



# Annual Report

## 2008 - 2009



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## Training Catchment Area



## Message from the Chair

As this Report reflects, 2008-09 was a banner year in many respects. The Technical Training Group (TTG) moved into high gear to bring a selection of relevant market-driven training to the area's business community and its residents. In addition to the welder apprenticeship training, TTG implemented basic electrical and plumbing courses, overhead crane training certification and customized a job-specific welding training program for International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 804.

We know we are on the right path as the response to our programming has been remarkable and we are seeing the results. Our presence as a post-secondary trades' training institution in Stratford and area has benefitted local and regional manufacturing companies as more workers and apprentices develop or upgrade their skills to industry standards and requirements.

Looking forward to the next year, TTG will explore and develop training for occupations and trades that local industries identify as a gap in programming. Our recent successes mean we are well positioned to seize opportunities and meet the needs of an economy in transition.

I would like to thank the hard working members of the Board of Directors for the opportunity to lead TTG through a period of growth that has us stretching to new heights in a very short period of time. On behalf of the Board, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to the professionals who work with us to provide high quality training and programming support. Their efforts, energy and enthusiasm are putting TTG on the map.

My first year as Chair has been a learning experience and a personally satisfying one to be involved on the front line to make sure our community is ready for the next uptick in the economy. As I move into my second year as Chair, it will be a pleasure to continue working and learning with so many dedicated individuals to develop and pursue the goals of the Technical Training Group.

*Kent Johnston, TTG Chair*



**TTG Chair, Kent Johnston**

Operations Manager, QCI Division,  
Clemmer – Steelcraft Technologies Inc.,  
Stratford

*"When the economy recovers, we want our community to be ready. Our goal is to ensure our local labour force is ideally suited to the needs of our local manufacturers."*



*Clemmer-Steelcraft Technologies honoured Ken Halwachs, on his retirement, with an annual award in his name to a deserving individual completing the TTG Welder program who demonstrates welding excellence and leadership.*

### ***The Ken Halwachs Award***

2008-09  
Inaugural Award Recipient

***David Vanden Tempel***

# The Business Model

## .....who we are and what we do

The Technical Training Group (TTG) is a not-for-profit corporation with a 12-member volunteer Board of Directors. The Board is comprised of area stakeholders from industry, business, education, City of Stratford and the Four County Labor Market Planning Board. Organized in 2002, TTG's goal is to offer technical and trades' training that is identified as 'in-need' by the area's business community. The primary target population for training or re-training is age 18+, employed, unemployed or underemployed. The Welder Apprenticeship training is funded by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and University on a per diem seat plan basis. Basic Skills and Youth programs are structured on a fee-based cost recovery model. TTG's instructors are highly competent, qualified tradespersons who work in their occupational field full-time. Training takes place at secondary school technical facilities in Stratford during evening hours and on Saturdays.

# Strategic Planning

## .....how to do better

In today's global business world - with more competition and tighter budgets - every business is looking at who they are, what they are doing and how they can do it better. Charlene Gordon, Edmonds & Gordon Inc., led the Board of Directors through a visioning exercise to clarify TTG's direction and long-term focus. The end result: a clear vision and direction and fresh new look to enhance TTG's presence and broaden its scope as a technical/skilled trades' post secondary training delivery agent in Stratford and area.

- Vision** Supporting technical and skilled trades' training in Stratford & Area
- Mission** Serving the community's need for local, relevant technical and skilled trades' training
- Mandate** Facilitating and promoting partnerships to support community technical training needs
  - Providing market-driven training on a cost recovery basis
  - Providing individuals with local training options
  - Supporting opportunities for youth to explore career options in the skilled trades

## .....new look and new website

The Technological Design class, Stratford Northwestern Secondary School (SNSS) took on the challenge of creating a new logo for TTG. Teacher, Keith Edwards, introduced a prototype to the class and student, Alex Maehle, tweaked his design. The class selected eight designs for Board Directors to review. The design (pictured right) was unanimously selected as TTG's official logo.



With Libro Community Builder Grant funding, SNSS Co-op Student, Matt Williams, designed the layout for the TTG website. Check it out at [www.technicaltraininggroup.org](http://www.technicaltraininggroup.org).

## Core Programming



TTG is a *Ministry authorized Training Delivery Agent* for the Welder Metal Fabricator trade common core year 1 and Welder trade apprenticeship year 2 and 3.

This trades' program has garnered recognition from industry leaders and unions as an efficient and competent training program that consistently graduates top quality welders.

