caused by the use of plastic bottles. Companies take our water, place it in plastic bottles that leak out chemicals then the empty bottles end up in our landfills.

I know that, us, brothers and sisters will continue to work together to try to solve environmental problems, for we care about the lives of our children and grand children.

To all Local 112 members, president, officers, retirees, have a great summer.

Ⓐ

Dear Sisters and brothers..

I apologize for my long absence, but as you all know, the housekeeping department no longer exists. The company has replaced my jobs with outside contractors, which allows them to under pay, and wash their hands of all the great benefits that you receive as a result of the union. This brings me to my second point, building solidarity. During my glory days, the membership was united and everyone stood up for each other. We made sure everyone was treated fairly. This is what the union is about. Unity is not blaming our shop Stewards or executive leadership, consequently creating feuds within the union. The leadership is there to

guide, suggest and lead. Ultimately workers need to be fully united, and show support for our leaders. This is what makes a strong union, the kind that stood united for so many years, and that got us all that we enjoy here today. Sisters and brothers, it's a day in age where unfairness and power imbalance is at an ultimate high. Work from these plants is being shipped offshore at an alarming rate. Do we not see a trend here? Are we so blind to see what's happening? Sisters and brothers, this is your work, your life, your future, don't become another casualty like me. Unite. Put aside your differences. Put aside gender, ethnicity, religion...., don't just sit and listen to

company made rumors of layoffs, and outsourcing. Be active and unify, to prevent this from happening. When your leaders go to bargaining, the company should know that you will not settle for mediocrity. This is your work, your future, your right. You dedicate long hours, in order for your employer to be so prosperous; don't let them take that for granted.

Sisters and brothers, I'm back here to take a stand. You should too. In Solidarity, your dear friend Willie the sweeper. Ⓐ



WILLIE'S BACK!



AIRCRAFTER BACK ON TOP AGAIN

Nick D'Alicandro, Editor



This past May, the Canadian Association of Labor Media (CALM), held their bi-annual conference in Toronto. Many labour media delegates from all over Canada came together and took part in a variety of workshops. Web page design, digital videos, how to reach a youth audience, digital photography, and skills for new editors were some of the workshops available to the delegates. The conference helped members learn more about the great benefits of media,

and also to network with other delegates from different unions across Canada. Local 112 sent 5 delegates elected by the editorial committee to the event, which allowed us to participate in a variety of different workshops, to aid us in our work in the Aircrafter. During the conference, the delegates attended an award banquet, where once again local 112 stole the spotlight. We received two of the most prestigious awards which included: Excellence in Layout and Design, and the Cliff Scotton prize

which is awarded for the best piece reflecting the history, traditions, and cultures of the labour movement. It was for our 65 anniversary edition of "The Aircrafter". Congratulations out to the Editorial committee for a job well done, to the membership for their continuous support and articles, and last but not least to Suzanne Murphy from Thistle Printing, for a job well done on the layout. Again congratulations, till the next award let's keep up the great work. Ⓐ

WELCOMING OUR NEWEST SKILLED TRADES AT BOMBARDIER

Phil Fryer, Skilled Trades Representative

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the skilled trades for showing their continuing support in my re-election. We are very proud of our long standing history as a stake holder in the apprenticeship programs here at Bombardier. During the 06 negotiations we were able to bargain five new apprenticeship positions. These were open for all production employees to apply, and they did so. I am happy to report that through our joint apprenticeship committee, we were able to negotiate one more for a total of six.

At a time when our biggest fight for skilled trades is the contracting out of our work, new positions like these are a positive sign for the present and future.

