

ATU LOCAL 107 YEAR IN REVIEW

As we close out the year, I have never been happier to say goodbye to one year and so anxious to usher in a new one. 2020 has been a tremendous strain on us all.

January 2020 started out with such hope and optimism considering we had unprecedented growth in membership gains. We also had just come off of a yearlong bargaining session that seen us make some substantive gains in both wages and improved working conditions with the access to comfort stations and decompression breaks.

As we began the work of planning the implementation of these long overdue and much needed improvements, things took a turn for the worse. In February with warnings about Covid 19 and the staggering numbers coming from many of our locals south of the border. The fatalities in the U.S. forced us to change our focus as we started preparing for the worse of the Pandemic. In addition we started to see infections in local Nursing homes and LTC Facilities in the GTHA .

A concerted effort by all involved from your Executive team ,Health and Safety Committee and the Management leadership team came together regularly to do our best to keep our Membership safe. While doing this, we were maintaining a Safe, Reliable service for those front line workers who were dependant on us.

We immediately treated our fleet with the Antimicrobial treatment Shield Ageis, implemented rear door loading, stopped the collection of fares and reduced our passenger loads to 10. We subsequently installed the Operators Shields and provided PPE in the form of masks and wipes. In addition, we have called for mandatory masks for all passengers. Unfortunately some provisions for exemptions were placed on this demand by Ontario Human Rights.

We also worked with our community allies, our membership, and other locals across Canada as well as the OMA, and CUTA in calling on all levels of government to come to the table with some Emergency Funding to keep Public Transit going.

In May/June the Provincial and Federal Government's both announced 2 rounds of Emergency Funding as a direct result of our joint lobbying efforts.

In July and August the numbers were lower, and this allowed us to Resume normal passenger loads as the Province partially reopened. This gave us the opportunity to hold our Nomination and Elections of our locals Union Executive Board and sign up committees.

September we started with collection of full fares and a Saturday service, as businesses started to reopen in an effort to spur the economy and get students back to school.

October/November Covid 19 numbers start to rise and code Red shut downs start in the GTHA as the race for a vaccine is temporarily stalled well the U.S. Presidential elections heated up.

On the home front we were faced with deteriorating labour relations with a number of terminations due to frustration of contract. Two of which we believe are a clear violation of the Ontario Human Rights Code. The employer also made precedent setting policy changes to past practices around the Chronic & Episodic attendance program, and lates resulting in your executive's approval to proceed with a number of arbitrations.

December brought breaking news of successful vaccine approvals and hope that there is a light at the end of this tunnel on the Pandemic front. However, Transit funding shortfalls as a result of lost ridership/revenue is very apparent and threatens our livelihoods. Due to this, we continue our lobbying efforts for funding.

We are excited by the recent Federal Budget announcement's that Stabilized Funding is coming. However, until those details are fully announced and implemented, we must continue to fight for continued commitments from all levels of government.

Further to this, we are excited to announce that starting in the New Year we will be rolling out a New Phone App that will allow Virtual meetings, complete with online voting. Stay tuned for more details.

In closing, on behalf of your Executive Board and Committees, we would like to wish you and your loved ones the very best of the Holiday Season with a Safe, Happy and Healthy New Year!

In Solidarity, Brother Eric Tuck-President ATU Local 107