



Technical Training Group (Stratford & Area)

Annual Report 2007 - 2008

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Technical Training Group

(Stratford & Area)

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Message from the Chair

This past year has been one of tremendous growth for the Technical Training Group. We established a number of new partnerships and pursued a variety of funding opportunities. In addition to ongoing welding apprenticeship support, we were successful in obtaining four grants totalling \$198,785 helping us to achieve our key objective of enabling more diversified technical training available locally.

With growth comes new experiences. I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their hard work and commitment as we worked through these and the associated learning curve. As a volunteer, each director brings their unique expertise to the Board and together, with the assistance of our advisors, allows us to make a positive impact within our community.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation for the contributions made by the team of professional staff who consistently provide high quality training and programming support. As a result of their efforts, we are looking to the future from a position of strength.

Long term Directors, Tony Jackson and Bart Brown, chose to retire this year after five years of service. We thank them for their vision and personal commitment in creating TTG. We also thank retiring Director, Mike Foster, for his contributions this past year.

As my one-year term as Chair draws to a close, it has been a pleasure to work with so many dedicated individuals to develop and pursue the goals of TTG.

In 2008 and beyond we will continue to look for opportunities that will leverage ongoing training partnerships and financial success. We remain confident in our ability to manage challenges and maintain our record of accomplishment.

Doreen Myers
TTG Chair

Core Business



**FACILITATING THE DELIVERY OF LOCAL
MARKET-DRIVEN TRAINING FOR STRATFORD
AND AREA BUSINESSES**

The Technical Training Group Stratford & Area (TTG) organized in 2002 with a mission to bring local training to the area's business community. Growing steadily over the past five years, TTG is exploring ways to expand and meet more of the local community's needs for other skilled trades' training.

TTG formally revved up its operations on March 7, 2007 with a full complement of Board Directors determined to bring a full range of training opportunities to Stratford & Area. The key elements of our mandate guide our day to day operations, partnership development and project activity:

- Analyze local labour market information to determine skills training shortages;
- Provide on a cost-recovery basis market-driven training to Stratford and area businesses and industrial sectors;
- Provide both generic and specific training where capabilities exist;
- Promote the adoption of national and provincial training and occupational standards at the local level;
- Support the community's training needs in furtherance of its social and economic growth.
- Advocate the value of learning and training as a life-long process;
- Nurture partnerships wherever possible.

Welder Apprenticeship Training



Welder Apprenticeship Training Program

TTG, in partnership with the Stratford Northwestern Secondary School site, is home to the province's first welding apprenticeship program. TTG is an approved Ministry of Training, Colleges & Universities Training Delivery Agent for the Welder / Metal Fabricator trade's year 1 common core and year 2 and 3 Welder trade apprenticeship.

In September 2007, 45 welder apprentices were training between the three [3] levels. The welder program employs seven highly competent welding faculty including a Certified Engineering Technologist, a Welding Technologist, a C of Q Welder and an Industrial Maintenance Mechanic Millwright. Instrumental to the achievement of this program is Mark Roth, TTG Tech Coordinator, who steadfastly persevered from the inception of the welder training opportunity to its now successful operation.

Welding Apprenticeship Faculty

Mark Roth – TTG Tech Coordinator
M. Malcolm MacDonald - Practical Welding
Peter Kunz - Practical Welding
Robert Jackson - Health and Safety

Jason Wagg - Welding Theory
Joe Barnes - Welding Theory
Pat Walsh - Fabricating
Mike Merner – Fabricating



Justin Hunniford, Level 3 Apprentice (above/right)



TTG Test Site for Canadian Welding Bureau

The TTG program at Northwestern is a test site for the Canadian Welding Bureau which approves the quality of a welder's skills and provides accurate qualifications. Employers/employees can receive specialized training to meet their specific Canadian Welding Bureau (CWB) company needs. Employers endorse the quality of the program and its graduates. Local employers are now competing with employers beyond the TTG catchment area for welding seats.



Infrastructure Grants



TTG was awarded a total of \$198,785 by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities for infrastructure investments. Total investment by TTG and its partners is \$265,400.