I would like to wish all our members a safe and happy summer holiday. For the members who applied and did not get the position, watch the bulletin boards for future postings. Ⓐ



Our newest skilled trades' members..
From Left to Right: Keith Milce (Apprentice committee person), Merv Gray (plant Chair), Paul Menezes, Ty MacKenzie, David Gyorgy, Frank Heyne, Harbhajan Singh Biln (Apprentice committee person), Phil Fryer (Skilled Trades Rep.), Kareem Krichel, Jason Lane

LOCAL 112 MEMBERS VOTE

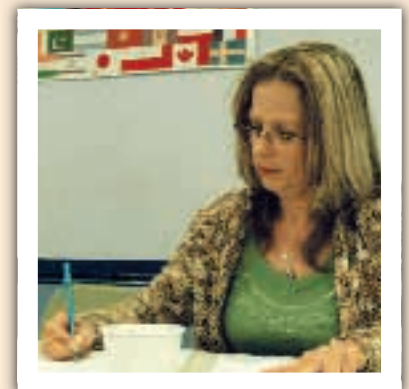
Three years have passed, and everyone has opinions on committee persons, and executive board, and how they have represented the local and us in this past term. Every three years thanks to our democratic system, we get a chance to vote out those who hold positions, or reelect them for another three years term. This past May was election time for committee persons, bargaining committee, as well as the executive board. The election process involved lots of dedication and time, from booth candidates and general membership helping with campaigns and conducting the balloting. After almost two months of preparation, campaigning, and run off's, both Bombardier's leadership team, and the executives board took a new look, a sign of great things to come. With collective bargaining coming up next June, the membership had tough decisions to make in electing the best possible bargaining committee. And so they did. With the guidance of our president Roland Kiehne and plant chair Merv Gray, I think the company knows that were here to do "business". Congratulations to all those elected to their respective positions, as well as those that were not elected. Ⓐ

Executive Committee	
President	Roland Kiehne
Financial Secretary.....	Sherry Hillman
Vice President	Scott McIlmoyle
Recording Secretary	Maxine DeCunha
Trustee	Terry Howes
Trustee	Mary Vukman
Trustee	Brad McConnell
Sergeant-at-Arms.....	Bob Newby
Guide	Mark Grix
Retirees Chair	Maurice Coulter
Unit Plant Chairs	
Bombardier.....	Merv Gray
Hewitt.....	Dwight Brown
MDA	Dennis Borden
Northstar	Graham Davies
Spar Aerospace	Allan Layton
Toromont	Melrose Cornwall
Vitafoam	Ahamad Nabi
Woodbridge Foam.....	Kevin Robertson

Roland Kehiene
"So long as the water is troubled it cannot become stagnant."



Scott McIlmoyle
"We have to fight; We have to win; We have to fight till we win."



Maxine DeCunha
"Together we can do it."

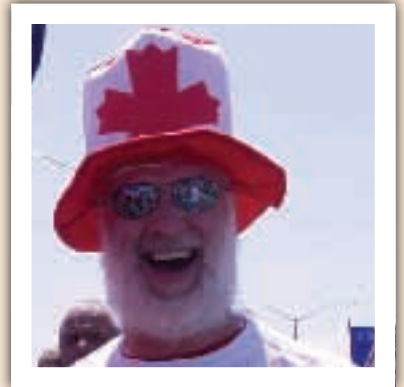


Sherry Hillman
"Our strength is IN our diversity. It builds real unity."



Mark Grix
"If you follow me I will guide you into the future."

Maurice Coulter
"Enable every woman who can work to take her place on the labour front, under the principle of equal pay for equal work."



Bob Newby
"Who amongst the 80 will stand up for the 20?"



Terry Howes
"It is one of the characteristics of a free and democratic nation that is to have free and independent labour unions."



Brad McConnell
"An injury to one is an injury to all."

Mary Vukman
"Life isn't about how to survive the storm, but how to dance in the rain."





MAKING HISTORY

By Marti Kontor-Taylor

Congratulations to all the elected members of our Local 112 and to the runner-ups for a clean & decent campaign.

For the 1st time in our Local's history we have four executive seats held by Union Sisters on the Executive Board, and two Union Sisters on the in-plant committee.

What a Historical Milestone!

We can attribute this progress to the hard work to which each and every candidate has put in to their campaign. A very special and heartfelt thank goes out to our Union Brothers, whom were there to support, teach and encourage every one of us to gain the confidence and know-how about the working of the labour movement.


The sisters of your Local 112 also have been achieving accolades in the labour community. For the past 3 three years the Women's Committee has nominated a Union Sister for her accomplishment in the community, local union and human rights activities.

