

# The Communicator

## Plant Chairperson's Report

We have been sold. After many months of speculation, Cerberus Capital Management L.P. has purchased Chrysler. While many questions still need to be answered, I want everyone to know that the recently negotiated retirement packages and our Collective Agreement are intact.

After much discussion, the Company has reluctantly approved all requested summer vacation leave pf absences (LOA's).

48 laid off employees have been recalled. Some of these recalls are related to WOM (team concept) and the Challenger launch. The summer vacation LOAs are expected to result in more recalls. These recalls may affect the number of packages available. The number of packages is tied to the number of full time employees on indefinite lay off. Separation packages will not be available until the forth quarter (October to December).

On Thursday April 26/07, Environment Minister John Baird announced the Federal Government is keeping its so called "feebate" program that rewards consumers for buying certain fuel efficient cars and penalizes gas guzzlers. Jim Flaherty, the Minister of Finance said he would not do anything to hurt the Canadian Auto Industry. Dennis DesRosiers of Toronto based DesRosiers Automotive Consultants said the Federal Conservative Government is doing its utmost best to destroy the Canadian Auto Industry and obviously they don't care about South Western Ontario. As I reported in my last report, Ontario is the number 1 area in North America for automotive production. When a Federal election is called (possibly this fall) and the candidates ask for your support, ask them what they plan to do about the automotive industry and the many other Canadian industries this government refuses to support.

The Federal Government has reported they will increase emissions standards beginning with the 2010 model year. The previous government set a target of reducing annual emissions by 5.8 tons by 2012. If Canada were to adopt California style regulations, 97 percent of the cars sold in Canada would not qualify.

Last week for the first time in a fiscal quarter, Toyota surpassed GM in global sales. This is in part due to increased demand for fuel efficient compact and subcompact cars and the perception of greater reliability. Toyota actually recalled more cars in 2005 than they sold.

Car sales are down in Japan. Japanese consumers are tired of the same old designs. The selection is limited because foreign manufacturers have difficulty getting their products to market. Vehicles sit on the docks for months while government officials find issues with the vehicles so they can not be deemed road worthy. The price of the vehicle is also inflated.

The Ontario Government is raising the minimum wage to \$10.25 by 2011. While we had hoped it would happen sooner than this, it is a step in the right direction.

All remaining 2006/2007 PAA hours not used before June 4/07 will be paid on June 15/07 with any non deferred vacation pay. Members wishing to have their 2007/2008 PAA hours paid out with their vacation pay must fill out a "Current PAA Vacation Period Form" before May 17/07. All PAA hours not deferred can be requested at a later date with time off or as a lump sum. Any member wishing to defer their vacation pay (over 80 hours) to be taken later with time off must submit a deferral form prior to May 17/07. Members wishing to transfer their Vacation Pay to an RRSP must contact Fidelity Investments by May 17/07 at 1-866-528-7283.

During the week of May 7/07 I was at third stage grievance meetings. There were over 125 grievances heard. There is still a back log of pending third stage grievances. To get most of the grievances solved, we are trying to arrange another third stage meeting. Any member with a grievance heard at the last third stage meeting will be notified as to the outcome of the grievance by their committeeperson.

On June 10/07, the CAW will be having CAW Day at Wild Water Kingdom. This is for all CAW members and their families. The cost will be \$15 per adult and \$10 per child. This will cover admission to the park, Bar-B-Q, and parking. Tickets are available at the BASE and at the Union Hall.

Our Union Hall will be hosting the Canadian Pavilion this year for Carabram. Carabram will be held July 6, 7, & 8. Discount passports will be available at the BASE and at the Union Hall.

The next Unit Meeting will be held May 27, 2007. All members are urged to attend. There will be discussion and a vote on a by-law change requesting the posting of candidates for appointed positions. There will be a request to extend the time limit (90 days) for elections for the vacated alternate committeeperson positions on "C" Shift. See the Union boards for the Unit Meeting agenda.

**In Solidarity,  
Ardis Snow**

### Some Quick Facts

- The Local 1285 Web site is [www.cawlocal.ca/1285](http://www.cawlocal.ca/1285).
- There are currently 246 workers on layoff.
- The City of Brampton is actively issuing parking tickets to folks with non-Chrysler vehicles parked in designated "Chrysler" Parking areas.
- The password required to use the "My Pay" kiosks located throughout the plant is the same password for Internet access to DaimlerChrysler's "Dashboard Anywhere" site. To get your password, call 1 - 866 - 322 - 3274. The usual sequence to get past "robo-operator" and actually speak to a human is: Press 3. Press 0. Enter telephone number 905 458 2800. Press 1. Write down the "ticket number" that is created. Press 2. Now you can talk to a human, they'll ask a few "security" questions, and then assign a temporary password. Note that your "T-ID number" is printed at the bottom of your pay stub.

