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One-Stop – NO Wrong Door Initiative

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Online resource to help you find services in Ontario

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A passion for lifelong learning

Introducing Linda Pond, New TOP Coordinator for Lanark County



On April 1 2006, Linda Pond accepted the challenge to become the new TOP Coordinator for Lanark County. Her counterpart, Pat Wolfe, representing Renfrew County, and Linda will work together to forge relationships among the Labour Markets of Lanark and Renfrew.

Linda is excited to bring her networking skills and her passion for connecting people to her new assignment. Born in Pembroke, Rural Eastern Ontario has been her home since 1985. In 2006, Linda was introduced to EASTCAT – Eastern Ontario Centre for Advanced Technology, a new jointly funded project under the guidance of St. Lawrence College. EASTCAT is a business “acceleration” project committed to business growth, economic development and diversification, and job creation in Eastern Ontario.

Her relationship with EASTCAT connected her to the TOP (Trends, Opportunities & Priorities) program and she was hired to organize and provide the networking functions for the first Labour Market Forum, held in Arnprior in March 2006. The event was a success, and Linda was invited to become part of the TOP team, as TOP Coordinator for Lanark County.

What is the Labour Market? The Labour Market is an economic relationship between:

1. The Labour – those looking for work or contracts, and
2. The Market – those employers & businesses looking to hire or contract the Labour

What is TOP? Trends, Opportunities & Priorities is a wonderful example of sharing resources and relationships among the players in the Labour Market. TOP is a connection between:

1. Two of Ontario’s leading Community Colleges, St. Lawrence College & Algonquin College,
2. Two of Ontario’s governments, Federal and Provincial
3. Two of Ontario’s counties, Renfrew County and Lanark County.

Together, we will make the biggest difference.

For more info contact **Linda at Tel.: 613-283-8477** or lpond@sl.on.ca

TOP Labour Market Forum - March 2006

On March 10 2006, Trends, Opportunities, Priorities (TOP) hosted its first annual event in Arnprior which, attracted participants from across two counties. The venue was the Quality Inn in beautiful downtown Arnprior, whose Valley hospitality complimented the day.

Dave McFadden, Director of Community Advancement for St. Lawrence College in Brockville set the tone with a rousing introduction of what was to come.



An attentive audience

Kicking off the speaker series was Keynote Speaker **Lori Truemner**, Labour Market Information Analyst for Service Canada. Lori provided an overview of what exactly Labour Market Information (LMI) is, and how those statistics dictate everything we do. In a nutshell: $LMI = \text{Supply of Workers} + \text{Demand of Workers}$.

We heard from legal expert, **David Law**, partner at Emond Harnden LLP. One of the most valuable ways to recruit, retain and develop personnel is to offer them a working environment reflecting a genuine commitment to their health, safety and security.

Patrick Donnelly, District Manager with the Eastern Ontario Apprenticeship Office for the Ministry of Training, Colleges, & Universities (MTCU) spoke to us about the Apprenticeship Program. Apprenticeship and its related programs are key to encouraging economic growth for our region, as well as providing an important career path for people who choose not to attend college or university.

Mitchell Wilkie, Manager of Economic Development Services for Renfrew County focused on the role of the Economic Development office as well as current economic trends in Renfrew & Lanark Counties.

Kent MacDonald, Director of Business and Development Strategy for Algonquin College spoke on the linkages between high schools and post-secondary institutes and the impact new partnerships are having on the labour market.

Jamie Bramburger, TOP program manager for Renfrew County, introduced us to the new interactive Renfrew and Lanark Workforce website, featuring current TOP information.

The day was energized by a scrumptious breakfast and lunch, and networking was fast and furious. A survey was conducted as to the success of the event; 98% of the responsees felt that the event was Good/Excellent. Here are just a few comments about the day;

- I hope more people from business and industry can take part in future events like this. They do not know what they are missing!
- Apprenticeship forum was outstanding!
- Congrats St. Lawrence and Algonquin! Great day was had!

The feedback collected from the participants indicated that the event itself was very useful in sorting out what exactly LMI was, and how it can be used to propel economic success in the Ottawa valley. Here are a few suggestions from some of the participants of the TOP Labour Market Forum 2006, and what they would like to see next year.

- Info on programs/support projects that unite employers & workers.
- A youth symposium to listen to what they have to say regarding training/education/government etc.

All of the presentations from the Forum can be viewed at our website under Labour Market Information.

TOP Mandate 2006 - 2007

The TOP Team is eager to announce 4 new projects for the coming year.

1) Labour Market Forum, February 16, 2007 - This day long event will take place in beautiful downtown Carleton Place at the Carleton Heritage Inn. Speakers from across Lanark and Renfrew will be on hand to facilitate work shops and deliver important and current information on local Labour Market initiatives.

2) Rural Communities Initiative - One of the issues identified in last year's TOP Report is the lack of pertinent information getting to our rural

communities. This year, the TOP Team will be taking the show on the road. One community in Lanark and one in Renfrew will be the destinations for our traveling Labour Market Road Show. Watch local community bulletin boards for more information.

