

199NEWS



GM to Invest in Manufacturing Drive Units for Electric Vehicles at the St. Catharines Propulsion Plant

On February 20 2023, GM announced, in partnership with the National Union and Local 199 GM Unit Leadership, that St. Catharines Propulsion Plant would be the next facility to manufacture Drive Units for GM's Electric Vehicles. Subject to completing support agreements with federal and provincial government partners, the company plans to invest at the plant to manufacture new Ultium electric drive units for GM's fast growing electric vehicle lineup. This investment plan would be expected to support around 500 jobs at the plant and enable the production of more than 400,000 EV drive units a year.

"This is a time of historic transformation for our industry and with this significant investment, St. Catharines will play a critical role in our EV future," said Marissa West, President and Managing Director of GM Canada. "The St. Catharines team produces engines and transmissions for many of GM's most popular vehicles, including full size trucks, SUVs and Corvette and we are very excited to announce our plans to supply drive units as well. This will support GM's plans to build 1 million electric vehicles a year in North America by 2025"

"The skill and dedication of Unifor members makes Canada the clear choice to build electric vehicle propulsion systems," said Unifor National President Lana Payne. "This historic investment secures GM St. Catharines' place in an EV future and protects hundreds of good paying jobs."

"In our 70 year history, we've developed a reputation within the corporation and prided ourselves in the quality of work we do, and it's second to none" says Unifor GM Plant Chairperson, Trevor Longpre. "With so many years of uncertainty before, and especially now, amid the massive transition within the auto industry to go electric, we can take a breath, savor the moment,



and feel a sense of accomplishment that we've earned this investment - That the quality of our work and the capabilities of our people is what has made this investment announcement possible. As Chairperson of the GM members in the plant, I couldn't be more proud of everyone's hard work and what we've accomplished. The future is bright."

Jordan Lennox, President Unifor Local 199 shares the same enthusiasm, "This investment will provide the needed longevity that the workers of St. Catharines Propulsion Plant deserve. It not only secures a strong future for our GM members but also adds job security to Assemble-Rite, Knights FM, Securitas, Spencer ARL, and TORA, This is a win for our community - Manufacturing in the Niagara Region has consistently diminished over the last twenty years. Securing a role in the EV transition that the auto industry is undertaking supports workers who give back to their community. It is estimated that each auto manufacturing job creates four jobs in the community."

Upcoming Meetings

MARCH 15

APRIL 19

MAY 17

General Membership:

6PM @ Union Hall

Retiree:

1PM @ Union Hall



Find more pictures from the event on our website!

President's Report

Sisters and Brothers,

I hope that everyone is having a great start to 2023! It has certainly been a busy start to the year here at the Hall. Standing Committee applications closed at the end of 2022 and all Standing Committees have had their first meetings, determining who the Chairperson and Recording Secretary will be. I would like to thank all the applicants who came forward to join the Committees. It is the first time in a long time that all of the Committees are active.

In 2022, the Local negotiated over a dozen successful Collective Agreements and 2023 has not slowed down. Over the course of February and March the Local will be negotiating on behalf of the membership at FirstOntario Credit Union and the Casino Security group. Both Committees are dedicated to securing the best contracts possible for the membership. Upcoming in May, the Local will be negotiating with Vesuvius.

As a member of the Ontario Regional Council Executive Board, I would like to inform the membership of the ORC's directive for 2023. The campaign for 2023 will be against the privatization of healthcare in Ontario and Canada. Privatizing healthcare will not address the lack of nurses or doctors within the existing framework and will in fact worsen conditions in our public system. The ORC is in the initial stages of planning the roll out of the Campaign, so please keep an eye open for further information.

Stay safe, my friends.



Jordan Lennox

President Local 199
president@UniforLocal199.com

Upcoming Events

Keep an eye on the union board in your workplace as well as unifor199.org to learn about events coming up in the next few months!



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Access Line matches you with the support you need from services across Niagara. Resources available to our members also include Substance Abuse Rep Mike Gilbert 905-658-2729, Union Counsellors Jessica McCourt 289-228-5967 and Alex Latham 905-658-8640

***If you or someone you know is having thoughts of suicide contact COAST 24hr Crisis Line 1-866-550-5205**

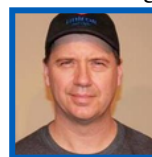
April 28 - National Day of Mourning

Since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, countless workers in all sectors world-wide have experienced the tragedy of a work-related fatality, injury or disease, because they went to work. In 2019, there were 925 workplace fatalities recorded in Canada - workers who never returned home to their families. Add to these fatalities the 271,806 accepted claims for lost time due to a work-related injury or disease. It's not just these numbers and statistics on which we need to reflect. With each worker tragedy there are loved ones, family members, friends and co-workers who are directly affected, left behind, and deeply impacted - their lives changed forever.

