

CUPE Scoop

Local 5167

Hamilton: Our City. Our Union. Our Stories.

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Commentary – Ed Thomas

Communications Committee:

- Jodi Coville, Chair,
- Steve Alaimo, City Inside Unit,
- Barry Conway, City Outside Unit,
- Monica Galarneau, DARTS Unit,
- Dianna Waldner GSWS Unit,
- Tammy Ross, Lodges Unit,
- Anne Abram, RBG Unit
- Sharla Armstrong, Member at Large
- Evan Johnston, Member at Large

Scoop CONTEST!

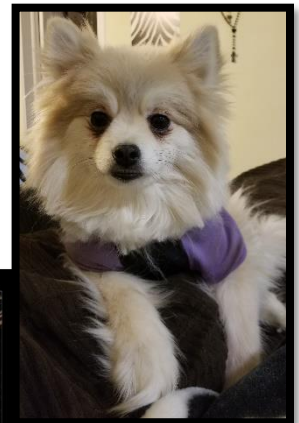
Pet Shaming Photo Contest

Submit a pet shaming picture of your pet and their antics to coville@cupe5167.org by **January 20, 2020 by 4:00pm**

(tip: people have used signs around the pet)

3 chances to win!

1. \$50.00 Mastercard gift card
2. \$25.00 Tim Horton's gift card
3. \$10.00 Tim Horton's gift card



That's right the treat is not for them, it's for you for loving them despite their antics!

Contest Rules:

CUPE 5167 Member
One entry per pet



Pet Therapy is an important program that has been at our Lodges for over 30 years. Thanks to dedicated volunteers from the SPCA's Pet Visiting Program and St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program, about 75% of our residents can look forward to a weekly visit. These dogs offer **comfort and companionship** and bring a smile to a resident eagerly awaiting a visit. They seem to know who has treats and who needs a cuddle.

Petting a dog can trigger the release of the bonding hormone oxytocin. Feeling that fur can also lower a resident's heart rate as well as their blood pressure. It also reduces depression and loneliness and decreases anxiety. During these visits residents often reminisce about pets they have had, and it gives them a chance to share stories with others. Residents participating in this program will have a **paw sticker displayed** outside their door to let volunteers know that pets are welcome.



At Wentworth Lodge they are lucky enough to have a resident house cat. You can often find **Miss Kitty** on a resident's bed or in a sunbeam in the library. Miss Kitty has been there for many years and has become a beloved pet. Residents, staff and visitors seek her out. She's the sweet girl with a **catitude!** Caring for her is a group effort. Nice teamwork!



Interested in Volunteering? If you have some time and a dog that you think would brighten up a resident's day or if you are aware of a resident

that could use some companionship, or does not participate in many programs, please contact one of our **Volunteer Co-Ordinators at 905-546-2424**

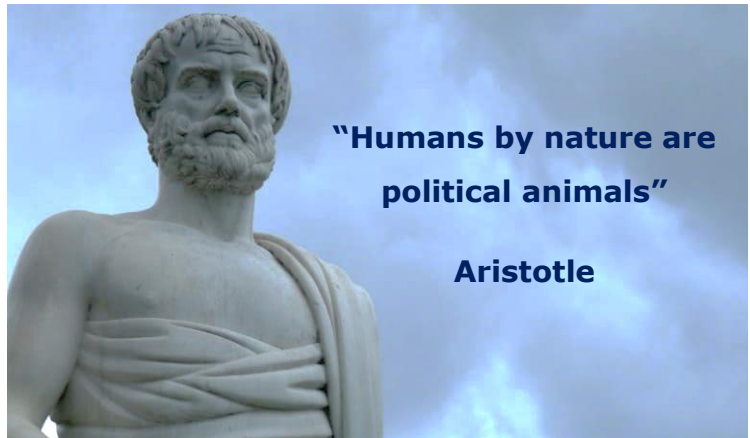
Jennifer Krueger at Macassa Lodge dial ext. 1612

Charles Mariakan at Wentworth Lodge dial ext. 1915



a·po·lit·i·cal not interested or involved in politics (dictionary.com)

We’ve all seen the headlines: The City of Hamilton is facing down a \$52-million budget shortfall. **Talk of cuts, belt-tightening and service reductions abound in every department**, and the decisions that Council will make about next year’s budget are guaranteed to have an impact on our coworkers.



