



THE VIEW

FROM

Local 2

Volume 5, Issue 1

Summer 2007

2007 Annual Training Seminar

This year's Annual Council & Training Conference was held in June at Orillia, Ontario. The conference kicked off with President Cam Nelson delivering an impressive report of the Union's phenomenal growth over the past 12 months, including the historic merger earlier this year with SEIU Local 244 and its 700+ members in British Columbia, and the way the Local was making the changes necessary to meet the challenges of the global economy.



The Training Conference was well attended with over 150 delegates participating in the following courses - Occupational Health & Safety, Stewards Training, Advanced Stewards Training (Arbitration), and WCB.

Said Local 2 BGPWU President Cam Nelson **"This training is all about equipping our Officers and Stewards with the necessary knowledge and skills to represent our members effectively in the workplace - something our Union has always done well."**

At the 2007 Annual Meeting in Orillia, the Executive Council approved a number of constitutional changes. For details or a copy of the amendments, contact the Union office or visit our web site at: seiulocal2.ca

Brantford Charity Casino

Over 70 Table Games Supervisors and Pit Managers at the Brantford Charity Casino have been fighting for their right to form a union since a majority voted in

favour of joining SEIU Local 2 BGPWU last April. Their effort to form a union has been bitterly opposed by the Casino who has thrown up a number of legal roadblocks at the On-

tario Labour Relations Board. Hearings resume on September 28th, 2007.

Woodbine Members Join Coalition

On August 20th, stewards from Woodbine Entertainment Group (WEG) met to discuss Woodbine Live: the 310 million dollar project being undertaken by WEG and the Cordish Company.

Union members are concerned that the project, which is expected to create 2300 permanent jobs, will undermine employment standards and job security at the racetrack.



The meeting heard from Judy Shum, a member of Communities Organizing for Responsible Development (CORD). CORD is a grassroots coalition of community groups that is organizing to ensure that Woodbine Live meets the needs of the local community. Among the demands of the coalition is that the development provide "goods jobs in a unionized environment."

At the meeting stewards voted unanimously to endorse the coalition and support its activities.

For more information on CORD visit their website: www.socialplanningtoronto.org/CORD.html

Deadline Bargaining underway at McMaster University

Physical Plant negotiations commenced with McMaster University on August 13th. Key issues include pensions, benefits for future retirees, and a "living" wage for new custodians. Multiple meetings are scheduled in September with a strike deadline of October 1st.

The Hospitality Dept. negotiations will also be under-



way this fall due to the BGPWU negotiating a strategically important 2 year term in the previous round of bargaining, - for the first time in recent memory, both groups are now at the bargaining table within 90 days of each other, thereby maximizing their collective bargaining strength.

Branch Local 244 Updates:

A & A Anderson Tank Service

Pension Contributions (now at 10%) will include overtime hours calculated at the straight time rate, introduction of a new premium for confined space leaders, Employer to pay for medical exams that are required by the Ministry of Transportation, increased Employer contributions to the SEIU Health and Welfare Plan and an increase premium rate for meal allowance and boot allowance.

Beach Grove Golf Club

Employees to be enrolled in the Multi Sector Pension Plan. Four year agreement with wage increases of 3%, 2.5% 2.5% and 2.5%, Increased Employer contribution towards the SEIU Health and Welfare Plan each year of the agreement

Branch Local 528 Updates:

Major Arbitration Victory at Windsor Raceway

At Windsor Raceway, Local 2 BGPWU security officers have traditionally guarded new Chrysler vehicles when stored on the racetrack premises. The car storage operation represents a large part of the bargaining unit work, as much as 75%. Last year the Employer contracted-out this work, arguing the collective agreement did not specifically require the continued use of our unionized guards.

The Union grieved arguing estoppel and after 7 days of arbitration hearings, the Union won this important and difficult case. Congratulations and many thanks to Local 2 BGPWU President and Legal Counsel Cam Nelson for a skillfully argued legal victory.

New Contract at Flamboro Downs

It was tough negotiations at the financially-struggling Great Canadian Gaming where Flamboro Downs members recently ratified their new 3 year collective agreement including hourly wage increases of 25, 30, and 30 cents, improved benefits eligibility, paid education leave, improved uniform allowance, and enhanced severance allowance among other gains. Congratulations to Workplace Chair Jane Baxter and the Negotiating Committee members for a job well done under very difficult circumstances.