I'm very proud to announce this March 2nd 2008; Sister Anabel Dalmao has been recognized and given the Women of Labour Award for her tireless leadership against all odds.

Anabel was the first elected woman as Alternate Shop-Steward at DeHavilland. In addition she was Union Councilor where she instructed awareness of Human Rights to workers and management. She helped to organize the Spanish Association of Brampton where she held various po-



sitions for many years. As the Chair of Local 112 Women's Committee she helped it grow; making women feel needed and appreciated. Some of these women went on to other committees, community activities and powerful union positions.

Well, my Union Brothers and Sisters this is how Solidarity grows, by democratizing the process and opening doors of advancement to one another. Salute to all of us and let us embrace the upcoming future together. 



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It has been a year (July 19 2007) since our daughter Shania passed away. We miss her dearly in our lives, but her spirit lives in our hearts. We will never give up on her cause, Shania's Sunflower of Hope, to help find a cure for this horrible childhood cancer.

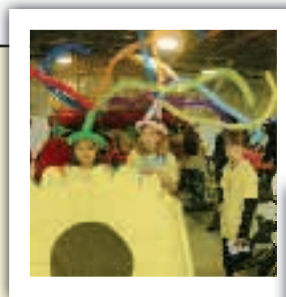
On behalf of my family and the families that are suffering with this cancer right now, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support of Shania's dream.

This years second annual Shania's Sunflower of Hope Fun Fair raised \$41,000.00, also the first annual Shania's Sunflower of Hope Golf tournament raised \$4,800.00, all going to desperately needed Neuroblastoma research at the Hospital for Sick Children.

Thanks to you and others like yourselves, Shania's dream lives on.

Sincerely,

Shayne, Karen & Shannon Johnston



THE FLYING SQUAD IS SOARING HIGH

Reaford O'Dell, Flying Squad Chair

Since being created last November, our flying squad has been very busy. For those who might not know much about us, we are local 112 members who attend and support other locals, and at times other unions at their picket lines during labour disputes. We are a team of 51 plus members who are on call and most times asked to attend events on very short notice. Our first call was this December, when our brothers and sister from Woodbine casino went on strike. We were successful in helping them achieve their first contract.

We also participated in other pickets such as Ledco's plant closure, Seneca college cafeteria workers, and manufacturing matters demonstrations. Recently we supported Local 222 in the GM headquarter takeover and solidarity march.

We are currently at Woodbine Casino, supporting the security guards. They are being locked out by the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (O.L.G), who is trying to turn their full time jobs into part time and contractor



status, also taking away their existing benefits. For those who might not know, O.L.G. is a Crown corporation, that makes millions of dollars per day at these facilities.

One reason why we enjoy going out and supporting, is the gratification that we get from our Brothers and Sisters

when we show up at their picket lines, as they realize that they are not alone in their fight against these giant Corporations.

Anyone interested in joining, please feel free to contact me, Reaford O'Dell, Vice Chair Dan Pollock, or any other flying squad members. ☺



TRUE LOVE...

REAFORD & DEBBIE O'DELL

Cost to tear down wall between bays 4 and 5

..... **\$250,000**

Cost to return the wall to the exact same @#*&^%! spot it was in the first place a few years later, so that upper management can herd cats

..... **+/- 2.5 million**

Laying off 50 people to cover the monumental stupidity of it all

..... **Priceless**

WHAT AN ACTIVE LOCAL!

Dan Alushi, Recreation Committee

Your Recreation Committee would like to inform you of some events that you could get involved in, both at a Regional or National level. Eight ball, five pin and ten pin bowling, darts, crib/euchre, Texas hold-em, indoor volleyball, indoor soccer, fishing, slow-pitch, curling, hockey.

If anyone has ideas for new recreation events that they would like to see, contact my self, Dan Alushi, or any other committee members, Ashley Sedore, Melinda Smith, Angela Bresolin, Duane Coffin, or Keith Milce.

This past year events:

- The bowling teams returned from both the regionals and the nationals as champs.
- The annual fishing derby was a resounding success and good

times. There were great prizes for winners, as well as great food and camping.