Over its past 87-year history, many Local 199 Members have experienced work-related fatalities, injuries and illnesses due to the nature of work at some of our units that include large scale heavy industrial workplaces. Among others, there were the Metal Working Fluid related illnesses in the 1990s, and the tragic fatality of Joel Murray in 1998. As recent as October 2021, another tragic fatality of Dan Sevcik, and more recently, a critical injury of another skilled new member named David Joseph in January 2023. We still have so much work to do.

Marked annually in Canada on April 28, the National Day of Mourning is dedicated to remembering those who have lost their lives or experienced an injury or illness at the workplace. But it's also a day to collectively renew our commitment to improve health and safety in the workplace and prevent further injuries, illnesses, and deaths. Please take a moment to think about how your family would be impacted if you didn't return home from work or suffered an injury or illness. Be empowered to speak up and notify your employer of any hazards or unsafe work practices you are aware of at work.

It's not enough to work safely... We must make work safe!



Ed Steers

Health & Safety Representative/
Health & Safety Committee
ed.steers@gm.com



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I N S U R A N C E

Secretary Treasurer Report

The past few years have been rather turbulent time for our members and local union. High interest rates and high inflation has driven up our expenses, reduced our spending power and created an environment of economical insecurity.

Local Union Finances

With lower than planned income in 2022 and increasing costs local 199 managed to control spending by staying within our planned budget. I am pleased to report that our Local was able to finish 2022 with a small surplus. Looking forward, in 2023 we will have higher than normal expenditures due to costs related to GM negotiations. We have built these costs into our 2023 budget; however, it is important that we continue to control our spending.

To ensure our finances are in order, we have maintained a disciplined approach to our finances which includes, preparing an annual budget, reviewing all expenses and income as well as planning for unexpected expenses and events.

We have a full time administrative assistant, a trustee and an external auditor who reviews our accounts and expenditures annually. The auditors are currently reviewing our finances and the result will be reported to the membership next month.

Personal Finances

From a personal perspective I have adopted a similar strategy to my own finances, live within a planned budget and build an emergency fund for unplanned expenses and events. Over the years this strategy has helped my family get through some challenging times.

When assisting our members, I often see firsthand the shock on their faces when they complete compensation claims, are off sick, are being laid off, when they realize there is going to be a period with lower or no income before benefits kick in. The reality of having to chose which bills you are going to pay, or putting items back on the shelf at the grocery store is not an easy one to make and can be a very stressful time.

What really helped me was being advised as a young worker to save some money for unplanned events and emergencies. I remember

Retirees Weekly Happenings at the Hall

Tues/Wed/Thurs

Pool 1:30-4PM

Tuesday

Cribbage 1:30-4PM

Wednesday

Women's Crafts & Social 9-11AM

Euchre 1:30-4PM

Thursday

Darts 2-4:30PM

Friday

Open Euchre & Fun Darts 7:30-10PM



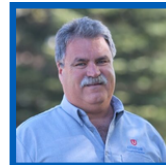
For more information on these and other retiree events, contact
905-682-2611
ext.234



thinking at the time how can I possibly save when I have a young family to feed, a car payment, a mortgage to pay, it seemed like an impossible task to save for an emergency.

I realized yes, its hard to save, but its not impossible, and its important to try and I did what I could to save a few dollars, worked a few extra shifts, and spent a little less. When I was off sick, had unplanned car or house repairs, I was financially better prepared to handle those events. It was critically important for my family to have extra money in a savings account for times when the monthly income changed, and you never know when that will happen.

This strategy has helped me get through some tough times. I hope and trust you will consider taking this important step towards financial stability, it worked for me, its working for the local union, and your entire family will benefit from the same strategy.



Steve McMullen

Secretary Treasurer

financialsecretary@Unifor199.org

Retiree Chapter Report

Right now we have people in Unifor, the Congress of Union Retirees and the National Pensioners, along with a few others set to make presentations before the Senate in Ottawa on the Pension Protection Act. It will change what the priorities for pension plans are in the event of a company's bankruptcy. The goal is to change the pecking order to bring us closer to the top making us the number 1 or 2 priority. So, what's taking place is pretty important and it is pretty important that we pay attention to this because it's something that really matters to any retired worker who is covered by a defined pension plan.

