



Stay in the LOOP. Get the

CUPE SCOOP!

Local 5167



Hamilton. Our City. Our Union. Our Stories.

**June is
Pride Month**

Check out
local listings
for events

**LOVE
always
WINS**

CUPE
Local 5167
Hamilton. Our City. Our Union.

Communications Committee:

- Jodi Coville, Chair
- Steve Alaimo, City Inside Unit
- Barry Conway, City Outside Unit
- Monica Galarneau, DARTS Unit
- Dianna Waldner GSWS Unit
- Sharla Armstrong, Member at Large
- Evan Johnston, Member at Large
- Michelle Bowerman, Member at Large
- Karol De Stefano, Member at Large

What's the SCOOP?

- We Love You Rosie!
- The Justice for Workers Campaign is born
- A Tale of Two Co-Workers and a Furever Home
- Happy Pride Month!
- The EXTRAORDINARY Growth of the Good Shepherd Unit
- Hamilton Can't Help Falling in Love
- 999 Miners Monument

Hamilton Pride 2021: www.pridehamilton.com

Free Moms Hugs Southern Ontario:
<http://freemomhugssouthernontario.ca>

Lawn Sign and various contests and activities!



Rose MacGowan

It was a tough decision, but the right decision for her family and her health. Rose MacGowan after 13 years as the 4th Vice President choose not to run in the 2021 election. Rose is the heart of 5167 whether she is on the Executive or not! **Who doesn't recognize Rose and that loud bellowing laugh!?!**

Rose MacGowan has led 5167 participation in the annual Labour Day Parade for over a decade! She created Breakfast with Santa and the Easter Bunny!

Rose has attended countless conventions, rallies and protests for the greater good of members and the community! **Thank you, Rosie!! We love you!!**



On May 1, the fight for decent work in Ontario entered a new phase as the *Fight for \$15 and Fairness* campaign relaunched as the *Justice for Workers* campaign. *Justice for Workers* will be picking up where the *Fight for \$15 and Fairness* left off, and will continue the fight for decent work, decent hours, and improved working conditions for every worker across Ontario.

You can trace the Justice for Workers campaign back to the Campaign to Raise the Minimum Wage, which was formed in 2013. This was in response to the minimum wage being frozen under the PC government between 1995-2002, and then again under the Liberal government between 2010-2014. In 2014, the campaign won an immediate increase from \$10.25 to \$11.00 per hour, along with future minimum wage increases being pegged to inflation.

The campaign also pressured the Liberal government to open up a full-scope review of employment standards, and in 2015, they did just that with the 'Changing Workplaces Review'. To seize that moment, *Fight for \$15 and Fairness* was born, and immediately got to work building up a network of organizers across Ontario to campaign in support of their core demands: a \$15/hr minimum wage, equal pay for equal work, 7 paid sick days, 3 weeks of vacation for all workers, an end to contract flipping, making it easier to join a union - and so much more.

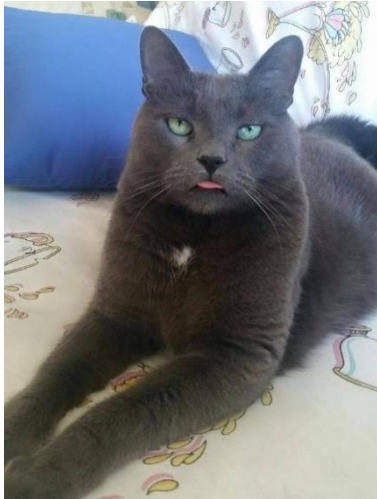
As a result of the incredible coalition they created with organized labour, community groups, faith groups, and others, the Liberal government felt the heat and introduced Bill 148, which legislated a timeline to a \$15/hr minimum wage, 10 emergency leave days (2 of them paid), equal pay for part-time, casual, and temporary workers performing the same job, and more. It wasn't everything the campaign wanted, but it was a major breakthrough and a concession to the movement from a government looking desperately to hang on to power.

Unfortunately, we know the rest of the story. **Ford came to power and rolled back nearly everything that was won in Bill 148.** He has stolen hundreds of thousands of dollars from Ontario workers by freezing the minimum wage and has taken away paid sick days, refusing to reintroduce them even during a pandemic.

But the fight for decent work can't stop, and this past year has seen 'essential workers' hailed as heroes without being provided with the pay, benefits, and protections that 'essential workers' truly deserve. That's why the campaign is shifting gears and looking to re-energize, re-build, and raise our expectations once more about what a fair and just workplace should look like.

A \$20/hr minimum wage, 10 employer-paid emergency days, a guaranteed minimum number of hours, laws that protect migrant and undocumented workers, real protections for temp agency workers, enforceable protections against discrimination and bullying, and more. I am ready to fight for this and I hope you are too.

Visit <https://www.justice4workers.org/> to learn more and to join the movement!



Andrea, her husband Marc, who is also a 5167er in bylaw, and their three daughters Hailey, Mckenna and Hannah lost their beloved family member Amadeus. They thought that was the end; no more fur babies for them as they were heart broken by the loss.