We are seeing cuts to existing and expected funding, and the downloading of services from the province to the city without any new sources of revenue. It’s a situation that many have described as “grim,” and **one that reminds us of why unions need to make the voices of their members heard**: Our elected officials make decisions about the programs and services our friends and neighbours rely on, and about the jobs and working conditions we all depend on to support ourselves and our families.

You’ve probably heard it said that unions shouldn’t stick their noses into politics — that unions should be “apolitical”. *“It’s fine for unions to talk about workplace issues,”* it is sometimes said, *“but it’s not right for them to take a position on larger issues or to meddle in elections!”*

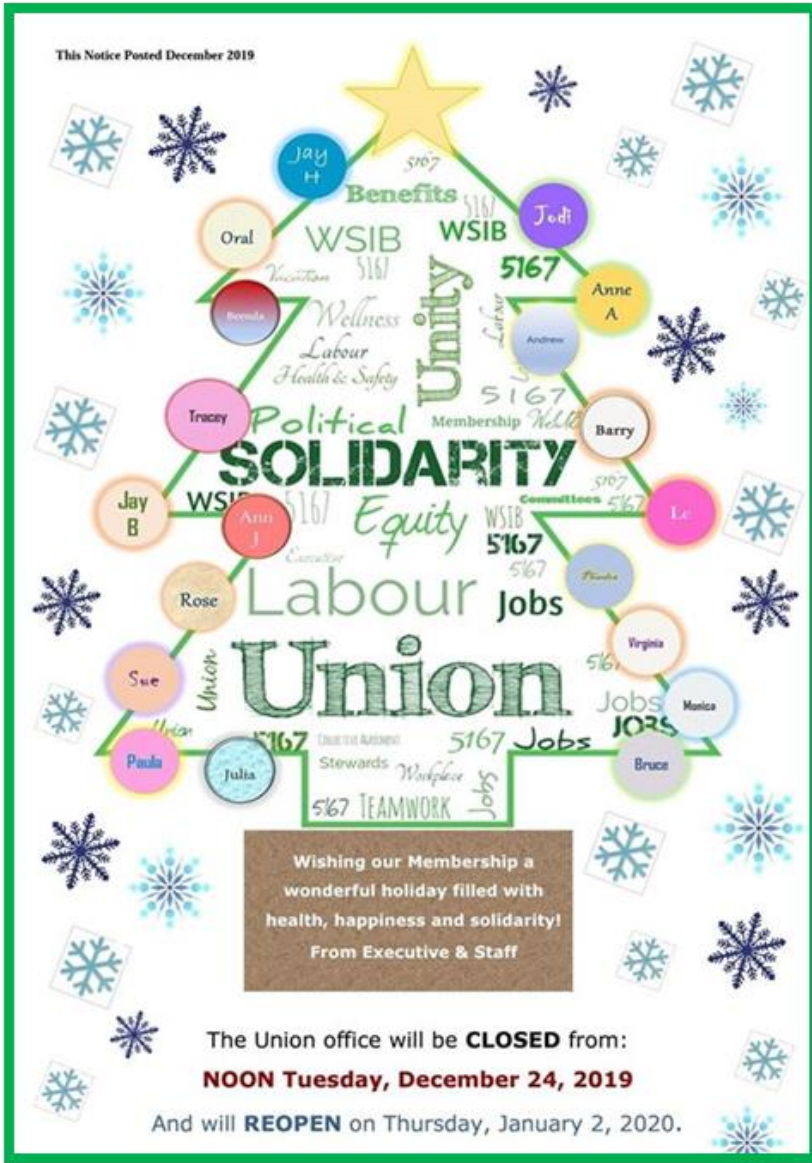
However, the current budget crisis shows us that defending members — and defending good public services — will **require unions to extend their activism beyond the walls of their workplaces**. If unions aren’t organizing to fight for a fair and equitable society, than the big business lobby will be there to offer politicians the same old recipe for cuts and austerity.