Also, early this month, I will be attending a D3 meeting. Some of the contract demands that are going to be put forward will be up for discussion. Then we will want to talk about them with the Master Bargaining Committees. There is also going to be a meeting in May with the Master Bargaining Committees of the Big 3. There will be representatives from Ford retired workers there and from the General Motors and the Fiat Chrysler retired workers.

We are working close together. I'm hopeful that we'll have the

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Labour Day planning has begun!

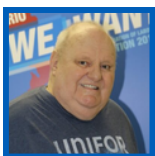
Reach out to Mike Winterbottom to volunteer or join our planning committee! Email winterbottom.mike@gmail.com

....Retiree Report continued

National Union's ear in order to be able to tell them something must be done in 2023. Understand that this is for your benefit due to of the injustice that took place concerning our pensions in 2008; when we all took a haircut. Somehow, some way these historic problems of ours must be addressed.

We'll see what takes place. But we're still driving towards some kind of improvement for including pensioners in 2023. It's important that we talk about that.

Talking about support, now we will have a talk at our March meeting. Natalie from the Ontario Healthcare Coalition is going to be making a presentation. I was in a zoom meeting with her just last week. She has plenty of knowledge about what's going on and how the coalition is setting everything up for these protests going forward. I think you'll be happy to hear from her. She's a very knowledgeable person. She already participated in a meeting held this month in Niagara Falls about the situation of healthcare in Ontario. This is something that we all have to be aware of because it's something that affects all of us as retired workers.



Fred Dougan

Retiree Chapter Chairperson
fdougan199@gmail.com

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Three Day Health & Safety Course



The local will be holding a three day Health & Safety Course April 3-5. We are encouraging all Health & Safety Representatives to sign up and attend this informative and important course. Lost time and lunch will be covered by the local.

Call Administrative Assistant, Noreen at the union hall to reserve your spot - 905-682-2611 ext 224. Further questions can be forwarded to Vice President, Mike Winterbottom winterbottom.mike@gmail.com

Did you know that Unifor Local 199 represents members from twenty-five workplaces in the Niagara Region?

Last edition we highlighted **ParaMed** and **Valbruna ASW Ltd**
Learn more about **Assemble-Rite** and **Brunner** from their chairpersons below!

UNIT: Assemble-Rite

Chairperson Sue Mercier has been the voice of the union in this workplace for the last three years. Assemble-Rite is located in the basement of the General Motors plant and Local 199 represents six workers in this workplace. These workers do inspection work on engine and transmission components. Sue just recently completed bargaining on a new three year agreement and has made a choice to retire in March. Sue is planning on spending a lot more time with her grand daughter. We thank Sue for her time as chairperson and best wishes to her in the future!



Sue Mercier
Chairperson

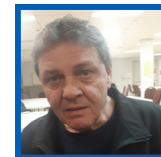


UNIT: Brunner

Local 199 represents forty members at Brunner Manufacturing which is located in Niagara Falls. Bob Lorke has served as chairperson there for seventeen years. Helping Bob enforce the collective agreement are committee persons Dave Murphy and Jamie LeBlanc. The 199 members at Brunner make cam's for air breaks. These components are then put on buses and transport trucks. Currently there are no layoffs at Brunner and they are in the third year of a four year agreement. Local 199 would like to thank Bob for his dedication to his members!



Bob Lorke
Chairperson



**Interested in learning more about the types of sectors that make up Unifor nationwide?
Check out the Sector Profiles by visiting www.unifor.org/about-us/sector-profiles**

March 21 - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed on March 21. This important day is an opportunity to empower people of all races, to reflect on past mistakes and work towards a future of equality. As a union, we must inspire inclusion and work to eradicate discrimination in our workplaces and our communities.

In 2023, our March 21 message is: "Our thoughts, our words, our actions." Check out the post on our website for more info on how you can join us as we work towards the elimination of racial discrimination.



Recognizing Various Scams

You should be vigilant when any person claiming to be a Service Canada or 1 800 O-Canada employee contacts you in a way that you are usually not contacted by the federal government. These emails, text messages, letters and calls (including recorded messages) may be fraudulent.