British Columbia

SEIU Local 2 BGPWU is proud to announce that it has launched its organizing program in British Columbia with the addition of three full-time organizers to the SEIU Local 2 BGPWU "West Coast" team.



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Negotiations Breakthrough at Kawartha Downs Racetrack

Members at Kawartha Downs recently ratified a new 3 year deal providing wage increases totaling a \$1.00/hour over the life of the collective agreement, plus \$160 signing bonus, paid education leave, "no contracting-out" protection and for the first time, employer-paid sick leave. Congratulations to the Negotiating Team, well done.

per year in addition the Union successfully negotiated paid time off for members to attend negotiations and the Union's Annual Council & Training Conference.

company, wage increases of 2.5%, 2.3%, and 2.3% and lastly a signing bonus of \$100

Robins Foods

Members at Robins Foods 2006 Ltd. in Thunder Bay recently signed a 3 year collective agreement providing for a 9% wage increase over the term; including significant job security language, an increase in shift differential and 4 paid days per year for the Branch Local Union President to attend the Union's Annual Council & Training Conference. **"We believe this settlement symbolizes a new and positive beginning regarding the labour relations between the parties"**, commented Business Agent, Jeff Rooney.

East Toronto Community Legal Services

A one year agreement was entered into which included, among other things, improvements to paid holidays and vacation entitlement.

Days Inn (Timmins)

3 Year deal with 2.5% each year, paid time to attend Annual Training Conference, discipline removed after 6 months, improved bereavement and improved benefits including for the first time, major dental coverage.

Local 244's Annual Golf Tournament was held on June 16, 2007 at Green-



acres Golf Course (represented by SEIU). The weather co-operated and everyone had a good time. Our members from Capilano Golf Club pictured above won the tourney.

Chaloria Wood Arts Inc.

A one-year renewal collective agreement was reached. Improvements were made to the "sunset clause", recognition clause, and union representation clauses. In addition, the parties negotiated language providing for partial reimbursement in respect of the purchase of prescription safety glasses.

Upcoming Referendum in Ontario on October 10th

The province of Ontario has not had a referendum in the last 85 years. A very important question needs to be brought before the people regarding the changes proposed to our existing electoral system. Voters have a chance to support progressive change to the "first past the post" system that is no longer considered to be representative or democratic and is not in keeping with the needs of the citizens of this province.

To find out more about the historical referendum or find out how you can help promote awareness of this event contact the Union Office or Kevin Lomack (Branch Local 1 at 519-667-6733) or vote.mmp@gmail.com

Other Bargaining Updates:

Pepsi

Members at the Pepsi Bottling Group in Sault Ste Marie and Timmins signed a 3 year collective agreement providing for monetary increases of approximately 2.5%

Paxton Transport Limited

The parties agreed to the following, in a three year agreement: establishment of a direct deposit and a "sunset clause" to remove discipline from an employee's file. Increase in the clothing allowance and mechanics' tool allowance; and employees working alone shall be equipped with a cell phone for use in emergency situations. Significant increase in amount of employee RRSP contributions that will be matched by the

J4J Founding Convention

Justice for Janitors launched in Toronto

On June 16, 2007, over 150 workers and their families gathered in Toronto to launch the Justice for Janitors chapter of SEIU Local 2 BGPWU. The new chapter will spearhead the campaign to raise employment standards and win respect on the job for workers in Toronto's cleaning industry.

The campaign is really picking up momentum: in the last twelve months, over 1000 cleaners



have united under the banner of SEIU Local 2 BGPWU in Ontario.

To view a photo montage of the event or to read the latest issue of *Respect* (newsletter of our Justice for Janitors movement) please visit the Local 2 website.

METRO TORONTO J4J BREAKTHROUGH 1st Collective Agreements Reached

In June over 300 employees at Hurley Corporation ratified a city-wide collective agreement and it is anticipated that in September 2007, a further 300 employees of Unico Facility will ratify a city wide collective agreement.

Currently the workers at Hallmark housekeeping are aggressively organizing across the city to unite under the banner of SEIU Local 2 BGPWU.



See our New Website Coming this Fall