



CAW Local 199

124 Bunting Road, St Catharines

www.caw199.com

# September 3<sup>rd</sup>

**CLASSIC CAR SHOW**

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT -WHITE FROST-**

**FREE RAFFLE**

**27' TV**  
(Labour Council)

**SILENT AUCTION PENNY RAFFLE**

**KIDS ZONE FREE**

Pony Rides  
Inflatables

**MENU**

French Fries  
Hot Dogs  
Hamburgers  
Back Bacon

Ice Cream  
Candy Floss

Cash Bar



## WANTED

Cars wanted for the second annual car show. The first 50 cars registered will receive a commemorative T-shirt and all vehicles registered will receive three tickets redeemable for food or refreshments.

Vehicle registration starts at 9:15 a.m. till noon on Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012 - 905-682-2611

On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> of September, following the Merrittion Labour Day Parade, CAW Local 199 will be hosting a celebration of Labour Day at the Union Hall. All members of the community and their families are welcome to attend. The parade leaves from the Pen Centre at 11 am and will arrive at the Merrittion Lions Park around 12 noon. Members who walk in the parade can purchase CAW Jackets for \$25 (After the parade jackets cost \$40).

Back at the Union Hall we will have a classic car show, kids entertainment (pony rides and inflatables) live music by White Frost, cash bar, BBQ, ice cream and candy floss. Please join us Celebrate Labour Day, the 8 hour workday and 75 years building our community.



# The History of Labour Day



Over one hundred years ago, in 1894, the Canadian government proclaimed the first Monday in September as Labour Day, a statutory holiday. The fact that it was only the second holiday ever speaks volumes about the real struggles of the working class to demand rights in the workplace. During the 1850's, 60's and 70's workers were forced to go on strike over long work hours -14 to 16 hours a day, 7 days a week, was a normal work week in Canada and in the U.S. Workers began to collectively join together at the beginning of May to force employers to reduce work hours. Thousands of workers and their families would march peacefully down the city streets and into parks, have picnics and listen to speakers. They would promote that workers had rights and that standing together in support of one another would bring rewards of respect and dignity to those who were prepared to take on the boss. The factory owners, the bankers and the merchants repelled the growing militancy with vicious police attacks and arrests of activists.

## Workers Died Demanding Rights

Then, in the 1880's, the demand for an 8-hour work day became the issues that strikes and demonstrations supported. By April of 1886, 130,000 workers had won the 8-hour day. By May, 3,500 strikes were taking place throughout the U.S. and some in Canada. Then came May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1886 when the police opened fire on a peaceful demonstration in Milwaukee. Nine workers were killed. On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Chicago police killed six demonstrators. A day later, on May 4<sup>th</sup>, the bloodshed continued at the Haymarket Demonstration where some 5,000 stood in the rain to listen to the activists talk about workers rights and the 8- hour day. As the rain got worse, the group got smaller. With about 400 demonstrators left, the police surrounded them and then "all hell broke loose". A bomb exploded and shots were fired. In the end 8 were killed; of which 6 were police, and many were injured. It was noted that only the police had guns.

The result of this incident was that 8 labour leaders from across the U.S. were charged, tried and found guilty, seven were sentenced to hang and one received a life sentence. Protests and demonstrations followed, World leaders asked for leniency but the government and businesses wanted their pound of flesh, the workers had demanded too much and had to be put in their proper place, death was the only answer.

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## 8 Hour Day was Born

Demonstrations continued especially on May 1<sup>st</sup> in the following years. Then in July 1889 the International Labour Congress met in Paris. Labour groups from around the world came to discuss workers issues. At this conference they voted to declare May 1<sup>st</sup> an International Day of Demonstration in support of the 8-hour day. The pressure continued by trade unionists and in 1894 both Canada and the U.S. governments passed similar laws, recognizing the first Monday in September as Labour Day drawing attention away from May 1<sup>st</sup> and what it symbolized to workers. That is why it is up to us as trade unionists to build on past sacrifices and retell the real history of Labour Day.