



Annual Report

2009 - 2010



www.technicaltraininggroup.org

Chair's Message	2
Highlights of 2009-2010	3
Welder Apprenticeship Training	7
Custom Welding Training	7
Spotlight on Welding Expertise	7
Welding Faculty	8
Certification Training	9
Basic Skills Training	9
Basic Skills Faculty	9
Trade Awards.....	10
Youth Programming.....	11
Contact Information	12

*SUPPORTING TECHNICAL AND SKILLED TRADES' TRAINING
IN STRATFORD & AREA*

Chair's Message

2009-10 was a very busy year starting with an Open House to showcase upgrades, made possible through provincial infrastructure funding, at our two training sites. The Minister of Training, Colleges & Universities, Honourable John Milloy, toured the facilities with our local champion MPP John Wilkinson. Minister Milloy was very impressed and described the level of partnerships, especially those established with local school boards as 'phenomenal'. We stressed two key messages: the TTG model is worthy of provincial financial support and it is a template that could easily be workable and beneficial to any rural community in Ontario.

Over the past year, we saw major shifts in the job market with some jobs disappearing forever. As history has proven, new jobs will emerge in other sectors. During this period of transition, many workers are forced to reinvent themselves into new careers. The current employment market is highly competitive and specialized skills will make a big difference in the job search. The emergence of new technologies particularly in the energy and green sectors require new skill sets and TTG's approach will be to match technical training options with the needs of the local economy.

As I finish out my second year as Chair, I offer my sincere thanks to the Board of Directors for their support and keen interest. Their expert advice and clear focus on where we need to direct our efforts keeps us moving on the right path. The Board of Directors extends its appreciation to our hard working coordinators and instructors for a job well done. With you on the front line, our customers are well served. To all our trainees and graduates, thank you for doing business with us.

Like any organization, change is inevitable. With regret, we say good-bye to Board Director, Kelly Lafontaine, and extend our thanks for her contribution. We also say good-bye to Tim Veal who worked with us from April to October, organizing the Open House, staffing the Career Symposium exhibit booth and working on numerous projects on our behalf. Our best wishes go out to Kelly and Tim as they move on to new endeavors. We welcome our new Business Manager, Shawn Bontaine and Director, Cavell Fraser and look forward to working with them over the coming year.

I remain confident that the TTG will continue to grow and succeed because we have an amazing team that is committed to working with us. Special thanks are given to Avon Maitland and Huron Perth Catholic District School Boards for their continued cooperation, and to our community partners: County of Perth, Perth Community Futures Development Corporation, City of Stratford and the Town of St. Marys for their financial and in-kind support. As our champions, TTG will be able to build our position as the local skills trades' training provider for Perth County and the surrounding region.

Kent Johnston, TTG Chair



The Technical Training Group (TTG), a not-for-profit corporation with a 12-member volunteer Board of Directors, is comprised of area stakeholders from industry, business, education, City of Stratford and the Four County Labor Market Planning Board.

Welder Apprenticeship training is funded by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities on a per diem seat plan basis. Basic Skills, Certification and Youth programs are structured on a fee-based cost recovery model.

The primary target population for training or re-training is age 18+, employed, unemployed or underemployed.

Highlights of 2009-2010

Local Partner Support Making a Difference



A cheque totaling \$61,000 was presented to TTG on April 14, 2009. The financial support from our partners: County of Perth, City of Stratford, Perth Community Futures Development Corporation and the Town of St. Marys was matched by Rural Economic Development funding. Thanks to this partnership collaboration, TTG has strengthened its core operations and hired a new Business Manager to focus on leading edge training options which fit the direction of the changing local economy.

From left to right, Kent Johnston, TTG Chair; George Brown, Deputy Mayor, Stratford; Julie Berhns, Warden, Perth County; and Dave Shearer, Chair, Perth Community Futures Development Corporation.