Then on a random day, a random conversation happened between two co-workers. Diana and Andrea work together at Ontario Works. Turns out Diana had recently rescued some feral cats living on her property. Diana is a huge animal lover! Pictures were sent and hearts were mending.



Andrea and Marc soon found themselves in the car on their way home with Timmie the polydactyl rescue cat! They instantly fell in love with him! It wasn't long before they connected with Diana again to get Timmie a brother - and along came Jimmy - the family was complete! They think they may be related, and around 1 to 2

years old. Timmie and Jimmy have settled in and are treated like the kings they are! They have made themselves at home and are little love bugs!!

Amadeus will always be remembered, and Diana will always be welcome at the Guilbeault's!



Each June we celebrate pride and the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Ever wonder when the first pride originated? What about the meaning behind the rainbow flag? Let us go back in history to June 28, 1969 in New York City.

Gay Pride honours the Stonewall Riots that took place June 28, 1969. The riots were in response to the ongoing harassment of gay people by New York City Police. Police raided The Stonewall Inn Bar located in Greenwich village. As a result, the New York City the gay community rose up in two days of rioting and another week of pop-up protests. **Canada followed on August 28, 1971 with the “We Demand Rally”, Canada's first gay public protest in Ottawa on Parliament Hill.**



The first pride parade was one year after the Stonewall riots, held on June 28, 1970. It was not called pride, instead the parade was called the Christopher Street Liberation Day (which is the street the Stonewall Inn is located). The early parades focused in large part on celebrants being proud to be out of the closet, the diversity of the gay community, and social issues.

The rainbow flag was developed by Gilbert Baker who was a gay activist. Rumour has it that the flag was inspired by Judy Garland’s Over the Rainbow. Judy Garland was and continues to be a famous gay icon.

The first gay pride flag was used at San Francisco Freedom Day on June 28, 1978. Two flags were hand died and sewn by over 25 volunteers. After the assassination of Harvey Milk in November 1978 there was call to mass produce the flags, they instantly became a symbol of the Gay Pride movement.

Since 1978 the Gay Pride flag typically has 6 stripes of colour red, orange, yellow, green, blue and violet. Each of the colours has a symbolic meaning. Red – life, orange – healing, yellow – sunlight, green – nature, blue – serenity, and violet – spirit.



New modern more inclusive “Progress flag” has been adopted over the last few years by LGBTQ+ activist. Designed by Daniel Quasar in 2018, the flag includes the addition of black and brown stripes to represent people of colour and light pink, blue and white to represent the trans community.

The EXTRAORDINARY Growth of the Good Shepherd Unit

by Dianna Waldner

The year 2020, brought many changes to the Good Shepherd Unit, far beyond the influences of a global pandemic. Last year saw many new faces and work locations voted into the Good Shepherd Unit, represented by CUPE 5167. The Good Shepherd Unit now includes Women's Services, the Family Centre, and the new Reaching Home Division. As a result of the additions, our unit is now 105 members strong and continues to grow!



The Family Centre is a shelter which helps families experiencing homelessness with support from Case Managers, and additional resources. The Family Centre unionized in June 2019 and began creating their own Collective Agreement. In the fall of 2020, the Family Centre and Women's Services both voted in favour of the Family Centre joining Women's Services Collective Agreement.



In 2020 the City of Hamilton changed the funding for the Housing First Programs within Good Shepherd, into one program. This led to the creation of the Reaching Home Division, which was voted into the Collective Agreement along with the Family Centre and Women's Services, in 2020. In March 2021, the housing teams from Women's Services, Youth Services, and the Family Centre moved into one location, become the Reaching Home Division. The housing supports within the Reach Home Division include Intensive Case Managers for youths, single women, and families. As well a Homeless Prevention team and a Rapid Re-Housing team.



At Women's Services we were sad to see our team members from Supporting Our Sisters and Rapid Re-Housing leave us, but are excited to see housing supports increase! Women's Services continues to offer support through our shelters Martha House and Mary's Place, as well as through outreach teams within Community Support Services for Women and Children.

The transitions and changes for all team members has been difficult over the past few months, and the stress of COVID-19 has not made anything easier. I just want to shout out to all the programs and team members because they have all continued to offer support to so many folks within the City of Hamilton and beyond our city's limits.

Meet Cameron Michael Caton, known around town as "COVID Elvis."

The 55-year-old Hamilton resident worked in a chemical factory in Oakville before he started singing inside long-term care homes across Southern Ontario. In March 2020, he moved his performances outdoors due to the Corona Virus pandemic.

The gigs first started to liven the mood and earn a few bucks, but it quickly evolved into something bigger!