- The memorial golf tournament was an overwhelming and outstanding event as always. As usual there was a great turnout by the membership.
- The hockey teams did their best to be winners. Our open division team ended up winning their division in Local 199's tournament. The Hawks team competed valiantly in the over 35's reaching the semis in the bronze division at nationals, They scrambled to put together a team at the last minute to fill in the tournament, as one other out of town team had to withdrawal.
- The old boy's Blues team did well winning the 45 and over

Regionals, the also placed second at the Nationals, losing a closely contested game to Local 222.

On behalf of your Recreation Committee, I would like to wish every member of Local 112 a safe and enjoyable summer holiday. 🇺🇸



Local 112 Golf



Local 112 Bowling



Front Row: Ismael Bulatao, Victor De La Cruz, Marlon De La Cruz, Hung Nguyen, Mark De La Cruz, JoJo Hang, Debi Carson, Chito De La Cruz.

Second row: Dante Pedro, Michael Carlos, Gil Ines, Tanya Slugg.

Third row: Pol Nofuente, Mike Paiano, Shahin Kish, Andy Janik, Jey Nesarajah, Ryan De La Cruz, Adrian Coman

Missing: Maria Catalig, Mike Osborne, Ted Diaz, Reshell Viernes, Rod Reyes, Nick Martinez, Jimmy Garcia, Conrad Carbonell.

CAW 112 National Bowling Champions, Windsor, April 12 2008 Hung Nguyen, Marlon De La Cruz, Pol Nofuente, Mark De La Cruz, Ryan De La Cruz



Local 112 Fishing

HAPPY SUMMER!

Terry Howes, Mary Vukman, Brad McConnell

The trustee's would like to thank all of you who endorsed us in this past election. We look forward to working together as a new team for the next three years. We would also like to congratulate all the other elected officers and wish them the best over this term. To all the other candidates who ran in this election we also congratulate you too, on your hard work and dedication.

We would also like to thank former trustee brother's Wayne Good and Fred Schwertner for their dedication and hard work over the years.



It is with sadness that we bring the news of our chartered accountant; Mr. Morris Klaymen's unfortunate passing a few weeks ago. We will be tasked in the upcoming months to interview and select a new accountant to do the once a year final audit as we are mandated to. It is nice to see more faces getting

involved in the Union and how the activism is growing.

In closing, we again thank you and wish you all a safe and relaxing summer vacation with your family's and look forward to seeing you at the Labor day parade.Ⓜ



BENEFIT & PENSION QUESTIONS

Gord McAlpine

Benefits/Training Representative, DH Unit



I would like to thank everyone who voted me back into the union position of Training/Benefits Representative. I would also like to congratulate all the people elected into their positions for the next three years.

Many members would like to know why they do not see their Pension Buy Back added on their latest Pension Statement.

This is because the Buy Back runs from July 2007 to July 2009, so at the end of July 2009, the company pension person (Andrew Ng) will forward the information to the actuary. It will be added to your May 2009 statement, so I would recommend you make a note on the statement you just received to check your May 2009 statement for this information.

Some Questions/Answers about Buy Back:

What will happen if I get laid off before I pay off my Buy Back?

The company will ask for the amount outstanding to be paid in full. If you cannot afford it, you will be credited to the amount paid when you were laid off.

I signed up for the Buy Back but went on S&A or WSIB after I started paying.

The Pension Buy Back for you freezes until you come back to work, then it resumes, but at the end of July 2009 you will be asked to pay off the outstanding balance. Again, if you can't afford it, you will be credited the amount you have paid to date.

Pension Wind-Up:

At the end of December 2007, the Government gave the okay to the pension wind up.

Many people that signed up for this were given two choices:

- 1) give me the amount that I have accrued and I would invest the money in a locked in RRSP and manage my pension;
- 2) leave my money in the pension plan and continue to send me out my monthly pension cheque.

In choice #1, many people were told that they would be getting a lump sum. That was correct if the government had released the monies at the time of sign up. But as the year passed and the company still had to pay out your monthly pension, they used the lump sum portion first. If you have any money still owed to you, the tax man will take his share first and then the left over is income for the year you received the lump sum.