## Welder Apprenticeship

Welder training takes place during evening hours from Monday to Thursday, 6:00 – 10:00 p.m., from September to June at Stratford Northwestern Secondary School technical facilities (Site 1). Up to 45 welder apprentices train between the three levels during for a total of 720 training hours per year [Level 1–300; Level 2–180; Level 3–240.].

**June 2008** Ten [10] trainees graduated from each of the three levels of welder training. Level 3 graduates of the three-year apprenticeship program have the option to move on to the next level - trade certification by an approved testing agency such as the Canadian Welding Bureau.

**September 2008** A total of 48 welder apprentices from across South Western Ontario were enrolled in the three [3] levels during evening hours. Many Level 1 and 2 graduates from the previous year enrolled to continue the training process.

Welding is a challenging and rewarding career choice. For those getting into the trade, many will have the opportunity of steady employment for as long as they want to work in their chosen trade.

### Welding Apprenticeship Faculty & Instruction Area

Robert Jackson	Health and Safety
Peter Kunz	Practical Welding
Malcolm Macdonald	Practical Welding
Mike Merner	Fabricating
Tom Newton	Fitting and Layout
Jason Wagg	Welding Theory
Pat Walsh	Fabricating
Mike Willie	Inspection and Testing

### COMPANIES SERVED

ACCUMETAL Manufacturing Inc.  
 Central Ontario Metal & Construction Ltd.  
 Chrima  
 Circelli Steel Works  
 Cleaver Brooks of Canada  
 Clemmer-Steelcraft Technologies Inc.  
 Don Krantz Welding and Machine  
 Doug Smith's Fur Farm Supplies Ltd.  
 FarmTech  
 General Dynamics Land Systems  
 Integrated Mechanical Services  
 J. Gaffney Construction Company Ltd.  
 Kenrod Steel Fabricating Ltd.  
 Local 527 Plumbers and Steamfitters  
 Millroad Manufacturing and Sales  
 Mitchell Mill Systems  
 Nairn Enterprises  
 Nuhn Industries  
 Saputo  
 SharpesCreek Forge  
 Stratford Metal Products,  
 Strawbridge Machine  
 TankCraft Ltd.  
 Titan Trailers Inc.  
 Trademark Industrial Inc.  
 Tripp Vogt Trottier Ltd.  
 Volvo  
 VR3 Engineering Ltd.  
 Walters Inc.

The TTG welder facility is an accredited test site for the Canadian Welding Bureau (CWB). Employers/employees can receive specialized training to meet company's specific CWB needs.





## PLUMBING Pre-Apprentice Prep

A 10-week basic plumbing course was piloted in **March 2009** with 13 individuals registering for the April – June course. Trainees will get hands-on experience using industry grade tools, materials and techniques and learn various piping applications and construction methods applicable to the plumbing trade.



### Pre-Apprentice Prep Faculty & Instruction Area

Keith Donnelly----- Electrical  
Jeff Gleadall----- Plumbing

## Certification Training

Workers need safe work environments and up-to-date training to stay current with industry trends and meet health and safety legislative requirements. Good safety policies and practices, coupled with good worker training, contribute to greater output, better quality and worker satisfaction directly impacting the profit margins of any company.

TTG worked with local employers FGC Ltd., ACCUMETAL Inc. and Walsh Bros., to coordinate the Overhead Crane Certification for 11 employees in **February 2009**. Gambit Industrial Health & Safety Consultants Inc., Guelph provided the certification training and assessment and issued certificates. Over the next year, TTG will look to expand its role as a broker to coordinate certification programs for small local companies.

## Training Facilities

TTG partners with Stratford Northwestern (Site 1) and St. Michael Catholic (Site 2) Secondary Schools for adult evening programming. This is a win-win situation allowing existing secondary school tech facilities to be used to capacity and upgrades or enhancements to benefit both day and evening programming.

## ELECTRICAL PRE-APPRENTICE PREP

### Trainee Evaluations

#### *Why I took the course....*

- ☺ To get knowledge about electricity to help me chose a career in the future.
- ☺ So I can learn more before I take an apprenticeship.
- ☺ Head start in the trade and to help me get a good job.
- ☺ Getting laid off in the future; I want to be an electrician.
- ☺ I wanted to become an electrician going through an apprenticeship and I knew that this course would be good for me.
- ☺ I wanted to expand my knowledge in the electrical field, but now I want to pursue a career in this trade.
- ☺ My high school teacher told me about the course and it's something I want to do in the future.
- ☺ To learn more about hooking up lights and receptacles and other safety.
- ☺ To learn more about this trade and see if I would want to try and get into this trade.
- ☺ To get a feel for electrical work; see if a career as electrician would suit me.