## **WSIB Alternate, National Appointment**

The recent National appointment of Brother Mohammed (Duffy) Zafur to the position of alternate WSIB Rep seems to have caused a stir on the shop floor. I would like to try and clear up for the membership how this appointment was initiated. The position itself is a National position but functioning within the plant and is appointed by the National Union in consultation with the Plant Chairperson and Local Union.

The posting went up in early April with four members submitting resumes to the local. The criteria that was used for this appointment is the same that we use for Plant Appointments which was approved by the membership at a Unit meeting. Union involvement, skills and ability and if both are equal the deciding factor is seniority.

With this appointment the successful candidate met the criteria that were approved by the membership as well as being the senior applicant. Several years ago he applied for a Health and Safety position and was denied the job because he had minimum Union involvement and was told such when he inquired. Since that time he has been attending Union meetings, attending Standing Committee meetings, taking training courses in Port Elgin as well as Family Ed. Since his appointment he has also been sent for WSIB training to assist him in the performance of his job.

Not all appointment decisions are popular, but Brother Zafur met the criteria. This was explained to the National Union as well. They said if he met the criteria that were laid out by the membership even though it was a National Appointment then it would be tough to pass him over. In the event that there is a valid issue with his performance while in the job then they would remove him from the position.

I have had several calls saying that there is a petition on the shop floor for his removal from the position. Upon receipt we will forward these to the National Union for review and response as this is a National appointment not a Unit or Local appointment. I would ask the membership to have patience and give the Brother a chance to prove to you that he is worthy of the job.

**In Solidarity  
Leon Rideout  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, CAW Local 1285**

## Retirement Packages Update

Approximately 155 employees agreed to retire by the end of the year. Congratulations! The Union will meet with the Company on how they plan to deal with packages for employees wishing to sever their ties with Chrysler.

For information contact:

Benefit Rep, Lisa Contini at (905) 799-5146 or  
Dayshift District Rep, Maurice Kenny at (905) 799-5258

## A Chronology In The Takeover Saga Of Global Automaker DaimlerChrysler

-by The Associated Press

*Key dates in the transatlantic takeover that created DaimlerChrysler AG and its subsequent dismantling, announced Monday.*

- April 12, 1995: Kirk Kerkorian's Tracinda Corp. makes offer for Chrysler Corp. valuing company at US\$22.8 billion.
- Feb. 7, 1996: Chrysler makes peace deal with shareholder Kerkorian in return for stock buybacks and board seat.
- Feb. 12, 1998: Daimler-Benz AG and Chrysler Corp. begin secret takeover discussions.
- May 7, 1998: Daimler-Benz's Juergen Schrempp and Chrysler Corp.'s Robert Eaton announce \$36 billion takeover that creates DaimlerChrysler AG.
- Nov. 17, 1998: DaimlerChrysler AG U.S. shares begin trading at \$84.31 per share.
- Jan. 6, 1999: DaimlerChrysler stock hits \$108 per share.
- Oct. 26, 2000 Chrysler posts \$512 million loss for third quarter.
- Oct. 30: Schrempp quoted as saying by the Financial Times he never intended a merger of equals but that it was portrayed that way "for psychological reasons."
- Nov. 17: Schrempp puts Mercedes-Benz veteran Dieter Zetsche in charge of Chrysler.
- Nov. 27: Kerkorian sues company and Schrempp for \$9 billion, accusing them of fraud.
- Jan. 29, 2001: DaimlerChrysler announces it will cut 26,000 jobs, or about one-fifth of the work force at Chrysler and idle six plants over the next several years.
- March 2001: Stock falls from more than \$50 per share to roughly \$38 as DaimlerChrysler grapples with weak North American and European economies.
- April 2005: Cash cow Mercedes Car Group posts its first quarterly loss in more than 10 years.
- April 7, 2005: Kerkorian loses his fraud suit against company.
- July 28, 2005: Schrempp announces he is stepping down, with Chrysler head Zetsche to replace him on Jan. 1, 2006.
- Sept. 1, 2005: Zetsche also takes over as head of Mercedes Car Group.
- September 2005: Mercedes Car Group announces elimination of 8,500 jobs.
- January 24, 2006: Company says it will cut 6,000 white-collar jobs worldwide - 20 per cent of DaimlerChrysler's administrative work force.
- Sept. 7, 2006: United Auto Workers union refuses to grant health care concessions to Chrysler Group, even though GM and Ford got them.
- Feb. 14, 2007: DaimlerChrysler says it won't rule out "any Option" including sale of Chrysler. Chrysler says it will cut 13,000 more workers. DaimlerChrysler shares rise 5 per cent, to more than \$67.
- April 4, 2007: Zetsche says company is in talks about future of Chrysler but does not say if it will be sold.
- April 5, 2007: Kerkorian's Tracinda Corp. makes a \$4.5 billion cash offer for Chrysler.
- May 10, 2007: Frank Stronach's Magna International (TSX:MG.A) announces unspecified bid involving Onex Corp. (TSX:OCX).
- May 14, 2007: DaimlerChrysler announces end of nine-year takeover effort as it agrees to sell 80 per cent of Chrysler to private equity firm Cerberus for \$7.4 billion (5.5 billion euros).