3) Learn to Read Initiative - The TOP Team will facilitate the partnerships between local Reading Centres and local Seniors Centres. Our goal is to conduct a Train-the-Trainer workshop where Seniors will be taught how to teach our youths to read. The experience and love of reading from our seniors will go a long way in supporting this Learn to Read project.

4) Speakers' Bureau - Across Lanark and Renfrew Counties, the TOP Team will solicit the names of experts in Labour Market programs and information, to be made available for your next function. This list of speakers will be maintained on the TOP website.

Manufacturers Support Millwright Apprenticeship Program

A huge THANK YOU for the support shown by our local industries. Six companies from Lanark County have hired Millwright Apprentices for the summer. The students are currently working on a two-year program at St. Lawrence College in Kingston.

We are feeling the effects of the skilled labour shortage here in Rural Eastern Ontario. With the Apprenticeship Program, we are demonstrating a true WIN/WIN situation. The local manufacturers are getting enthusiastic skilled trades people. As well, they are receiving a minimum of 25% tax credit on wages paid, and the students are receiving practical experience which will be added to the mandatory hours of work as an Apprentice.

Congratulations to the students and local companies **Shorewood Packaging** – Smiths Falls, **Central Wire** – Perth, **GH Metal** – Smiths Falls, **H Rose Machining** – Carleton Place, **KVB Manufacturing** – Smiths Falls, and **Seagrave Fire Trucks** – Carleton Place.

Our apprenticeship brochure is now available to those interested individuals. This brochure provides information about the Ontario Apprenticeship program, eligible trades, employer incentives and tax credits and the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP). You can download a soft copy off our website; it is listed under the **Apprenticeship** heading on the left hand side of the main page. If you would like a hard copy of the brochure please let your county coordinator know and they will take care of getting a copy to you.

OPTIONS 2006

More than 2700 high school students from across Renfrew County attended the Options 2006 Skilled Trades Fair on April 21 in Renfrew. The event featured dozens of interactive displays that allowed students the opportunity to experience skilled trades such as welding, painting, automotive repair & cabinet making. Additionally, 103 students participated in a skills competition in several trades including small engine repair, tire changing, culinary management, hairstyling and team carpentry. The students who competed in the team carpentry competition built storage sheds which were later sold in the community, raising \$2400 in student bursaries for students who will be pursuing apprenticeship or post-secondary training related to the skilled trades.

This was the first time Options was held in Renfrew, following three very successful years in Petawawa. The event was partially funded by Passport to Prosperity, Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation, Service Canada & the Apprenticeship Branch of the Ministry of Training, Colleges & Universities. Other community partners included the Town of Renfrew, Algonquin College, Atomic Energy of Canada, the Renfrew County District School Board, Renfrew County Catholic District School Board & Job Connect.



Jaws of Life demonstration

CASTLE 2006

An estimated 1500 people attended the third annual CASTLE Smiths Falls/Perth event held at the Smiths Falls Curling Club on May 11 2006. Students from grades 8 to 12 gathered career and skilled trade's information. The event was also of special interest to people considering a career change, currently unemployed or in job transition.

The CASTLE event featured over 60 display booths representing local industry, business, educators and employment services. The exhibits provided a one-stop experience that provided visitors with useful and timely information on a variety of careers and skilled trades. Examples of many skilled trades and professionals working in specialized careers were on hand to field questions, provide demonstrations and help visitors learn more about career options. Colleges provided information booths on specific career training courses and many service providers assisted visitors in learning how to pursue a chosen career path.

This event is hosted by St. Lawrence College and funded by the Government of Canada under Service Canada's Labour Market Partnerships Program. CASTLE is also supported by the generosity of sponsors, including TOP (Trends, Opportunities and Priorities), Passport to Prosperity and Hershey.

Smiths Falls YouthWorks

Currently we have 20 youth aged 16-30 at the Smiths Falls campus participating in the YouthWorks program. The purpose of the Smiths Falls YouthWorks program is to prepare the participants for future work or career decisions and/or assist them with seeking, obtaining and maintaining employment. This group-based intervention offers young people the opportunity to participate in workshops to learn or enhance skills transferable to the workplace, such as leadership, teamwork and communication skills, as well as develop personal qualities, including self-esteem and self-reliance.

After successfully completing this course, the participant will be able to:

- ✓ Demonstrate an acceptable level of English communications skills;
- ✓ Demonstrate sufficient mathematics skills to perform arithmetical tasks encountered on the job;
- ✓ Be able to think and solve problems;
- ✓ Demonstrate positive attitudes and behaviours;
- ✓ Be responsible and adaptable and learn continuously;
- ✓ Be able to work safely;
- ✓ Be able to work in teams with others; and
- ✓ Demonstrate ability to work on projects and tasks.

If you would like more information on this program please contact:

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Overview of
CASTLE 2006

Lanark and Renfrew Counties Labour Market Working Group

Lanark County

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<http://www.algonquincollege.com/RenfrewLanarkWorkforce/index.htm>