#### *Satisfaction with training.....*

- ☺ Everything was amazing!
- ☺ If there is an advance course let me know.
- ☺ Very well done; I wish the course was more than 10 weeks.
- ☺ I would recommend this to all people who want to become electricians.
- ☺ A 2<sup>nd</sup> part of this course would be good to continue from this course.

# Trade Awards

## .....recognizing champions

### Skills Canada Ontario Finalist 2008



Silver Medalist, **Dale McGavin** is a Level 2 welder apprentice. Dale competed at the Skills Canada Ontario competitions against 13 other top welders in the province on May 6th, 2008. Dale is a graduate of Stratford Northwestern Secondary School. He is enrolled in his second year of TTG's welder apprenticeship training. Dale has worked in his trade for Robica, Stratford Metal Products and is currently working for AECON and is a member of Local 527 Steamfitters, Plumbers and Welders in

Kitchener Waterloo. Dale lives in Stratford with his wife Andrea and two children. Congratulations Dale!

### Skills Canada Ontario Hall of Famer

**Mark Roth** was one of six individuals across Ontario selected to receive the Klaus Woerner Skilled Trades Hall of Fame Award. Mark started his career working for Klaus Woerner as a mechanical designer in the mid-eighties and Klaus had a major influence on his career in education. Skills Canada Ontario presents the Klaus Woerner Skilled Trades Hall of Fame Awards annually to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the advancement of skilled trades and technologies. Congratulations Mark!



Mark Roth receives his award from Hon. John Milloy, Minister, MTCU, **March 3, 2009** at the Skills Canada Ontario fundraising dinner, "Building Futures One Dream at a Time," hosted at the Delta Hotel, Kitchener. Mark was nominated for the Hall of Fame Award by Susan Young, Mitchell DSS and Jaret Henhoeffter, PCFDC.

The TTG Board of Directors and instructors are proud of Dale's skills and the quality of workmanship he demonstrates.

"It further supports our efforts to provide industry standard, high quality training locally," states Mark Roth, TTG Welder Training Coordinator.

*"You will never find a more passionate, tireless crusader for students and manufacturing than Mark Roth. He excels at developing and matching talent with opportunity."*

*Jaret Henhoeffter, General Manager, Perth Community Futures*

*"It is with great admiration that I learn of Mark Roth's induction into the Klaus Woerner Skilled Trades Hall of Fame. Mark is such a worthy recipient of this award; he is a dedicated educator, a tireless advocate of skilled trades and a pillar of our community. Mark's passion for his community is unparalleled and we are fortunate that he calls Stratford home."*

*Dan Mathieson, Mayor, City of Stratford*

*"I am extremely pleased that Mark Roth has been recognized by his peers to receive the Klaus Woerner Skilled Trades Hall of Fame Award for his dedication and innovation within the skilled trades. Mark has brought so much to our community."*

*John Wilkinson MPP, Perth-Wellington*



# Youth Programming

.....measuring twice, cutting once and laughing lots.....

## STEP



**Tim Martens, Summer Camp Coordinator**

### Skills Training Educational Partnership Tech Camp

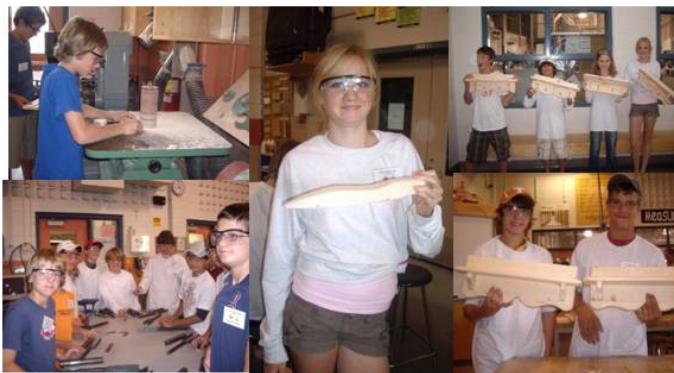
**July 7-11<sup>th</sup>, 2008** marked the start of the fourth annual Technology Summer Camps at St. Michael Catholic Secondary School in Stratford and St. Anne Catholic Secondary School, Clinton. The week-long camps tested the technical skills of 40 youth (Grades 6-8) by challenging them in a variety of skilled trades' activities. The areas of Construction Technology, Manufacturing/Welding, Technical Design and Woodworking, Transportation Technology and Motive Power trades were targeted for projects. Each school had a group of teachers, as well as student helpers, to guide them through their projects. We thank all of the staff, helpers and sponsors who made this week possible.