## Talking Dog

A guy has a talking dog. He brings it to a talent scout. "This dog can speak English," he claims to the unimpressed agent. "Okay, Sport," the guys says to the dog, "what's on the top of a house?" "Roof!" the dog replies. "Oh, come on..." the talent agent responds. "All dogs go 'roof'." "No, wait," the guy says. He asks the dog "what does sandpaper feel like?" "Rough!" the dog answers. The talent agent gives a condescending blank stare. He is losing his patience. "No, hang on," the guy says. "This one will amaze you." He turns and asks the dog: "Who, in your opinion, was the greatest baseball player of all time?" "Ruth!" goes the dog. And the talent scout, having seen enough, boots them out of his office onto the street. And the dog turns to the guy and says "Maybe I shoulda said DiMaggio?"



## Manufacturing Matters Campaign 2007

We're going to Ottawa to join with thousands of CAW members May 30th to participate in the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) rally on Parliament Hill, protesting manufacturing job loss and

government inaction.

All active & retired members are encouraged to attend. The CAW will hold a lunch and pre-rally meeting at the Ottawa Congress Centre at 11:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Participants should arrive at the Congress Centre by 11:00 a.m. to be on time for lunch and to pick up their t-shirt and bandana. The CLC rally starts at 12:30 and ends at 2:00 p.m.

Call the local at 905.451.8310 to reserve a spot on one of the buses.



## CAW Local 1285 to Sponsor the "Canada Pavilion" for Carabram in 2007

Carabram has been an interesting multicultural event held in early July throughout Brampton for several decades. Ethnic pavilions featuring food, drink, music, dance, displays &

crafts are located at schools, recreation centres and such throughout Brampton.

You purchase passports that allow you and your family entry into all the pavilions throughout the July 6-8 weekend. Brampton Transit runs a free shuttle service for "passport" holders. This is a great family event. Passports will be available at the Local and at The BASE.

Volunteers are still needed... contact the Local.

## New Partner

A businessman called his lazy son into his office and announces some great news: "From now on, son, I'd like you to become a full-time partner in the company. Now, which part of the company would you like to be in charge of?".

"Well", said the son, "I hate the shipping room, I get a panic attack whenever I am inside the bookkeeping department, I can't get along with the people at sales"...

His father stopped him and said: "Well then, what WOULD you like the most, as a full-time partner"?

The son replied: "I guess the most of all; I'd like you to buy me out".

# W.S.I.B.

## Certification of Continuous Disability

Certification of Continuous disability forms are being sent out to workers who are on WSIB benefits. **These forms are NOT sent out by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board.** This form is **not** a proper WSIB form, nor is it required by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board. If information is required by the WSIB, it will be sent to you on a proper WSIB form, and, other than a functional abilities form (FAF), will usually be sent to you from your WSIB claims adjudicator, from the Toronto WSIB office.

The information on a proper WSIB form has to be kept confidential, and is usually between yourself, your doctor and the Board. The "Certification of Continuous Disability" form is **not** information required by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board. The WSIB should already know your disability, your phone number and your attending physician, as you would have completed one of their forms indicating this. The WSIB also knows what treatment you are receiving, how often you go to the doctor (or other health professional) because they mail out worker's and physician's progress reports, which contain confidential information shared between yourself, the WSIB, and your health professional.

If you are injured and have restrictions, you ought to know that those restrictions apply to what you do at work, and what you are able to do at home. Most injured workers have enough to do trying to keep doctor and physiotherapy appointments, and trying to get better. There are enough forms required by the Board (WSIB) to track your progress through your injury. You should **not** have to be bothered filling out that same information **and more** when it is not required by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board. Your daily activities, whether you smoke, and how many per day is **your own business.**

**In solidarity,  
Annelle Leblanc**

## Elk Hunting

Dave and Bo went elk hunting every year. The forest was so thick that they had to hire a helicopter to take them in and out. At the hunt's end, Dave and Bo called up the helicopter to come and get them and the six elks they had shot.