MTCU Minister Praises TTG Model

At an Open House, held April 14th, 2009, the Minister of Training, Colleges & Universities, Hon. John Milloy and MPP John Wilkinson toured Stratford Northwestern and St. Michael Catholic Secondary Schools' tech facilities to view TTG's welding, electrical and plumbing programs. "The level of partnership here is phenomenal, starting with the school boards working together," said Minister Milloy. MPP John Wilkinson said it was essential to show the model of success to his fellow member of parliament. "Some remarkable individuals were able to give life to their vision. It's inspiring to others across Ontario. My job is to see that the success bred locally is shared across the province," Mr. Wilkinson said.

Meeting with Minister Milloy & MPP Wilkinson



Malcolm Macdonald, Welding Instructor



Jeff Gleadall, Plumbing Instructor



Tim Martens & Keith Donnelly, Electrical Instructor

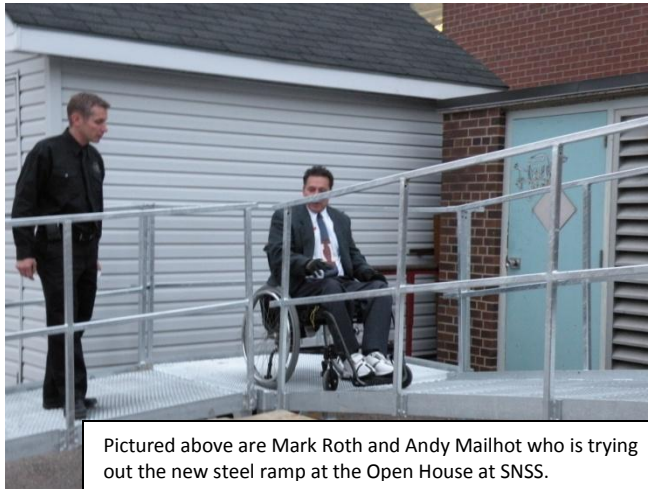


Mark Roth, Welding Coordinator



Kent Johnston, TTG Chair

Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things



Pictured above are Mark Roth and Andy Mailhot who is trying out the new steel ramp at the Open House at SNSS.

Andrew Mailhot is quick to credit the community for helping him recover, notably students in the Technical Training Group welding program.

He had asked a welding instructor for a few transfer boards to help him get around the house. Unexpectedly, tradesmen showed up and transformed the back portion of his home. Another instructor got an idea on how to replace a rental ramp in front of his home. The TTG group showed up for ramp assembly three hours after the rental went down.

Each time Andy rides down his new steel ramp, he remembers the goodness in the hearts of those who built it.

Huron Perth Career Symposium Rocks

On April 28 and 29th 2009, the Huron-Perth Career Symposium, co-lead by the Foundation for Education and the Four County Labour Market Planning Board, was staged at the Seaforth Arena. Over 1,500 area students passed through the doors over the two day period. A significant number of adults also attended including busloads of former employees from Volvo and Westcast.



TTG's exhibitor booth, with the help of Mark Roth's "pop can crusher," was a real hit! The Symposium was a great opportunity for small business enterprises such as TTG to display their products and services and network with other exhibitors. In conversations with unemployed adults, it was underscored that there is MUCH opportunity for training in our area. About 200 brochures, designed specifically for the Symposium, were distributed. "Getting TTG's image out there" really familiarized many organizations with the Technical Training Group, what it offers and the direction it is heading.

Community events, such as these, are a great opportunity to improve TTG's stature in the industry and a great eye-opener to students and adults wondering what career options are available to them. Thanks are extended to Tim Veal, Program Developer, for staffing the booth, engaging the students and designing TTG's brochure.



Tim Martens assists students in creating their own bird houses at the Huron Perth DSB exhibit.



Tim Veal speaks to students about career opportunities in the trades.

Training Catchment Area Expands

September 2008



September 2009



Electrical Program Expansion in the Works

Thanks to the Community Adjustment Fund for South-Western Ontario, TTG received \$3,500 as a business expansion investment from Perth Community Futures Development Corporation to expand its skills training program options. An application to the Ministry of Training, Colleges & Universities for *Training Delivery Agent (TDA) status for the Electrician Trade* (Construction & Maintenance) was made possible by this funding.