This could include:

- requests for personal information by telephone, email or text (Social Insurance Number, credit card number, bank account number, passport number, etc)
- notifications that attempt to complete a financial transaction, such as messages requesting to click on hyperlinks to deposit benefits or pay taxes

1 800 O-Canada is a general information service and does not usually make unsolicited attempts to contact Canadians.

Service Canada and 1 800 O-Canada only send information you have requested and only send notifications through services to which you have signed up.

Report a scam or a fraud

If you suspect you may be the victim of fraud, contact your local police service.

You can also ask for help from the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre online or by calling 1 888-495-8501.

Report the theft of your Social Insurance Number (SIN) by contacting Service Canada at 1-866-274-6627

For more information visit canada.ca



Vincent Filice

GM Employment Insurance Representative

vincent.filice@gmail.com



Ash Kofsky

LGBTQ Committee

UniforPride199@gmail.com

New energy, Positive vibes



The LGBTQ standing committee is excited for new members and great opportunities. As an inclusive group, everyone, including allies, are welcome.

Our committee has met and is discussing some great ideas for events, partnerships with different committees and cultivating relationships with community partners.

Some up coming dates to keep in mind:

May 17, International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia;

Unifor 2023 Pride Conference is April 28 through April 30th at the Unifor Family Education Centre. The Pride conference is back after 3 years. It is a safe space for the LGBTQ2I community to work together and build activism. Registration information and a call letter will be sent to the local and posted online;

The Pride Activist Course is running April 23 to 28, at the Unifor Family Education Centre. This is wonderful course that provides tools and strategies to organize substantial changes that make life better for any member of the LGBTQ2SI community.

The committee is looking forward to planning an event to show our locals Pride.

If you are interested in getting involved with the committee or are looking for more information, please contact uniforpride199@gmail.com.

An advertisement for Welland Chevrolet GMC. It features a white Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck in the center. To the left is the Welland Chevrolet GMC logo and the website WELLANDCHEV.COM. To the right, it says "\$500 TRADE BONUS 10% OFF PARTS" and "SERVICE NOW OPEN SATURDAY 8A-12P". At the bottom, it says "OFFER VALID FOR UNION MEMBERS ONLY. \$500 TRADE BONUS APPLIES TO NEW & USED VEHICLES". There are also social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.



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Women's Committee - Brunch, Bid & Bowl

On Saturday March 4, the Women's Committee participated in the Brunch Bid & Bowl event in support of Women's Place of South Niagara. The event consisted of silent and live auctions, speakers and brunch at Club Italia and was followed up with bowling at Cataract Bowl in the afternoon.



The committee was the top fundraising team, raising over \$3000 towards the overall goal of \$55 000. This money will be used to support those in our communities who experience intimate partner and domestic violence, as well as to educate and draw awareness to the issue in hopes of stopping this type of abuse all together. Thank you to everyone who supported this important initiative by donating!

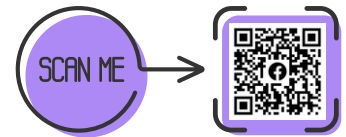
During the event, the organization revealed a new name and logo; Women's Place of South Niagara will now be known as Birchway Niagara. This change represents the growing understanding that, while women and children experience intimate partner violence at a higher rate, abuse is an issue that negatively impacts everyone, including men. It is also a problem that must be solved by everyone. Birchway Niagara will continue to provide the critical protection and help for women and children that our community advocated for decades ago. Now the organization will do more to address the root causes of abuse and light the way to a safer community for everyone. Learn more about Birchway Niagara at www.birchway.ca

Stay up to date on Women's Committee happenings by joining the Unifor Local 199 Women's Committee Facebook Group! Or reach out to any member of the committee for more details.

Jessica McCourt

Member-At-Large

jessica.mccourt@gm.com



Interested in contributing to or advertising in the 199News?

Contact Editor Jessica McCourt unifor199news@gmail.com

Unifor Local 199 Executive Board 2022-2025



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Vice President
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GM Chairperson
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Riddle Me This

Submit your answers to the riddles below for a chance to win a \$50 gift card!



1. What is always in front of you but can't be seen?
2. Where is the only place where today comes before yesterday?
3. I have branches, but no fruit, trunk, or leaves. What am I?

Send answers to unifor199news@gmail.com by April 30th to be included in the draw.

Entries must include your first and last name, workplace and phone number

Open to active and retired members of Unifor Local 199 only.

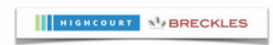
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