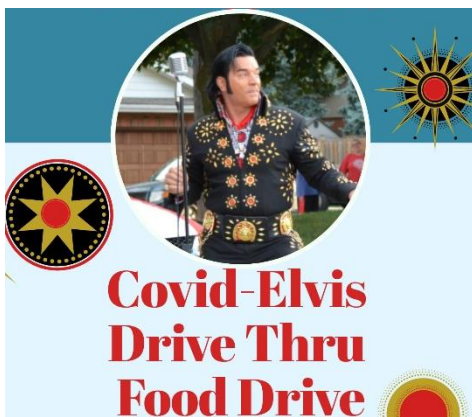
With most indoor venues closed to the public, the streets of Hamilton became his stage. There were surprise Elvis driveway visits, drive by social distancing birthdays, street serenades, anniversaries, and more!

He never really meant to become an Elvis impersonator. He just saw an opportunity to do some good with music, and have some fun performing at an array of worthy causes. It amazes him sometimes the response he has received. He plans to keep the Elvis persona going after the pandemic has ended. He owns 2 used and 2 new Elvis suits, and has even dyed his hair and eyebrows black. Now that's commitment! Caton loves Elvis Presley's music and now sings about 75 songs. He only knew 15 when he started.

Caton and his partner Chantal (the other half of COVID Elvis) continue to evolve by raising awareness of health and economic challenges, especially among the vulnerable. They created the **COVID Elvis Food Drive and Basic Human Essentials Tour** to provide safe celebrations and support those in need. They are uplifting the spirits of the most vulnerable and providing more than what is just essential for so many during the pandemic.

Events are planned through social media, and to date they have collected 36,000 lbs of non-perishables, donated to 30 local food banks and organizations, donated 50 duffle bags to the homeless, donated to 2 local women shelters 50 bags that include human essentials, as well as feminine hygiene products, and also donated essentials to several other organizations.

Cameron states: "I've always told people, kindness breeds kindness."

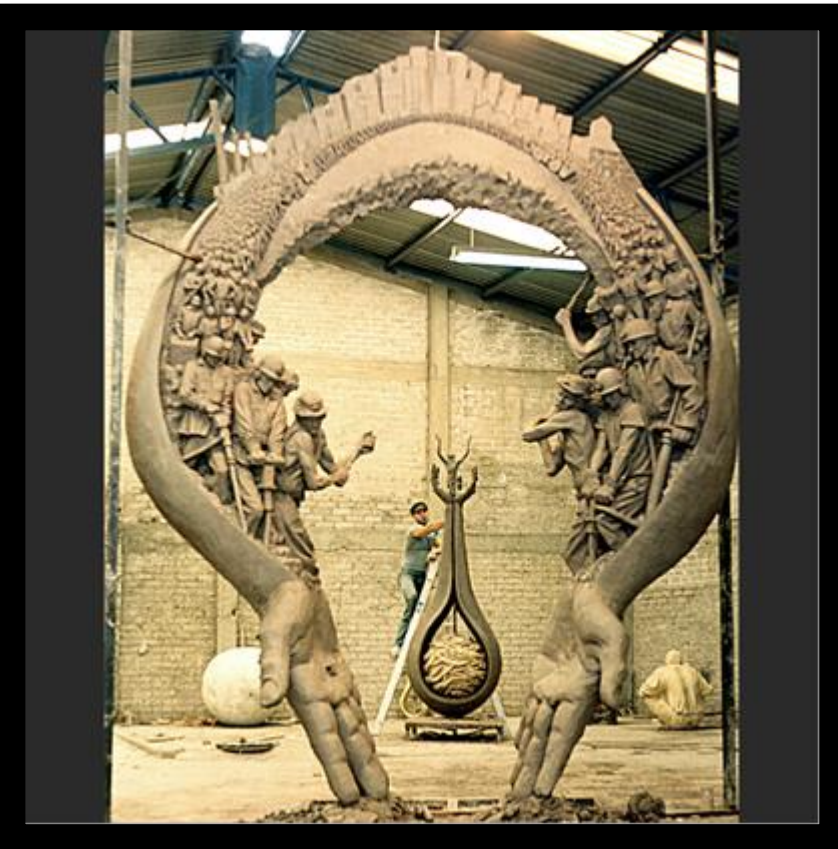


999 Miners Monument – by Ed Thomas, Retiree



Although this monument was commissioned to represent the celebration of the mining industry, one key component is missing. The monument does not recognize the hundreds of miners that lost their lives working in the Sudbury area mines.

Sadly, the committee in charge of this monument failed to recognize the human lives that were lost in those mines. The monument displays 999 miners; and it would be stretching the truth to say not one miner died. May I suggest when people look at this



monument, they reflect on the human sacrifices made in those mines. The committee can try to hide the fact that miners died, but they can not stop us from spreading the word and mourning them!

It would also appear the Bell Park Committee that was to oversee this monument got caught up in red tape. In small print there is some language or rule stating no memorials will be allowed in Bell Park.

Hopefully in the not-too-distant future this injustice will be corrected, and a plaque will be attached to this monument that recognizes the miners who lost their lives trying to make a living.

The monument is a must see and is in Sudbury's Bell Park, overlooking the bay.