Newborns:

When you or your spouse gives birth, the hospital will give you a Certificate of Birth with a birth certificate to follow after you apply. The baby should be put on your benefits plan as soon as possible. Take the Certificate of Birth to the Employee Services office and give them a copy. They will have you fill in a yellow enrolment form. The sooner this is done, the sooner Green Shield will send you out a new card with the baby's I.D. number. At the same time, Industrial Alliance will also be informed of the new dependent.

Training Dept:

The Training Dept. is a reactive group, but tries to be a proactive group by setting up classes as employees are moved from one program to another. Each and every employee has a record of every course that he or she has been through.

This is a reminder that each supervisor should have your registry on hand for the employee, lead hand and supervisor before you are assigned to a new job.

All lead hands should have gone through the Lead Hand Training Course before they assign an employee work.

There are three types of training courses:

- Theory
- Practical
- On the Job Training

Type #1 and #2 above are done in a classroom and then out to finish the course. Type #3 occurs when the training is done on the aircraft and in the bays. There is a form that is handed out to the supervisors and lead hands with areas that require three stamps for each activity completed – one stamp by the supervisor, the employee, and the On the Job Instructor assigned by the Training Dept. ⓐ

STRESS IN THE WORKPLACE

Joe Rudnick, Health & Safety Representative

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your confidence as I was acclaimed and will proudly represent you as your Health and Safety Representative for another term. I will continue to fight the issues, both big and small, with the same effort.

I would like to congratulate my alternate, Steve Szekely for being re elected to his position for a second term. Steve and I have worked well together on all issues, keeping good communication between us.

One of our goals is to get the corporation to recognize that we have issues that need to be dealt with concerning stress and violence in the workplace. For some reason, the company has not recognized these issues. I will be taking this to our local's executive board, asking them to entertain two seminars, one for stress in the workplace and another for violence in the workplace.

I would like to remind everyone, with the summer months upon us, when we have extreme high temperature days,

that the company has a heat stress policy. If you have any questions regarding this, please ask your supervisor or contact me.


We've had several Ministry Orders for health and safety training and I continue to have to argue with the company to release people so that they can attend. We now have two modern classrooms which will accommodate twenty people each but with the lack of support from supervision, we have been unable to fill these, some days we've had as little as four people per classroom. I would like to ask you, the members that I represent, to remind your supervisor that there is health and safety awareness training that you are entitled to.

We have courses on fall protection, for those of you who work at heights greater than ten feet, crane training, mule training, aircraft towing/handling, scissor or boom training and a vehicle safety course for anyone operating a golf cart or Cushman. Most of these courses have been mentioned



in one way or another in Ministry orders. So please, if you are using any of these, and have not been trained, contact me at extension 3726 and I will advise you. You can also contact your training / benefits representative, Gord McAlpine, at extension 4456.

Lastly, Work Authority has now opened a location at the Cookstown Outlet Mall which should be more convenient for our Barrie and area commuters.

Please have a safe and restful summer vacation. 

IF YOU DON'T LOOK AFTER YOURSELF, WHO WILL?

Scott McLmoyle, WSIB Representative, DH Unit

I have lost count of the number of times that I have written with regards to reporting a workplace accident RIGHT AWAY!

So look after yourself and report the injury as soon as possible to your supervisor or the company Health Centre. Then keep a record of all events on a calendar i.e.; phone calls to and from the company, doctor appointments, calls to the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) etc.

After your injury is reported and you have sought medical attention, WSIB will send you a Form 6 to complete. You must fill this form out, stop by the Union Office and Brad or I can help you fill it out. Do not sit with the Company and let them fill out this form, for they already have another form to fill out, plus they will not give you adequate assistance in filling it out properly. I have had a number of Appeal Hearings

over the last few months with three out of four being ruled in favour of our members.

