

Huron Manufacturing Association

Year in Review 2009



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Organizational Development

The year 2009 was extraordinary for the development of the Huron Manufacturing Association as an organization. A number of funding initiatives allowed the HMA to expand its organizational capacity for project development and delivery.

Funding from Ontario Rural Economic Development through the Huron Business Development Corporation and the County of Huron's Huron Economic Development Matters fund allowed the HMA to create the Workforce Development and Training Plan and hire a co-ordinator to carry out the plan. The value of this project was in excess of \$17,000.

In April of 2009 the United Communities Credit Union confirmed its sponsorship of the Manufacturing Excellence Awards in the amount of \$10,000 and allocated an additional \$2,000 for the HMA/ United Apprenticeship scholarship as part of its 5 year commitment to this program.

On July 9, 2009 the HMA held its 5th Annual General Meeting. The Heritage and Cultural Partnership (HCP) presented the key note address for the evening. The key noted included a 3 person panel on the Huron County Creative Economy, moderated by HCP co-ordinator Rick Sickinger. This event successfully highlighted the interplay between sectors of the Huron County economy. Two new members joined the board of directors at the Annual General Meeting.

In September of 2009 the Huron Manufacturing Association commenced a 7 month contract with the Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP) to deliver initiatives in six strategic areas. The value of this contract is in excess of \$53,000.

In November of 2009 the Huron Manufacturing Association held its 4th Annual Manufacturing Excellence Awards at the new Regional Equine and Agricultural Centre of Huron. With profits from the previous years awards and support from the IRAP grant the HMA was able to hire a co-ordinator for the awards. The 4th Annual awards was the best attended HMA event to date for the organization.



Manufacturing Mentor Program



Seven Manufacturing Mentors were identified in 2009. The mentors will be featured on the new HMA website that is coming in 2010. Mentors were recognized at the Manufacturing Excellence Awards with a lapel pin.

Huron County Library Manufacturing Recommended Reads

In 2009 the HMA started its recommended reading list in partnership with the Huron County Library. The Library has over 200 books in its holdings related to lean manufacturing, running and successful business and manufacturing. Every two weeks the HMA members are alerted to a new book that is available at the library.



Manufacts Newsletter

For the past 5 years the HMA has published a newsletter 4 times per year. In 2009 the newsletter moved to a full colour format and two of the issues included 8 pages instead of the usual 4 pages.

Newspaper and Radio Coverage

The HMA featured prominently in the news in 2009. In September, October and November HMA paid for advertising to promote the organization and the Manufacturing Excellence Awards. Colour advertising was featured in the Huron County Focus newspaper. HMA Chair Chris Meier did a great number of radio and newspaper interviews. The HMA and the Huron County Federation of Agriculture partnered on a news release about services to individuals to help cope with the economic downturn.

Breakfast Meetings and After 5's

Breakfast meetings were held at Royal Homes and Syfilco. An After 5 was sponsored by Capitol Power Inc. (formerly EPCOR). These networking meetings featured informative speakers on topics such as Health and Safety Training, Sales and Marketing and the Renewable Energy Industry. The HMA Annual General Meeting featured a panel of speakers on the topic of the Creative Economy.



Workforce Development & Training

Workforce Development & Training Project

Funding from HEDM allowed the HMA to hire Rebecca Rathwell to write the Workforce Development and Training Plan and to hire John Feeney to carry out the plan. Many of the outcomes of this project are noted in the items below. Additionally, training was offered to HMA members, a new pre-orientation program was developed with the Centres for Employment and Learning and all Huron manufacturers were mapped on the Web GIS.

School Industry Tours

All five Huron County schools were involved again this year. For the first time this year all of the participating manufacturers were given a plaque to demonstrate the HMA's appreciation for their support of the program.

Career Symposium

The HMA supported the Technology Trailer with a donation of \$1,000 plus a \$500 sponsorship of the afternoon speaker.

SOS Technology Trailer

The HMA supported the Technology Trailer with a donation of \$1,000 plus an interactive display within the trailer about the jobs available in Manufacturing .



Apprenticeship Scholarship

The HMA/ United Apprenticeship Scholarships were presented at the Manufacturing Excellence Awards. Two additional scholarships were presented this year in addition to the usual 4 scholarships due to a private donation.



Marketing Networking & Communication

Renewable Energy Networking Group (RENG)

The RENG was created in 2009 and has met 5 times.

Renewable Energy Manufacturing Attraction

In 2009 the HMA engaged the services of Brendan O'Donoghue to attract renewable energy manufacturing opportunities to Huron.

Wind Energy Marketing Partnership

Huron County partnered with regional partners in a survey of manufacturers to determine the existing capabilities to provide products for the wind energy supply chain. An online directory of manufacturers was created, which can be accessed at <http://www.onwindenergy.ca>

Manufacturing Excellence Awards

The attendance at the awards and trade show exceeded 300 people. Over 45 trade show participants registered to display at the expanded trade show. The Huron Small Business Enterprise Centre sponsored 25 of the trade show participants and offered them a free workshop on using the web for marketing.