So, what does it mean for a union to be *political*? The first and most obvious way is for unions to make their voices heard during elections. Working to elect progressive candidates is good; but pushing politicians during an election to support specific campaign demands is even better. For example, can we get candidates to meet with us and sign a pledge in support of our members’ priorities? **Can we shift the *entire* conversation so that no candidate can afford to ignore the real issues in their community?**

A second way for a union to be political involves **organizing *between* elections** regarding issues that improve the lives of all working people. Raising the minimum wage, building affordable housing, improving public transit — CUPE Local 5167 has a proud history of this work. Unions need to be always building bridges between where we work and where we live, because it’s only by building **our collective power and confidence as working people** that we can ensure governments listen to the voices of the many rather than to the well-connected few.

The answer is NO, unions and members can’t afford to be apolitical in **the coming days of Ford Government Cuts!**

Local Updates



Tips from Monica Galarneau, DARTS Driver and Unit Vice President

As winter is soon upon us; I thought it might be a good idea to maybe give you somewhat of a list of some emergency equipment to keep in your car. So, what I like to do in my trunk is just keep a small basket or an old laundry basket or something. I suggest keeping these items:



- | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| blanket | jumper cables | warm clothing, hat, mitts, socks | first aid kit |
| bottles of water | salt or sand | washer fluid | road flare |



It never hurts to have some snacks on hand (granola bars, crackers, etc.) I'll tell you a frozen Hershey bar goes a long way with a hungry teenager in the car if you get stuck! Even if you can't have all of these items, a few of them really do go along way if you do get stuck, so safe travels this winter, be safe.

Community Fundraiser



Meet **Greg Dawson** who works in the **Forestry Department**, is a union steward and community activist.

For many years Greg has had an association with **New Hope Community Bikes**, a not for profit organisation based on Main St. They provide refurbished bikes, cycle safety training for children and workshop facilities in the community. In fact, they do more than that, so perhaps you could visit the link below and see for yourself.



<https://newhopecommunitybikes2018.businesscatalyst.com/>

These people work miracles on a shoe-string budget right here in our community and for our community. In addition, they are helping other communities as well.

Pikangikum is a fly in community for most of the year with ice roads open for a few short weeks during the winter. It was dubbed suicide capitol of the world by Maclean magazine. It has a population of approximately 3000 people housed in about 300 dwellings. It has 75% unemployment rate and 75% of it's population are under 25 years old. The community has been dealing with a huge solvent abuse problem, high crime rates and a suicide rate 20 times higher than the Canadian average. It's a tragedy that words can't begin to describe.

Several years ago, the OPP began a project called **Operation Journey**. The project was aimed at native youth and was introduced through the school curriculum. As part of the project **New Hope** were asked to help bring cycle education to the community. To this end Pikangikum now has community bikes, programmed group cycling activities, trail networks and a community bike shop based in a shipping container. The operation is run by local facilitators and the bike shop is staffed by youth volunteers.

In an effort to build the project and extend the cycling season it has been decided that funding should be found for 10 "Fat Bikes", tools and consumables. To do this Andrew Hibma (Manager at New Hope) and his team came up with the **New Hope Community Bikes Ice Road Challenge**. Simply put, the challenge is raising money by offering individuals the opportunity to ride from Red Lake to Pikangikum on the winter ice roads.

Greg will be one of the cyclists riding the frozen North on February the 7th 2020! If you would like to donate or sponsor Greg please visit the following link:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/pages/across-the-ice-for-the-people-of-pikangikum/>



The holiday season is upon us, and once again the members at the RBG Unit have been hard at work setting up for the festivities. That's right they are 5167 members! [#cupeproud](#)

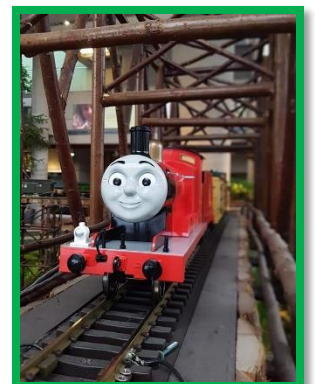
Every year **Royal Botanical Gardens** members spend weeks putting together indoor and outdoor displays for the Holiday Traditions season including a Botanical Train Display. All departments work together tirelessly to create this display that features model trains amongst famous Canadian landmarks. The room starts bare and is transformed with tons of cedar slabs, 250 feet of track, 6 yards of mulch and copious amounts of plants which brings the RBG to life in the early throws of winter. This year we have a couple of new trains sure to excite the

families we see year after year.