The company has decided to participate in all Appeal Hearings that we challenge to WSIB. In short if WSIB denies you, the company will come to the Hearing to support the Claims Adjudicator decision. Its one thing to be a victim of an injury, but it's another thing to be a victim of the system. Like I said "LOOK AFTER YOURSELF" when the company takes a position like the one I have just covered it's puzzling that they ask me why the employee's go through the UNION, first. My response to them "Trust is earned".

In closing thanks again for your continued support during the past elections, being acclaimed as your WSIB is a true honour.

HAVE A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE SUMMER! 

CONGRATS SISTERS!

Connie Wright

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their overwhelming support in reelecting me as the woman's advocate.

I feel it was a great accomplishment to see so many women running in the election.

Congratulations to Sherry Snow, Sherry Hillman, Maxine DeCunha, and Mary Vukman. I would also like to mention Melinda Smith, and Pamela Robitaille for their great campaigns, it was great to see them enter this race.

So with elections all done, we can now focus on bargaining for next year.

I am very saddened to see the end of the sustaining line. After working on this program for practically my entire career here at De Havilland, it is definitely a day in which many of us were not looking forward to. Many departments at De Havilland are dependant of the work produced by this line, so it's understandable to see the frustration of many of our sisters and brothers, seeing that this company only cares about the mighty dollar and cents. I just wonder when will our government take a stand, and put an end to the soaring prices of fuels, food, and every other commodities, as well as the manufacturing crisis that we are facing, where thousands of good paying jobs are lost every day.

To all my sisters and brothers of local 112, I would like to wish you a safe and happy holiday. [Ⓐ]



SPACE FOR RANT

That sure is one imposing climb. Damned if it didn't look smaller when I was further away. Fooled by the perspective I suppose. Still I'm here now and I'm going to give it the old college try.

I've packed pitons, rappelling gear, O2 bottles, cold weather gear, and anything else I can think of. With a look to my trusted Sherpa guide he says, "Are you just going to sit here all day or are you going to park the car? I'd like to get to work sometime today, SUAD!!"

I've got to get myself a better class of Sherpa. This is to be the last time I go through Kurukulla's house of discount guides and Tibetan wisdom

"I'm outta here" he says and exits the contrivance

"Wait" I yell after him "You'll never make it alone" but he's gone. Vanished like a ghost into the early morning mist

'I can do this' I think 'Alone, man against the elements 'It's just me and this crater sized pothole'

"Pothole?" I exclaim, then it all snaps back into focus, that's not Everest, this isn't the Himalayas. I'm in the parking lot here at DH at the bottom of a massive pothole. Musta hit my head harder than I thought when I came to a screeching halt in the damn thing.

I'm in luck though, most of the pothole has been filled up with someone's Honda. Finally a good use for the things. I

drive on and ignore the colourful and flamboyant cursing. 'Better him than me, survival of the fittest, law of the jungle, or in this case the parking lot.

All kidding aside, our parking lot, that's general population not the 'been here forever' one is looking and feeling it's age. That said I also understand it's bloody expensive to repave, even if they use that new eco-friendly reclaim, recycle system where they remove the top few layers, melt it back down, then add in some new material and relay it all at once.

However you could at least fill and patch some of the worst offenders, and while you're at it you might want to think about repainting some of the white lines. Some areas, most notably the lot by the main cafeteria, is a guessing game at best and total anarchy at worst. One other thing that needs to be considered is adapting, where possible, to the position of the light poles. Now where that doesn't work out, scrap that one spot and make the surrounding ones somewhat larger. As a suggestion you could ask someone like an inspector, or an assembler, because these people can actually take measurements and apply logic to the situation, because up till now apparently no one else has.

PS; for the automotivly challenged amongst us the white lines are what you park your car between. Not close, not on, not 'sorta there' but between. [Ⓐ]



Calling all young workers in CAW Local 112!

Our union was formed because as workers we cannot depend solely on our employers to provide us with job security, a fair wage, a decent standard of living and a sense of dignity. Over the years, we have made impressive gains. But our objectives remain far from fulfilled. Even today millions of working Canadians still live in poverty; millions are subject to unsafe working conditions; millions have no voice in the workplace. We need unions today as much as we ever did.

