



The London Region Manufacturing Council (LRMC) is an industry-driven council that fosters the growth and prosperity of the manufacturing industry in the London Region.

# LRMC FOCUS

[www.manufacturinglondon.com](http://www.manufacturinglondon.com)

## *did you know?*

### **LRMC Networking Breakfast**

- Tuesday, March 1st, 2005

First in a series of networking breakfasts for London and area manufacturers. For registration information, go to: [www.manufacturinglondon.com](http://www.manufacturinglondon.com)

### **22nd Annual Business Achievement Awards**

- Wednesday, March 2nd, 2005

Ontario's biggest business award show to be held at the London Convention Centre. See the list of nominees and ticket information: [www.chamber.london.on.ca](http://www.chamber.london.on.ca)

### **5th International Workshop on Advanced Manufacturing Technologies**

- Monday, May 16 - 18th, 2005

Three-day international workshop. Organized by the NRC-IMTI. Learn, network, explore. Register: [www.amtcanada.ca](http://www.amtcanada.ca)

2004-11-17

### **LRMC RESTRUCTURED**

The new structure consists of a smaller LRMC Steering Committee and an enlarged LRMC Network. The Steering Committee will connect all members together so that information can be shared throughout the LRMC Network.

*get the full story....*

<http://www.manufacturinglondon.com>

contact:

Larry MacKinnon  
London Region Manufacturing Council  
380 Wellington Street, Suite 701  
London, Ontario N6A 5B5  
tel. 519.661.5011  
fax. 519.661.5331  
[lmackinnon@manufacturinglondon.com](mailto:lmackinnon@manufacturinglondon.com)

## **B**BREAKFAST NETWORKING

LRMC is proud to announce the first in a series of networking breakfasts for London and area manufacturers.

"One of the goals of LRMC is to give manufacturers an opportunity to get together a few times each year to network and to hear a good speaker on a relevant topic," notes Denis Crane, Chair of LRMC. "We think an early breakfast will best fit the schedules of most manufacturers".

In an effort to optimize networking, the breakfast will feature "peer to peer" seating. This means that individuals holding similar positions at various manufacturing plants in the city will be seated together. LRMC is certain that attendees will find this a useful and valuable opportunity.

The LRMC Networking Breakfast will take place on Tuesday March 1, 2005 at Best Western Lamplighter Inn, from 7:30 am till 9:00 am. The featured speaker is CIBC World Markets Economist, Benjamin Tal. Tal will speak about trends affecting manufacturing in Canada. The cost is \$20/person. Advanced registration is required.

Mark March 1st on your calendar and encourage friends or colleagues to register at [www.manufacturinglondon.com](http://www.manufacturinglondon.com).

## **A**PPRENTICESHIP TRAINING TAX CREDIT

Skilled industrial trades are the foundation of future manufacturing growth in London. The Ontario government has recently improved the tax credit available to businesses that take on the important task of training skilled workers.

Businesses are now eligible for a 25 per cent refundable tax credit on wages and salaries paid after May 18, 2004, to eligible apprentices during the first 36 months of the apprenticeship.

Businesses with total payroll costs not exceeding \$400,000 would be eligible for a higher tax credit rate of 30 per cent. The maximum tax credit per apprentice would be \$5,000 per year over the first 36 months of the apprenticeship.

For more information please contact the London office of the MTCU at 675-7788 or Job Connect is 432-1220.

## LRMC CHALLENGES THE CITY ON DEVELOPMENT CHARGES

LRMC has taken a strong position against the City of London's proposed industrial development charge.

In order to develop this position, we formed an ad hoc Development Charges (DC) committee with some representation from the LRMC Steering Committee and members of the manufacturing community that had a strong interest in this matter.

We were very pleased with the response from the manufacturing community and had the active participation of over 20 companies and individuals.

The DC committee met twice and through numerous emails to prepare a document outlining why the imposition of industrial development charges would be a bad economic decision for London.

In addition, the committee solicited letters from companies in London that wanted to make their corporate position known. Again, there was an excellent response from the manufacturing community.

Denis Crane presented the LRMC position to a special session of Board of Control on Wednesday February 2nd. Our information package to Controllers included copies of the corporate letters identified above.

The Mayor and Board of Control are now clearly aware of the position of London manufacturers concerning the imposition of industrial development charges. Board of Control voted to take no further action concerning industrial development charges at that time.

We are pleased to confirm that City Council has also voted unanimously to retain this exemption for industrial development in London for five more years.

We congratulate the manufacturers and others who participated in preparing the LRMC response. In addition, we hope that London manufacturers continue to respond to future requests for assistance on issues vital to the continuing success of the entire sector.

The review the full text of our presentation document, please go to [www.manufacturinglondon.com](http://www.manufacturinglondon.com) and follow the link on Development Charges.

## INTRODUCING DENIS CRANE, NEW LRMC CHAIR



Denis Crane, President of County Heritage Forest Products, is the new Chair of the London Region Manufacturing Council (LRMC).

Denis is a founding member of the three year old LRMC and was instrumental in the success of the recent Buy London Reverse Trade Show. Denis also guided LRMC through a re-structuring process which he believes will enable the LRMC to grow in the community.

"I look forward to building on the many successes of the LRMC under the leadership of Dave Gardner. Now that we're well established, we want to begin to include more of the manufacturing sector in our efforts."

New LRMC activities for 2005 include an increased and more visible advocacy role, a series of manufacturing breakfast networking events and a late September event to mark Manufacturing Day in London.

Denis replaces Dave Gardner as Chair. Dave Gardner has accepted a new role in Corn Products International (known as Casco Inc. in London) overseeing North American manufacturing operations and will be re-locating to Chicago.

## TRADE LONDON

LRMC has introduced an online feature, Trade London to our website. It is designed to enable local manufacturers and manufacturing suppliers to trade with each other.

A 'Products and Services' search feature allows easy keyword searching of the London Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) Business Directory. An individual can also search by NAICS codes to find local businesses and services.

The Member's Trade feature lets manufacturers post services and items for sale or needed. To use this great feature, go to [www.manufacturinglondon.com](http://www.manufacturinglondon.com) and click "Trade London".

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The LRMC web site is designed to be a first point of contact for manufacturers seeking information on local vents, industry news, resources and assistance. Visit often for up to date information!