The TDA process is a rigorous one that must provide evidence there is a need at the local level and that it will strengthen the apprenticeship system across Ontario. While TTG is cautiously optimistic that TDA status will be designated, the strength of its argument for training to be geographically accessible is one that resonates with rural Ontario.



TTG takes this opportunity to thank Perth CFDC and FED DEV Ontario for their support in this business initiative.



TTG congratulates Keith Donnelly and Virginia Lambdin for completing the Electrical Training Expansion Project and supporting TTG in its efforts to build its business operations.

New Business Manager Hired

Shawn Bontaine joined the Technical Training Group team on February 1st, 2010 as TTG's Business Manager. He brings a combined 20 years experience in the manufacturing technology and education sectors to this position. Shawn is responsible to help ensure TTG meets its vision of supporting technical and skilled trades' training in Stratford and surrounding area. He will assist in facilitating and promoting partnerships to support community technical training needs. Prior to joining TTG he was the Internal Training Manager at ATS Automation Tooling Systems Inc., a global manufacturing automation company. Shawn is a Mechanical Engineering Technologist and has his Ontario teaching certificate.



\$40,000 Awarded to Build Training Initiatives in 2010-11

The County of Perth, City of Stratford, Town of St. Marys and Perth Community Futures Development Corporation partnered to develop a united strategy to lead Perth communities through challenging economic times. The group accessed provincial funding through the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade through the Communities in Transition (CIT) program to undertake an intensive labour market analysis, create an economic development diversification plan to boost local economies and position the region for success. TTG will play a pivotal role in the collaboration by developing training plans to meet the identified training gaps and the emergence of new technologies.



TTG Featured in Beacon Industrial & Business Review

Electrical Program adds some spark to TTG
John Kastner, Managing Editor
[Excerpt March 12th]

TTG training sites are at Stratford Northwestern and St. Michael Catholic Secondary School tech facilities. But don't be confused – TTG is really not for kids.

"We have students in the program that range from kids right out of high school to people in their 30's who have lost their jobs and are starting over," says Shawn Bontaine, the new business manager for TTG.

Since the beginning of the TTG program, welding has been the bread-and-butter course offering, but the program is expanding and now offers a hugely popular pre-apprentice prep electrical program.



Pictured from left to right, Mark Roth, Welder Apprenticeship Coordinator; Shawn Bontaine, Business Manager; Keith Donnelly, Electrical Pre-Apprentice Prep Instructor

Welder Apprenticeship Training



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. Ministry funding for the 2009-10 fiscal year totaled \$126,820.05. 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 (TTG Site 1). Up to 48 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].

In **June 2009**, trainees graduated from each of the three levels of welder training. The Level 3 graduates (10) have been highly successful in passing their Certificate of Qualifications as certified welders through the Ministry of Training, Colleges & Universities. This Certificate of Qualification also provides them with Interprovincial Red Seal Welder status.

In **September 2009**, a total of **45** welder apprentices from across Southwestern Ontario 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.

Custom Welding Training

In **May 2009**, an agreement was drawn up with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 804, to train its members for a 54 hour customized training course. The training took place Saturday mornings from May 2 through July 25, 2009. The course introduced Local 804 apprentices and journeymen to arc weld and manual oxy-fuel cutting and preparing trainees for the flat, horizontal, vertical, overhead and all position CWB tests. A total of 44 Canadian Welding Bureau tickets were issued.

TTG also provides focused individual and group instruction on an as need basis or designs customized packages for the experienced welder (TIG welding and pipe welding training) or for individuals interested in weld quality improvement, job entry or retention or the basics on how to use their cutting torch or home welder.