Throughout the rest of RBG Centre and the outdoor gardens you'll find plenty more holiday cheer! With hundreds of colourful Poinsettias, dozens of Christmas trees and even a botanical moose, you'll have plenty to feast your eyes on.

Visit www.rbg.ca/holidaytraditions for

a complete list holiday of events.



A Reminder to End Gender-Based Violence by Dianna Waldner

As you may already know, **December 6th** is **National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women** in Canada, also known as **White Ribbon Day**.



On **December 6th** each year we take the time to remember the 14 women who were murdered on **December 6th, 1989** at l'École Polytechnique in Montréal, just because they were women. This year marks the 30-year anniversary of the tragic event and it reminds us about the continuing work as a country that needs to be done to end violence against women and girls.


As described on the Government of Canada's, Status of Women Canada web page, "The **National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women** is about remembering victims; it is also a time to take action. We each have the opportunity and the responsibilities too stand up against misogyny, sexism and hate and it starts with creating a culture of respect."

In Hamilton, the Centre for Civic Inclusion will be holding an event on December 6th from 6:00pm until 8:30pm at 423 King St East. They will be hosting a working session on discussing how men can play a role in ending gender-based violence in Hamilton. For more information please check the following link out:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/493114144853921/>

Please take some time and see what other events will be happening in Hamilton on **December 6th** for **National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women**.

National Day of
Remembrance &
Action on
Violence Against
Women



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WE REMEMBER

DECEMBER 6, 1989
THE MONTREAL MASSACRE

Geneviève Bergeron
Hélène Colgan
Nathalie Croteau
Barbara Daigneault
Anne-Marie Edward
Maud Haviernick
Maryse Laganière
Maryse Leclair
Anne-Marie Lemay
Sonia Pelletier
Michèle Richard
Annie St-Arneault
Annie Turcotte
Barbara Klucznik-Widajewicz



5167 SAFETY SENIORITY
Solidarity
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Political

Happy New Year!

Wishing everyone a year filled
with happiness, fair wages &
Collective Bargaining!



Waste Operators Tackling Winter Hazards

Hot off the press, winter is fast approaching! There are **all year-round hazards** such as; distracted drivers, impatient drivers, vehicle traffic while manoeuvring garbage trucks in and around parked cars, throwing heavy bags and hopping on and off the truck on busy streets. Waste Operators are faced with additional health and safety hazards in the winter season.

There are also **physical hazards** to the Waste Operator. Did you know Waste Operators pick up over 18 tons of garbage per truck every day? These bags are often riddled with sharps, broken glass and other menacing materials. Can you imagine how your back and shoulders feel after a day on the job, a week, a year? Each garbage truck has a steel step that is solidly mounted to the box of the garbage packer - it does not have any type of shock absorber. Waste Operators frequently ride on this step going from stop to stop. Then they jump off the truck onto the sidewalk. This causes a lot of stress on both the ankles, feet, knees and legs - also when the truck is driving it is hitting numerous potholes, sunken road portions and cracks in the road. As the truck hits these road hazards it bounces up and down causing constant jarring of the spine and back.

Waste Operators continuously worked in extreme weather conditions; heat, cold, storms, lightning, windy, snow and ice storms. They work in these conditions when most people won't even stick their noses out of the door of their safe comfortable homes. Not a very easy and safe job but these workers do it every day! And they do it with pride and commitment.



Every winter City of Hamilton Waste Operators work in icy unsafe conditions. Now we all know that when there is an ice storm, ice builds up on our sidewalks, car windshields, trash cans, door handles etc. The ice creates extreme slippery conditions. Not everyone salts and clears their walkways. Now consider this, these workers are standing on a metal step loaded with ice while hanging onto a metal handle that is also loaded with ice. Then they jump off the step onto icy sidewalks, pick up garbage and try and manoeuvre back to the truck without falling.

Under the **Ontario Health and Safety Act** (OHS) workers have the right to refuse unsafe work. In addition, the employer has an obligation to take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of the worker [Clause 25(2)(h)].

I recommend that the Union and the Joint Health and Safety Committee JHSC bring their concerns up at their next meeting and try to convince the employer to develop a policy to address this issue!

