



INFORMATION UPDATE #19

June 6, 2011

Steelworkers Upbeat About Their Anniversary

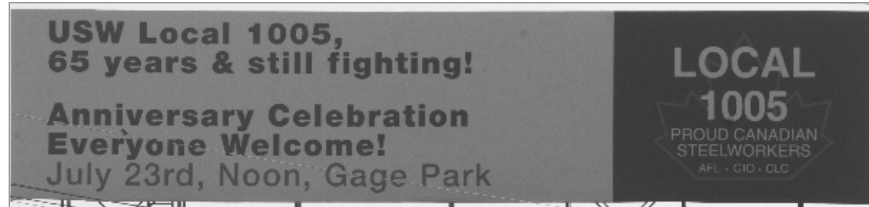
The preparations for Local 1005's 65th Anniversary Celebration are in full swing. *Information Update* spoke with 1005 retiree and long time activist Tom Pollock, one of the organizers of the event. Tom said, "The preparations are looking very good. The businesses in the community are getting behind us with astronomical support. We have about 75% of the food commitments as well as the infrastructure is almost all complete. It will be a great day."

Information Update also spoke with Executive Member Tony McLaughlin, who is also a member of the organizing committee. "There are five bands lined up to perform already," Tony said. "They all have some connection with Stelco," he said, adding that other entertainment is also lining up, especially for the children. "It is a family affair. It will be a great day," he said.

As this reporter was leaving the union hall, recently retired member Brian Hamilton came in to lend a hand. Raving about the new 1005 billboard on Upper Gage and Mohawk, Brian said, "It looks awesome. 65 years and still fighting!"

We also spoke with President Rolf Gerstenberger, back from Stoney Creek where a 1005 delegation joined the CUPW picket line to support the postal workers. We asked him about the cease and desist warning 1005 received from the Department of Justice against actions on the Lift Bridge. "It is a very confused letter," Rolf said. "The Lift Bridge is federal property so they are saying that it is illegal to disrupt economic activity. They say our motivation is to cause economic harm, which is simply not the case. We oppose the removal of the coke by U.S. Steel because it is causing economic harm to Hamilton. It is not our actions which are causing economic harm. What is amazing is that the federal Department of Justice has not seen fit to stop U.S. Steel from causing this economic harm but when someone asks them to send us a cease and desist order and it is done lickety-split."

The workers are not too impressed, Rolf said. "The letter talks about illegal strike activity, even though the workers are not on strike but victims of a phoney lock-out. Then it contains a garbled message about what constitutes a legal information picket, which even local authorities do not concur with. It says that it is not possible to communicate with the captain of the ship from the lift bridge because the captain cannot hear what the workers are shouting." Rolf pointed out that he can be informed in other ways about the action of the workers: "Communication is not limited to what the captain



can hear. He can also read.

"The bottom line," Rolf said, "is to hold U.S. Steel to account for violating their agreement with the government of Canada and

using extortion to change their agreement with the government of Ontario regarding the pensions. It must not pass!"

Information Update asked Rolf about the articles by Steve Arnold in the *Spectator* which claim that "dissidents" are unhappy and suppressed.

"The workers have discussed these attempts to stir up the spectre of an authoritarian union president suppressing so-called dissidents and consider them to be really pathetic. They only discredit the journalist and the *Spectator* for trying to pawn this off as journalism. The workers and the community of Hamilton deserve and require a democratic media which informs them about the developments of concern to themselves, their families and community. All those who live and work here want to know what is going on, what's what, how things stand, what can be done to resolve the problems and so on. But this kind of nonsense is not journalism, it is disinformation. It lowers the level of discourse. These so-called dissidents are a couple of former foremen and a few disgruntled people. They are disgruntled because they are not getting their way on what should or should not be done *vis-à-vis* the situation in which the workers have been placed. But honest workers should beware because the use of the word 'dissident,' invented by the CIA during the Cold War, shows that there are more powerful forces at play trying to manipulate the situation. It is an attempt to give these elements democratic credentials. Their sideline sniping was not having the desired effect of disrupting the workers' unity. It is to sow doubt in the integrity of the union leadership, especially its president. The same is the case with attempts to link the flag of Local 1005 with direct actions not discussed and adopted by the workers. It won't divert the workers from discussing and adopting stands which are intended to hold governments to account in a manner which upholds public right, not monopoly right."

In conclusion, Rolf said, "The workers are not desperate. They discuss the developments and see how to go forward. We encourage everyone to join us on July 23rd not only to express their support for our just cause, which of course affects the entire community, but to discuss with our members, become informed and so on."

Protests Against U.S. Steel's Removal of Coke Continue

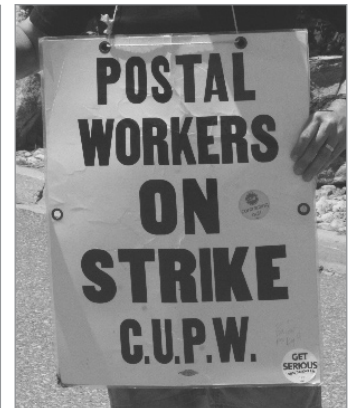


Local 1005 on the Lift Bridge the evening of May 30, 2011. Three days after this action the Justice Department sent a letter to Local 1005 demanding that they "cease and desist" this type of activity.

On the Line, May 30, 2011

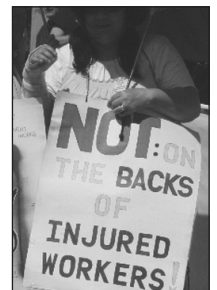
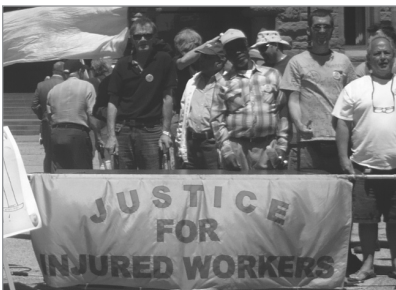


Support for Striking Postal Workers



On June 5, steelworkers, CUPE members, nurses and others from the community joined striking postal workers on the picket line at the Hamilton sorting station. The rotating strikes continue – keep informed!

Injured Workers' Day at Queen's Park



On June 1, Hamilton steelworkers joined in the main action at Queen's Park to mark Injured Workers' Day across Ontario calling for the government to live up to its responsibility to ensure that injured workers can live in dignity.

To contact USW Local 1005: Call 905-547-1417 or e-mail info@uswa1005.ca.
Visit the website: www.uswa1005.ca