The CAW Youth project is about creating space for young people within the union to develop confidence, skills, and the knowledge to participate actively in union life and play a role in building our union for the future.

The CAW Youth Network was created out of the need to reach out beyond the borders of our local unions and tap into a new generation of CAW members, who bring new ideas and new energy to the work we do.

The CAW Youth Network provides a space for young members and allies from across Canada, enabling them to share information and experiences, to identify and discuss issues that affect their day-to-day lives across a diverse range of workplaces and to learn about new union campaigns, mobilizing efforts and other events.

Wanna learn more about our union? Wanna meet other young CAW members from across the country? Wanna get connected to the work our union is doing?

If you're a CAW member 30 years old and younger...JOIN THE NETWORK TODAY!

All it takes is a simple email to: youth@caw.ca

Or visit us on Facebook: Facebook Groups: CAW Youth Network.

This article was written by Angelo DiCaro from the CAW national office, Communications Department.

Dear youth members, those 30 years and under, in the local. It is great to see the plant alive with young workers that are potentially full of new ideas, and soaring dreams. We are in a period of job uncertainties. We are all grateful for what we have, but I want to remind you, this was not handed over on a silver platter. Our retirees walked many picket lines in order to achieve what we benefit from today. We need to come together and discuss new ideas and solutions to some ongoing issues, in order to maintain and build upon what those before us fought so hard to achieve. The youth network is where we can share interests and ideas, and participate in events such as youth conferences, congresses, and nights out at cafes or pubs. The possibilities are endless of what might come out of this great network. It has allowed me to broaden my expertise in photography, and become editor of the *Aircraft*. I have also taken part in many events such as the Canadian Labour Congress convention, Canadian Association of Labour Media conference, as well as training courses that take place at the world class CAW education facility in Port Elgin. The youth committee is a great tool that allows us to become better educated, and more up to date on some of the realities of today. I want to encourage youth from all the plants of Local 112 to get involved. Sisters and brothers, lets get together, and talk about the challenges we are facing, and have some fun doing it. We are the future.

Nick D'Alicandro , Youth committee

CANADIAN LABOR CONGRESS CONVENTION YOUTH REPORT

The 2008 Canadian Labor Congress was a building block for the youth within the labour movement.

Youth Forum

With over 150 people in attendance, most of which were youth, the 2008 CLC youth forum was a huge success with the biggest turn out to date. The forum included community activists, Canadian Federation of Students representatives, youth movement members, and members from a wide variety of affiliates.

Youth Election Caucus

With 61 registered youth delegates in attendance, the 2008 CLC Youth Election Caucus doubled in size since the last CLC Convention. After speeches from the candidates, Tony Karner from CUPE was elected as the new CLC youth VP, and Mike Egan from CAW was acclaimed for the position of alternate youth VP.

Conclusion

The convention was the stepping stone to create a more diverse youth specific CLC listserv and helped to build enthusiasm amongst the youth for more participation on the CLC Youth Committee.

The 2008 CLC Convention hosted a variety of youth events that helped to encourage debate, build solidarity, and engage youth with the labour movement.

Ⓐ

THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFE TIME

Gilles (Gino) Arsenault

Hello Sisters and Brothers. Please allow me to introduce myself. For those who may not know me my name is Gilles Arsenault, often known as Gino. I have been a member of local 112 since 1986. During this time I have seen many changes. I would like to share with you my recent experience at the Paid Education Leave (P E L) program.

I have tried to find the time to participate previously however it never seemed to work out. In September of 2007 I went to Port Elgin for the plenary weekend where I was introduced to members from across the country. I wasn't sure what to expect. We returned a couple of weeks later for the beginning of the program. The workload of this program quickly became an eye opener of what was to come. There were long hours in class and this was going to involve lots of work and participation. But with the delegates starting to work together, friendships were forged and the work load quickly lessened as a result of everyone's involvement. There were committees elected: Recreation, Newsletter, Environment, etc.

I had the pleasure to be nominated as Substance Abuse Committee-person. Personally, I had some doubt, but with the help of others a change in my attitude began to occur. The support offered by the Union, as far as space, literature and materials, were granted to us without any second thoughts.