1. Welder Apprentice Training Expansion Project

TTG was awarded \$131,639 through the Skills Training Infrastructure Program in June 2007 to purchase equipment to enhance and support the Welder Apprentice Training Expansion Project located at Stratford Northwestern Secondary School (SNSS). Total investment in the project is \$175,519. Local companies benefit as an increased number of workers, trainees and apprentices develop or upgrade their skills to industry standards and requirements. The Technical Training Group offers Levels 1, 2 and 3 Welder Apprenticeship Training during evening hours at Northwestern Secondary School.



2. Creative & Technical Training Community Centre - Factory 163 Project



TTG was awarded \$30,607 through the Skills Training Infrastructure Program (June 2007) to purchase equipment to enhance and support *two projects* located at Factory 163. NESAshop was awarded \$17,097 develop capacity related to wood-working skills and Off the Wall Stratford's Artist Alliance received \$13,510 to enhance technical training in mask making related to the Stratford Festival production arts. Total investment in the project is \$40,809.

3. Electrical & Carpentry- Construction Craft Worker Pre-Apprenticeship Project

TTG was approved for \$36,840 in Skills Training Infrastructure Program funding in early January 2008. St. Michael Catholic Secondary School's electrical and construction shop facilities are being upgraded to implement evening pre-apprenticeship programming in electrical and carpentry for employed, unemployed or underemployed adults in Stratford and area. Total investment in the project is \$49,073.



M.P.P. John Wilkinson announces TTG Funding for St. Mike's, Jan. 2008

Youth Programming

STEP Skills Training Educational Partnership Tech Camp

July 30th, 2007 marked the beginning of the third annual Technology Summer Camp. This project was a Huron-Perth and Avon Maitland District School Board joint initiative, and took place at St. Michael Catholic Secondary School in Stratford, as well as St. Anne Catholic Secondary School in Clinton.

The week-long camp was jam packed with action and excitement for everyone. Youth, going into Grade 6-8, tested their technical skills by constructing and taking part in projects and activities in an array of different trades. Some of the projects the kids made were tool boxes, can crushers, dragsters and rockets. The positive responses from participants truly prove that there was something for everyone. Each school had a group of teachers, as well as student helpers, to guide participants through the projects. We thank all of the sponsors who made this week possible. It shows that we have completed another successful year at the Skills Training Educational Partnership Tech Camp.

Skilled Trades Technology Summer Camp Teaching Staff & Helpers

Tim Martens (Camp Coordinator)
Mark Flannigan
Bart Drennen
Steve Manzo
Jason Steinmann

Keith Donnelly
Terri Lynn Devereaux
Shawn Flannigan
Natalie Martens
Tom Van Osch





Through the Northwestern site, TTG also offers FunTECH workshops to introduce and encourage youth at an early age (7 – 12) to explore careers in the skilled trades. FunTECH is a full day, “hands-on” event offered once annually to Stratford and area students between the ages of 7 - 14 years. The intention of the program is to expose children to various areas of technology and the possibility of a future career in the technological field. During these workshops, the students learn how to use a variety of tools and equipment and at the end of the day, each student walks away with a project they have built or prepared themselves. Workshop projects are designed to give students exposure to Construction Technology, Manufacturing/Welding, Technical Design/Woodworking, Transportation Technology, Cosmetology and Culinary Arts.

On November 24th, 144 students participated in the one-day event. A big thanks for another successful event goes to FunTECH Coordinator, Anita Edwards, Northwestern Secondary School Technical Department Teachers and the 42 Northwestern Technical Student Volunteers.

FunTECH Staff 2007

Anita Edwards, Coordinator
Keith Edwards
Steve Faber
Dean Elieff

Jeff Roetcisoender
Don Scheerer
Cathie Riddell
Amanda Finkelstein



Partnerships Key to Success

Funders

Ontario Ministry of Training Colleges & Universities
Perth Community Futures Development Corporation
Integrated Mechanical Services Incorporated

In-Kind

Avon Maitland District School Board
Clemmer-Steelcraft Technologies Inc.
Accumetal Manufacturing Inc.
Chrima Metal Fabrication
City of Stratford

Youth Programming Sponsors

Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program
Stratford & Area Builders' Association
Huron Manufacturing Association
Libro Financial Group
Stratford Rotary Club

In-kind

Avon Maitland District School Board
Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board
Clemmer-Steelcraft Technologies Incorporated
Skills Canada – Ontario/ Apprenticesearch.com

Technical Training Group (Stratford & Area)

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