On arrival, the helicopter pilot looked over the catch. "I can only carry half of your catch," he said. "Six elk would be too heavy for the helicopter."

"Last year the helicopter carried six elk," replied Dave. "And it was the same type of helicopter as yours and the weather conditions were exactly the same."

The pilot succumbed to persuasion and took aboard the hunters and their six elk. The helicopter could not gain height and skimmed along the tops of the trees for a mile or so, and then crashed. Fortunately no-one was hurt. "Do you know where we are?" asked Bo.

"Yes," replied Dave, "about a hundred yards from where we crashed last year."

## Brave Captain

Once upon a time, there was an officer of the Royal Navy named Captain Bravado who showed no fear when facing his enemies. One day, while sailing the Seven Seas, his lookout spotted a pirate ship approaching, and the crew became frantic. Captain Bravado bellowed, "Bring me my red shirt!"

The first mate quickly retrieved the captain's red shirt, and while wearing the brightly coloured frock, the Captain led his crew into battle and defeated the mighty pirates. That evening, all the men sat around on deck recounting the triumph of earlier. One of them asked the Captain, "Sir, why did you call for your red shirt before battle?"

The Captain replied, "If I were to be wounded in the attack, the shirt would not show my blood. Thus, you men would continue to fight, unafraid." All of the men sat and marvelled at the courage of such a manly man's man. As dawn came the next morning, the lookout spotted not one, not two, but TEN pirate ships approaching. The crew stared in worshipful silence at the Captain and waited for his usual orders.

Captain Bravado gazed with steely eyes upon the vast armada arrayed against his ship, and without fear, turned and calmly shouted, "Get me my brown pants."

## Understanding Our Benefits

### Benefits Coverage During a Leave of Absence (LOA)

It is important for our members to know and understand the breakdown of benefits when they request and are granted a Leave of Absence (LOA).

Group insurance and health benefit coverage provided by the Company remains in force until the end of the month following the month in which the leave began, except for dental which stops at the end of the month in which the leave began. For example, if someone takes a LOA January 1<sup>st</sup>, their dental coverage breaks down at the end of January and their other benefits would breakdown at the end of February.

If a member is going to be on a LOA for longer than two months, they can continue their life insurance and health benefit coverage for up to 12 months by providing full payment of the required premiums. The 2006 premium rates are as follows:  
Single coverage (including dental): \$149.96/month  
Single coverage (without dental): \$113.26/month  
Family coverage (including dental): \$362.23/month  
Family coverage (without dental): \$273.60/month  
Company paid basic group life insurance: \$0.50 per \$1000 plus 8% tax

Members should check with the Benefits Office for up-to-date premiums before they write a cheque. If someone wants to continue Company paid basic group life insurance, members should contact Benefitslink at 1-877-854-5465 to verify their "life amount". For example, if your life amount was \$75,500, you would pay  $\$0.50 \times 75.5 = \$37.75$  plus 8% tax.

Cheques should be made payable to "DaimlerChrysler Canada Inc." Payments should be dated for the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month for every month that requires extra coverage. Members should drop off cheques at the Benefits office before the LOA begins. We will send the payments to the appropriate person.

Group life insurance and health benefits are reinstated the first day of the month following your return to work. For example, if you return to work

on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, your benefits would start up again on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**IMPORTANT TO KNOW:** Sick & Accident (S&A) insurance coverage breaks down at the end of the month following the month in which the LOA began. There is no provision to continue this coverage beyond that period. **If you are on a LOA longer than this, you will not be eligible for S&A coverage. You need to return to active employment for S&A coverage to be reinstated.**

**In Solidarity,  
Art Black, Gary Bertasson  
and Lisa Contini**

## Women's Advocate

### *Women's Advocate*

**May is Sexual Assault Awareness month, South Asian Awareness and Asian Heritage month.**

On June 16<sup>th</sup> there is a walk in Toronto to raise awareness around the issue of child sexual abuse.

This second annual walk will begin at Dundas Square in Toronto. To find out more information on this event you can go to [www.youth-out-loud.org](http://www.youth-out-loud.org)

The *Criminal Code* **definition of sexual assault** encompasses conduct ranging from unwanted sexual touching to sexual violence resulting in serious physical injury to the victim. Correspondingly, an offence is assigned to one of three levels according to the seriousness of the offence or the degree of physical injury sustained by the victim:

- a **level I** sexual assault involves minor physical injuries or no injuries to the victim;
- a **level II** sexual assault involves the use of a weapon or threats, or results in bodily harm;
- a **level III** sexual assault (aggravated sexual assault) results in wounding, maiming, disfiguring or endangering the life of the victim

The vast majority of sexual assaults happen to women and children. It is estimated that one in three women and one in seven men are raped or sexually assaulted in their lifetime. The majority of women are assaulted before they are 16 (stats: Ontario Directorate).