TECHNICAL TRAINING GROUP  
**FunTECH**  
AT NORTHWESTERN SECONDARY SCHOOL



**Anita Edwards, FunTECH Coordinator**

FunTECH workshops introduce and encourage youth (7 – 12) to explore careers in the skilled trades. The full day, "hands-on" event is open to Stratford area students. Workshop projects are designed to give exposure to Construction Technology, Manufacturing and Welding, Technical Design and Woodworking, Transportation Technology, Cosmetology and Culinary Arts. On **November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008**, 191 students participated and learned how to use a variety of tools and equipment. At the end of the day, they walked proudly away with a project they built or prepared themselves. Many thanks for another successful event go out to the FunTECH Coordinator, Northwestern Secondary School Technical Department Teachers and the 42 Northwestern Technical Student Volunteers.



## Youth Leadership Funding

### .....building strong communities

Through Libro Financial Group's Community Builder Grant program, TTG was awarded \$10,000 for the "Tech Skills for Youth" project in **July 2008**. The purpose of the Grant is to provide an opportunity for youth to build leadership and career skills. What better way to develop youth leadership skills than actively participating in FunTECH and STEP Camps by planning, setting up and operating the events! These youth leaders led their groups through a variety of skilled trades' activities. The quality of their participation was evident in the enjoyment and satisfaction their protégées experienced as they completed their various projects. This approach contributes to building stronger communities and stronger future leaders and young adults who are better equipped to contribute to their communities. Through Libro's contribution, new equipment was purchased for the tech facilities at Northwestern and St. Michael Secondary Schools. Grant funds also supported the development of a web site to promote youth programs. Thank you, Libro Financial Group, for investing in our local youth!



"We are pleased to support the Tech Skills for Youth," says Tania Goodine, VP Brand at Libro. "Libro believes in taking action to build strong communities where customer-owners live, work and play. Through our Community Builder Grant program, we support projects like this one that involve young people up to age 23 by helping them develop leadership skills."



L to R, Bob Allen, TTG Director; Marty Rops, Manager, Libro; Bart Drennan, St. Michael; Kelly Lafontaine, TTG Director; Anita Edwards, FunTECH Coordinator; Matt Williams, Web Designer; Virginia Lambdin, TTG Coordinator; and Deb McNair, Principal, SNSS. Front row: Erin Edwards, Madeline McCarthy, Mackenzie Dixon and Alex Maehle, TTG logo designer. Photograph by Paul Perreault, SNSS.

## THANK YOU

### Youth Leader Volunteers

#### FunTECH Staff 2008

Rob Collings  
Keith Edwards  
Dean Elieff  
Steve Faber  
Paul Finkelstein  
Cathie Riddell  
Jeff Roetcisoender  
Don Scheerer

#### TECH CAMP Staff 2008

Bart Drennen  
Mark Flannigan  
Steve Manzo  
Jason Steinmann

#### Youth Programming Sponsors

LIBRO Financial Group  
Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program  
Stratford & Area Builders' Association  
Huron Manufacturing Association  
Foundation for Education Huron Perth  
Huron Business Development  
Corporation  
The Rotary Club of Stratford

#### In-kind

Avon Maitland District School Board  
Huron-Perth Catholic District School  
Board

## Partnerships

### ..... Supporting technical and skilled trades' training in Stratford & Area

"We have one of the highest concentrations of skilled manufacturing and construction companies in Ontario in our local community, so it only makes sense to train people in our own backyard."

*Bernia Wheaton, Perth County Economic Development Coordinator*

"The Technical Training Group is pioneering new and innovative local skills training unseen in other communities. Hopefully, TTG will be recognized as the model to emulate in other communities."

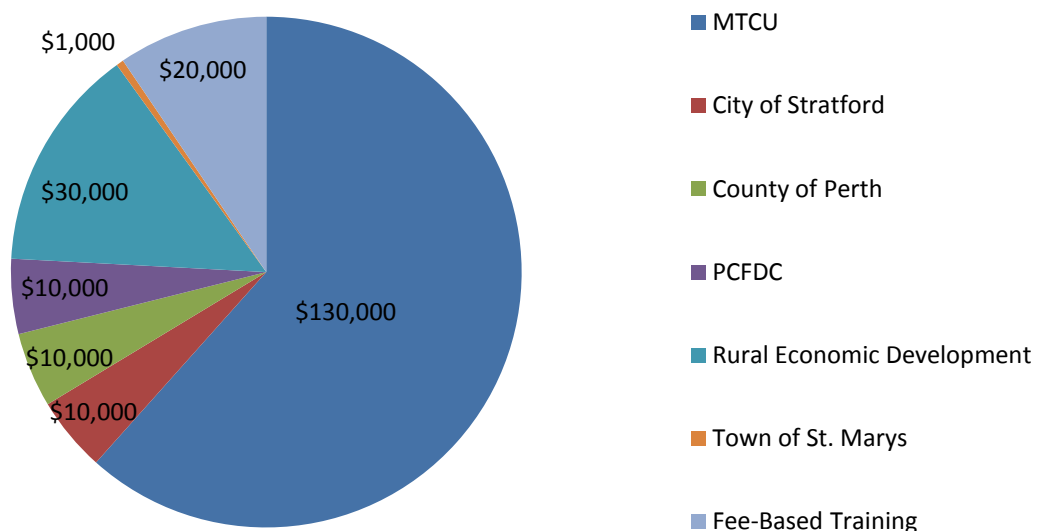
*Randy Mattice, Economic Development Officer, City of Stratford*

