



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

did you know?

Fanshawe College Career & Summer Job Fair - February 15th, 2006

This multi-discipline event provides Fanshawe students with an opportunity to meet with employers, discuss employment prospects and apply directly to available openings. Visit www.fanshawec.on.ca/careers for details.

Tapping into Apprenticeship Opportunities - March 9th, 2006

This free event is for manufacturers interested in learning more about the excellent tax credits and other advantages of having a skilled trade apprentice in their manufacturing organization. Please go to www.manufacturinglondon.com.

2006 Techalliance AGM & Power Lunch - May 10th, 2006

With guest speaker Terry Matthews, Chairman, March Networks Corporation. This event is taking place at the London Convention Centre. Tickets are \$60 for TechAlliance members, \$80 for non-members. Corporate tables are available. Deadline for registration is May 4th, 2006. To register, see www.techalliance.ca.

get the full story...

<http://www.manufacturinglondon.com>

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TOYOTA TALKS: COMPETITIVENESS IN A GLOBAL MARKETPLACE

On November 29th, close to 500 London area manufacturers and business people attended LRMC's 2005 Manufacturing Day breakfast at Best Western Lamplighter Inn.

The LRMC event had sold out three weeks in advance with many people interested in hearing from keynote speaker Ray Tanguay, president of Toyota Canada.

Relative to the event's theme of competitiveness in a global marketplace, Tanguay advised the audience, "We cannot be good, we have to be better."

Tanguay went on to explain that when he made the pitch to the Toyota board of directors on the idea of establishing a new plant in Woodstock, he was able to sell quality of the workforce and the quality of the production. In fact, due to the close proximity of the Toyota Cambridge plant, Toyota will have a supply of experienced managers and supervisors to assist with the initial start up.



RAY TANGUAY OF TOYOTA CANADA
IS THANKED BY
DAVE SCHULTZ OF GDLS.

"The message to take away from this talk is that these are not the waning years for the North American automotive industry, but the changing years," said Paul Hogendoorn, chairperson of LRMC. "I like that Tanguay said the biggest challenge is not to be competitive, but to be better. Toyota Canada has had to be better than other facilities around the world. That is the challenge. At the end of the day, quality is what makes the difference. It is the key to success."

Hogendoorn continues, "When you look at competitiveness, wages are still a small percentage of total cost. The most important thing for us is to have high productivity and the highest quality. If you produce defects, it creates waste and you cannot be competitive."

Tanguay's speech was followed by a panel discussion where the audience had an opportunity to talk with executives with Trojan Technology, Magna Corp., and Innovative Steam Technologies. The LRMC would like to thank participants, sponsors and everyone who made the event such a great success.



MANUFACTURING APPRENTICESHIP BREAKFAST

The competition to retain skilled workers combined with the fact that many skilled workers are nearing retirement age has many London region manufacturing companies taking advantage of enhanced tax credits to take on one or more apprentices.

The Ontario government has recently improved the tax credit available to businesses that take on the important task of training our future 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.

This incentive is designed to reduce training costs in an effort to get more young people into skilled trade apprenticeship programs. Education sources confirm that students are lining up to enter the skilled trades but have been unable to secure training positions for the essential hands on portion of their programs.

This tax credit is a valuable opportunity for London manufacturers (and other businesses) to receive a subsidy to train their own skilled workers.

Other elements of the government's plan to increase apprenticeships include:

- 1,500 scholarships of \$1,000 to those who have left high school and returned to graduate and enter apprenticeships; and bonuses of \$2,000 to encourage employers to hire these same young people as apprentices
- The introduction of the Co-op Diploma Apprenticeship Program to provide young people with a clear path to skilled trades careers and a postsecondary education

LRMC is hosting an apprenticeship breakfast on March 9th for manufacturers interested in learning more about the excellent tax credits and other advantages of having a skilled trade apprentice in their manufacturing organization. To register for this free event, go to www.manufacturinglondon.com.



Paul Hogendoorn,
LRMC Chairperson

FROM THE CHAIR

Manufacturing is in a period of significant change, and with change come both challenges and opportunities. The LRMC is a volunteer organization formed by manufacturers, for manufacturers, dedicated to making the region the best it can be for manufacturing.

In 2006 we are aiming to help identify and promote the opportunities that help manufacturers prepare and equip themselves for the challenges that the sector faces. One challenge many manufacturers are facing is the shortage of skilled labor – a challenge that may be intensified when the Toyota comes on-line.

With this in mind, the first event of 2006 that the LRMC will be promoting a workshop introducing employers to the funding and programs available designed to assist manufacturing companies train new skilled workers.

Other events will be planned throughout the year, including our annual 'Manufacturing Day' event sometime in the fall. If you are a leader in a London region manufacturing company and would like to be involved with the LRMC or assist in an upcoming event, please contact myself, or Larry MacKinnon or Steve Glickman of the LEDC.

FANSHAWE COLLEGE CAREER FAIR



Organized by the college's Career Services department, this annual multi-discipline event provides Fanshawe students with an opportunity to meet with employers, discuss employment prospects and apply directly to available openings. Approximately 90 companies are expected on campus to recruit for full time, part time and summer positions. This fair is taking place on **Wednesday, February 15, 2006 in J Gym.**

WWW.MANUFACTURINGLONDON.COM

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