Most sexual assaults or sexual child abuse happens by someone known to the victim. It is actually rare for the perpetrator to be a stranger.

Rates of sexual assault remained constant between 1999 and 2004, but the number recorded by police has declined since 1993. This may be a result of improved social interventions and the increased use of services by abused women. However many organizations suggest that approximately **only 8% of sexual assault incidents are reported to police.**

Interviews with sexual assault survivors have identified some of the reasons behind women's decisions not to disclose sexual assaults to police, such as:

- believing that the police could not do anything to help them;
- wanting to keep the incident private;
- feeling ashamed or embarrassed;
- being reluctant to become involved with the police and courts;
- fearing that she would not be believed;
- not being sure the incident was a crime;
- not having sufficient proof;
- fearing the perpetrator;
- not wanting the perpetrator arrested or jailed (Kong et al. 2003; Lievore 2003).

The violation of a rape can change a person. Every aspect of their life can be changed by this one traumatic event. While some do eventually come to terms with it, others can be affected by it for the rest of their entire lives.

People need to realize that wearing sexually suggestive clothing, changing one's mind in the middle of a romantic interlude or having a few drinks, does not give anyone a reason to commit a rape. - It does not mean the woman was asking for it.

In Peel Region the best place to take a rape victim is **Trillium Hospital in Mississauga @ 905-848-7191**. At Trillium, they have a rape centre. This centre is called **Chantal's Place**. I have actually toured this centre, recently.

Once in this centre, the staff will perform a rape kit to collect any evidence (DNA) that may be present. This kit can actually be frozen for up to six months if the victim isn't sure if they would like to charge the violator or not.

They may take the clothes you are wearing to process them for further DNA. - They do provide other clothes for you to wear home.

The staff may also take blood to determine if there is a form of a date rape drug in your system.

The staff will also talk to you about possible sexually transmitted diseases, testing, and pregnancy. They will also give contact numbers of various centres that are very important in the days ahead, such as the rape crisis center number for counseling, the victim services number for court information, etc. I too, have these numbers available in my office. Hopefully, no one will need the information I am reporting on today. However, I am providing this in case you or someone you know needs this information.

**In Solidarity,  
Phyllis Foster,  
905-458-2522 or in plant ex: 2522**

# Wild Water K I N G D O M™

All CAW Local 1285 members and friends are welcome to join us on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Included in your fun- filled day are: all attractions to the park, as well as organized games, and a BBQ lunch.

**Cost**

**\$15.00** adults – immediate family  
**\$10.00** per Children (4-9 years old) (dependents only)

**Friends are welcome at a cost of  
\$ 23.00 per adult      \$ 18.00 Kids Price**

One free parking pass per family

Tickets are available at the Local 1285 Union Hall or at The BASE on Tuesday & Wednesday: 6:00 am – 7:30 am and 10:00 am-11:00 am and 2:00 pm -3:00 pm.



**Attention all CAW Local 1285 Members**  
The following discounted tickets are available at the Union Hall, 23 Regan Road, Brampton

**Wild Water Kingdom**  
**\$23.00 per ticket (adult)**  
**\$17.00 per ticket (child 4-9 years)**

**African Lion Safari**  
**\$22.75 per ticket (adult)**  
**\$17.05 per ticket (child 3 – 12 years)**

**Fallsview Indoor Waterpark**  
**\$32.00 per ticket**  
**(Tickets are not valid on Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, '07)**

**Marineland**  
**\$33.00 per ticket (ages 5+)**

**Canada's Wonderland**  
**\$36.00 per ticket (adult)**  
**\$30.00 (child 3 – 6 years)**

**Ontario Place**  
**\$20.00 per ticket (6 – 64 years)**  
**\$10.00 per ticket (child 4 – 5 years)**  
**\$10.00 per ticket (seniors)**

**Centerville Amusement Park**  
**\$20.00 per ticket**

**Have a question, issue or concern that you want addressed?**

**Have an announcement to be made?  
Not sure if there's any truth to the Rumour of the Day?**

Write it down and put it in a suggestion box, located on top of the blue kiosks/news stands or you can contact Bill Turner, or John Fallis, CAW Communications at:  
in-plant extension 2759  
out of plant (905) 458 - 2759  
F-mail

# Earth Day 2007