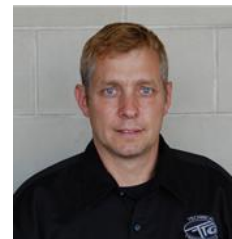
Spotlight on Welding Expertise

WELDER APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

The strength of the welding program comes from the dedicated welding instructors, up-to-date facilities and the availability for apprentices to access their training locally. Our instructors are all working in industry with the exception of one, who is recently retired. All have a broad range of industry experience. They are qualified and dedicated individuals that firmly believe in the trade and the need for our area to have access to qualified welders, fitters and fabricators, thereby impacting the success of local industries. TTG actively pursues local talented certified instructors to be involved in the delivery of the curriculum. Efforts to recruit and train TTG alumni that have achieved their Certificate of Qualifications are yet another source for quality, current instructors. These graduates are known by TTG and they understand the process and methods of instruction that TTG employs in its programs.

Mark Roth, Welder Apprenticeship Coordinator

Welder Apprenticeship Coordinator since 2003, Mark oversees evening instruction of the Welder Metal Fabricator trade common core year 1 and Welder trade apprenticeship year 2 and 3 programming. Mark started his career working at ATS (Automation Tooling Systems) as a mechanical designer in the mid 1980s following his graduation from Conestoga College as a Mechanical Engineering Technologist. He attended Queen's University in 1989 where he received his Ontario teaching certificate. Mark is currently the Head of the Cooperative Education Department, Stratford Northwestern Secondary School for the past 9 years.



Welding Faculty

Malcolm MacDonald

Malcolm is a qualified pipe welder and pipe fitter with over 25 years of experience. Mac received his first pipe ticket over 42 years ago and worked as an ironworker for 2 years. He has been a TTG instructor since the year 2003. Malcolm is a stationary engineer and offers a wealth of knowledge and expertise that relates to all forms of welding. He is TTG's CWB on-site supervisor and highly competent pipe welder.



Peter Kunz

Peter is a graduate of Stratford Northwestern Secondary School. Peter is a certified pressure vessel welder/fitter able to fabricate commercial, industrial and residential boilers for installation in Canada, United States, and the export market. He has been a TTG instructor since 2003 and is currently working in Stratford.



Mike Merner

Mike is a custom metal fabricator with 15 years of experience in the trade. Mike has been a TTG instructor since 2006 and is currently working at Clemmer SteelCraft Technologies Inc. as a lead hand.



Tom Newton

Tom is a qualified sheet metal fabricator with over 25 years of experience. He has been a TTG instructor since 2009 and is currently working for Stratford Metal Products. Tom specializes in fitting and layout techniques. Tom is also on the board of directors for the Stratford Municipal Golf Course.



Mike Wille

Mike is a graduate of Stratford Northwestern Secondary School and an ASME certified welder/fitter with over 32 years of experience. Mike is also a certified Industrial Radiographer II able to perform Non Destructive Testing. He has been a TTG instructor since 2009 and is currently working for Cleaver-Brooks in Stratford.



Dale McGavin

Dale is a certified welder with his Red Seal Certificate of Qualifications. He has over 15 years of welding/fabricating experience, is a TTG graduate and a TTG instructor since 2009. He is currently working at Acon Industrial. Dale is part of the United Association of Plumbers, Steamfitters and Welders. Dale holds two TSSA welding tickets for SMAW and GTAW. He also has an all position CWB SMAW ticket and a flat CWB GMAW welding ticket.



AJ Detzler-Cox

AJ is a certified welder and has his Red Seal Certificate of Qualifications. He has over 5 years of welding experience and is currently working for VR3 Engineering in Stratford. AJ is a TTG graduate and a TTG instructor since 2009.



Certification Training



Canadian Welding Bureau Certification

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



Other Certification Training

Fork Lift Certification training organized by TTG had costs matched by the Rural Economic Development (RED) fund making this an affordable program for local employers. Eight individuals participated in the training and Lift Depot Ltd. provided the Theory and Optional Practical Test On-Site training on **March 31st, 2010**. TTG will continue to coordinate certification programs on an as-needed basis for small local companies in 2010-11.

Basic Skills Training

TTG offers 10-week pre-apprentice prep (basic) training programs in partnership with St. Michael Catholic Secondary School. This partnership increases the diversity of trades-related training available locally. The programs are open to unemployed individuals looking to develop skills and enter the labour force or to employed individuals who are seeking a career change. Over 2010-11, options for implementing the electrical pre-apprenticeship program will be explored.