As we all returned for the second week, the Substance Abuse Committee suggested that an alcohol free day, followed by an AA meeting was going to



take place on the third week. To our surprise it was a great success and all the delegates accepted the challenge. I was asked to share my experience, my strength and my hope. I had no idea that everyone, or so it seemed, was going to be there. The support I received from my peers, after this experience, was tremendous.

This helped me change my thinking about substance use and its effects on my life.

The fourth week came fast and to my surprise there was also the reality that we would not be seeing each other as much, and that unity would truly be missed by us all. On graduation night we were all called up individually to accept our diploma. When they called

me I was so shocked to see that I was being presented with a guitar that was signed by each delegate from the program. It was very heart felt. The time had come to say our final goodbyes, and bring the solidarity we learned from this experience into our work places across the country.

We try to stay in contact so far and we all plan to get together again soon for a reunion. I would like to suggest to all our members to take the opportunity to get to know just what this Union is about. Not everyone received a guitar but you can be sure every one of us took home something more valuable, which certainly were the friendships. ^(A)

A.A meetings are still held every Thursday at 8:00 pm at our 112 hall at 30 Tangiers Rd.



OSHAWA SOLIDARITY MARCH

On June 12, 2008 Local 112 joined thousands of other CAW members and allies from other labour groups and communities in a solidarity march that took place at the Oshawa General Motors (GM) plant in support of our brothers and sisters from Local 222 following the recent announcement that GM plans to close down their 43 year old truck plant. As a result of this, thousands of jobs will be lost.

Protestors formed a blockade in front of GM's headquarters as soon as the news broke of GM shutting down the plant in 2009.

GM violated the new collective bargaining agreement signed with the union earlier that month. With work uncertainties, the CAW had opted to take some cuts, in favor of a deal that a new product would be built at the plant, with the promise of securing jobs. With the ink still fresh, GM treacherously announced the closing of the plant.

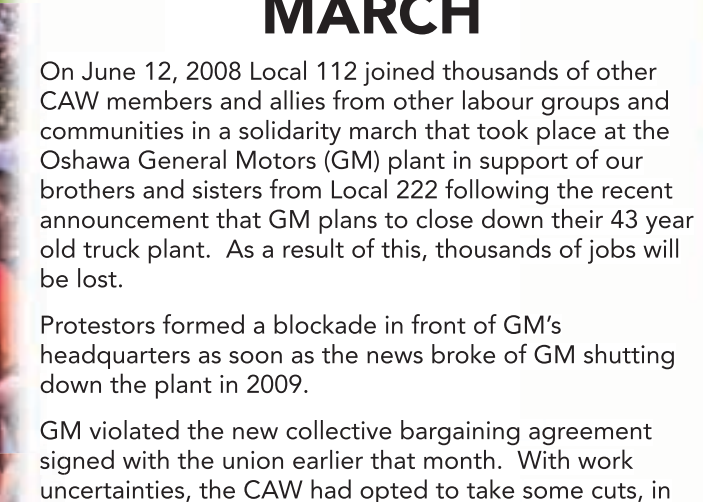
CAW National President Buzz Hargrove referred to General Motors' decision to close the plant a "despicable act" that undermines the entire collective agreement process. "In all my years of Bargaining, I have never seen something like this happen," said Hargrove.

Government unwillingness to address issues such as the high Canadian dollar, soaring gas prices, and unfair trade regulations are some of the reasons for the epidemic causing our country's biggest Manufacturing crisis.

As pointed out by our president Hargrove, the North American Auto Pact is an example of a successful managed trade agreement that ensures every imported vehicle sold in Canada was met with an equal value of domestic investment. The World Trade Organization (WTO) abolished the Auto Pact in 2001.

The blockade lasted for over two weeks, until a court injunction was handed down. The CAW leadership continues vigorously to meet with GM in order to find a solution to the plant shut down, and find a way to save jobs that would be affected by the plant closure.

Our support goes out to all the members of Local 222, and to the community of Oshawa. Local 112 stands strong by your side.





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Nick D'Alicandro, Editor

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