"Amidst all the doom and gloom stories in the manufacturing sector, it's encouraging to see a group of manufacturers and educators pulling together to ensure the long-term success of the sector."

*Jaret Henhoeffter, Perth Community Futures Development Corporation*

## Funding 2009-2010

Many rural areas recognize the importance of supporting training and manufacturing in their economy as part of an effective economic development strategy and dedicate resources to supporting manufacturing in the region. Local partners found TTG worthy of investment as it has the potential to provide many positive benefits to residents, businesses and the surrounding community.



# Contacts

## Technical Training Group (Stratford & Area)

c/o Stratford | Perth Centre for Business  
73 Albert Street, Stratford, ON N5A 3K2

Virginia Lambdin, Coordinator

Mark Roth, Welding Coordinator – Site 1 - Northwestern

Mark Flanagan, Basic Trades Coordinator – Site 2 - St. Michael

Carrie Schultz, Bookkeeper, PCFDC

Tim Veal, Program Development Officer, PCFDC, (519) 595-6802

For more information on programs, contact

[info@technicaltraininggroup.org](mailto:info@technicaltraininggroup.org) or visit

[www.technicaltraininggroup.org](http://www.technicaltraininggroup.org)



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Kent Johnston, Chair

Operations Manager

Clemmer - Steelcraft Technologies Inc.

### George Brown, Vice Chair

Councillor

City of Stratford

### Kelly Lafontaine, Treasurer

Financial Services Representative

LIBRO Financial Group

### Deb McNair, Secretary

Principal

Stratford Northwestern Secondary School

### Bob Allen

General Manager

ACCUMETAL Mfg. Inc.

### Maryann Cox

Creative Director

Factory 163

### Deb Hotchkiss

Executive Director

Partners in Employment

### Ted Lange

Senior Vice-President

Culliton Brothers Limited

### Tim Martens

OYAP Project Leader

Huron Perth Catholic District School

Board

### Gemma Mendez-Smith

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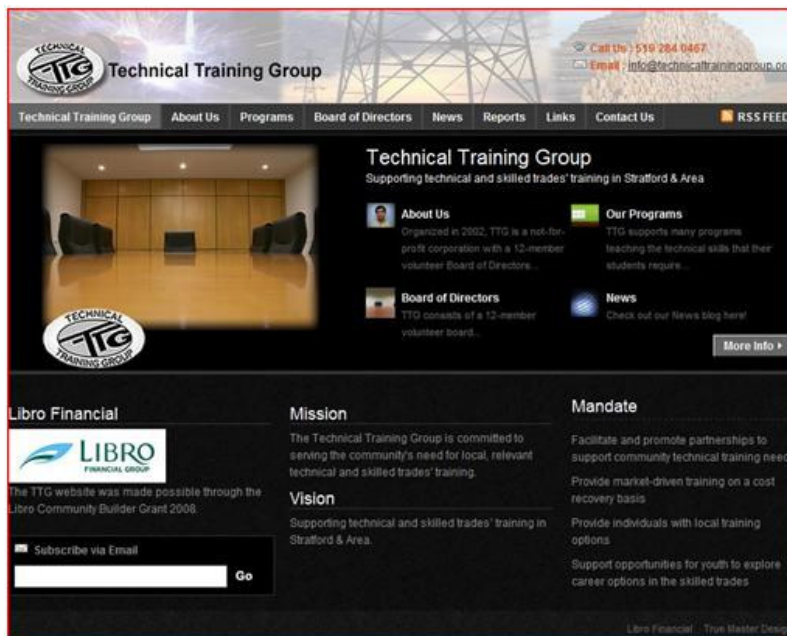
Four County Labour Market Planning

Board

### Doreen Myers

Stratford & District Human Resources

Association



The Welder Apprenticeship Training is funded by



Financial Contributions from