ELECTRICAL Pre-Apprentice Prep

In **February 2010**, 14 trainees enrolled in the the 10-week electrical pre-apprentice prep course offered at St. Michael Catholic Secondary School (TTG Site 2). The curriculum covered safety, measurement, tools and equipment, basic concepts/series circuits and parallel circuits, conduit bending and the basics of residential wiring methods. This training prepares graduates for career advancement in skilled trades fields including an Electrical Apprenticeship or related trade such as plumbing, HVAC, and construction. Upon successful completion, on May 12th, 2010, trainees will receive a letter of completion and a certificate.

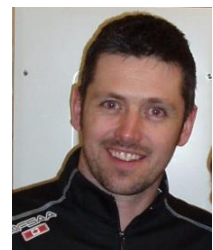
PLUMBING Pre-Apprentice Prep

On **June 18, 2009**, thirteen registrants successfully completed the pilot 10-week basic plumbing course. Trainees received hands-on experience using industry grade tools, materials and techniques and learned various piping applications and construction methods applicable to the plumbing trade. Special thanks to **Jeff Gleadall** who was instrumental in the development and launching of our plumbing pre-apprentice prep course. A journeyman plumber, Jeff had 25 years of experience in the trade including residential, commercial, industrial as well as process water, compressed air, natural gas and TSSA requirements.

Basic Skills Faculty

Keith Donnelly

Keith is a qualified electrician with over 13 years of industry experience and holds a Construction and Maintenance License. Keith has been a TTG instructor since 2008 and offers a wide range of residential, commercial and industrial applications experience within the electrical field. Keith also holds an Ontario Teaching Certificate from O.I.S.E, University of Toronto. Since 2006, Keith has worked at St. Michael Catholic Secondary School as a teacher in their construction technology program.



Trade Awards

SKILLS CANADA-ONTARIO GOLD MEDALIST 2009

DALE MCGAVIN



Dale McGavin won the **GOLD MEDAL** for his welding skills at the Ontario Skills Competition at RIM Park in Waterloo May 4-6, 2009. Dale competed against Ontario Colleges, Union Training Centers and Private Colleges to earn top spot in the Province.



Dale advanced to the National competition in Prince Edward Island, May 20-23, as a member of Team Ontario, where he competed against the top welders from each province. Dale placed 4th in the standings, an achievement of which he can be very proud.

Dale graduated from TTG's welder Level 3 apprenticeship training in June 2009. 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 is currently a welder instructor during evening hours with the Technical Training Group. Congratulations once again, Dale!

THE KEN HALWACHS AWARD 2009

DALE MCGAVIN

Clemmer Steelcraft honoured Ken Halwachs, on his retirement in 2008, with an annual award in his name to a 3rd level Welder student who demonstrates excellence in technical skills, professionalism, leadership and teamwork. Following its inaugural presentation last year at a formal ceremony, it was decided that TTG would present the award at its Annual General Meeting.

Dale McGavin was encouraged to enter the Welder trade by Mark Roth. He was surprised at the level of theory and the practical experience demanded by the Welder training program. Dale thanked the board for their support and said that his accomplishments reflect on the training he has received. He thanked Mark for the direction he provided and commended Mac for his Welder instruction.

Dale's drive and commitment led to his success in the field. He won a gold medal at the Skills Canada provincial competitions and placed 4th at the Nationals and both are first class accomplishments.



Pictured left to right, Malcolm Macdonald, Welding Instructor; Dale McGavin, Award Recipient; Kent Johnston, TTG Chair



Youth Programming



STEP Summer Camps (Skills Training Educational Partnership)

Some day camps take on what might be described as *higher* pursuits – such as launching homemade rockets a mile into the air and seeing them drift back to earth on parachutes. At the STEP Technology Summer Camps, co-hosted by the Technical Training Group and the Huron Perth Catholic District School Board, such feats are all in a day's work – along with building working extension cords, bookshelves and can crushers. The projects are designed to introduce students from Grades 6-8 to a wide array of hands-on skills, such as welding, woodworking, mechanical repairs and the basics of design. This year, camps ran from **July 6-10, 2009**, from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. Camps at St. Anne's, Clinton and St. Michael, Stratford accommodated 25 students each. Much appreciation is extended to Camp Coordinator: **Tim Martens** and Instructors: Keith Donnelly, Bart Drennan, Mark Flanagan, and Jason Steinmann for making this another great camp experience.



The two week long camps are made possible by an array of corporate sponsors, who cover a large portion of the costs of instruction and materials: Huron Perth Catholic District School Board - Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program, Four County Labour Market Planning Board, Huron Business Development Centre, Huron Manufacturing Association and the Foundation for Enriching Education. Matching contributions were provided by the Perth County – Rural Economic Development fund.

FunTECH

The full day "hands-on" event exposes Stratford area students to workshop projects designed to give exposure to Technical Design and Woodworking, Manufacturing Technology, Welding Technology, Construction Technology, Culinary Arts and Cosmetology. On **November 28th, 2009**, 144 students, ages 7-12, 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: wooden rebound game with decals; metal note pad holder/keychain; metal dragonfly; facial masks, manicures, hair styling; pizza, bread, bagels, cakes. Many thanks for another successful event go out to FunTECH Coordinator, **Anita Edwards** and Northwestern Secondary School Technical Department Teachers: Keith Edwards, Rob Collings, Steve Faber, Don Scheerer, Paul Finkelstein, Dean Elieff and Paula Hurst-Foster, the 40 Northwestern Technical Student Volunteers and six parent volunteers.



What better testament to programming caliber than the following sampling of remarks by students and parents:

Awesome program and cool projects; I used to participate in FunTECH and loved it! Now I get to help out as a FunTECH volunteer; My children attended the FunTECH program in November and LOVED IT! Your team at Northwestern certainly did an awesome job of planning and running this awesome learning experience for youngsters. My kids are eager to attend again next season.

FunTECH is made possible through the continued support of the Avon Maitland District School Board - Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program, Stratford & Area Builders' Association and the Foundation for Enriching Education.

Contact Information

Technical Training Group (Stratford & Area)

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

Tabatha Morrison, Bookkeeper
Tabworks, 629 Ontario Street, Stratford, ON N5A 3J6

Virginia Lambdin, Board Coordinator 519-801-8845
vlambdin@technicaltraininggroup.org

Shawn Bontaine, Business Manager 519-801-8844
shawn@technicaltraininggroup.org

Mark Roth, Welding Coordinator 519-275-7734
mroth@technicaltraininggroup.org

For more information on all TTG programming, visit
www.technicaltraininggroup.org



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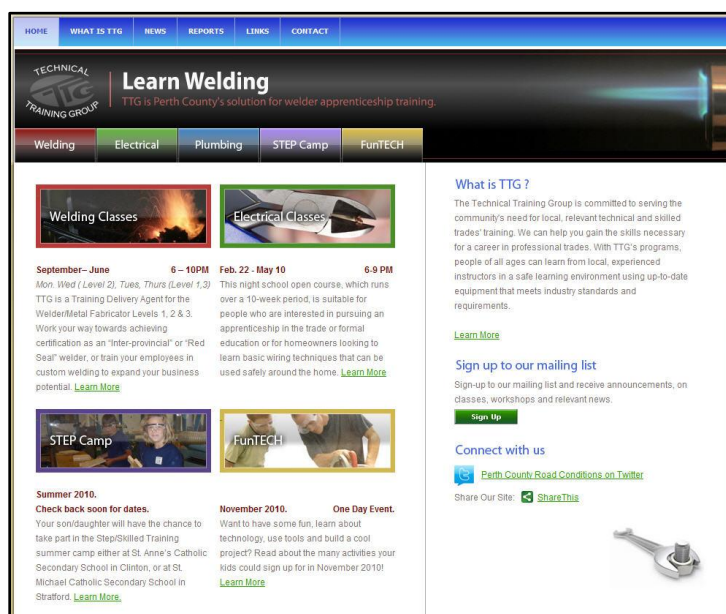
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