



Professional Automotive Collision Repairers' Association of Essex County

PACRA news for Ontario

April 2006

pacrahelps

WINDSOR AREA BODY-SHOP ASSOCIATION HELPS 78 MORE STUDENTS LEARN COLLISION REPAIR

Western Secondary School in Amhurstburg had a problem. Its spray booth, over 30 years old and desperately in need of repairs, was shut down by the Greater Essex School Board for environmental and safety reasons in the summer. Now 78 students in the autobody program would no longer be able to be trained. Many more students that relied on the spray painting booth to help them in painting for industrial, technical, art, metal working or other subjects now found they could not have their own projects completed. In stepped the local collision repair trade association, PACRA (Professional Automotive Collision Repairers Association of Essex County) who took the initiative to solve the situation. Within a matter of a few weeks, the group had organized a major meeting at the school, with industry assistance, suppliers, shop owners and school officials to map out a plan of action. Two weeks later, the Director of the Greater Essex County District School Board at a special meeting in Windsor, heard an incredible story from almost 20 attendees: An almost new spray booth that matched the same size as the old booth was being donated; A plasma cutter was being donated by a car dealership; A coatings firm was donating material and some paints; A spray booth firm was going to help install

the new booth; Some frame rack equipment was being donated; Vehicles were being given to the auto body program

"This is a success story on how industry suppliers, shops and school officials can co-operate and ensure that many students can be trained for good careers with a great future as apprentices," said Roger Beaulieu, President of the Windsor area collision repair association. For the rest of this article please visit the PACRA association page on www.ciia.com

WARNING ISSUED - COLLISION REPAIR SHOPS DO NOT NEED TO PAY A FEE TO ACCESS CREDITS

The Collision Industry Information Assistance (www.ciia.com) web site is warning shops that attempts to convince them to use a company to obtain dollars owing to them in apprenticeship credits is not needed. Tony Nigro of www.ciia.com advises that a number of shops have been contacted recently and told that for a 25% contingency fee or \$500 per apprentice per year, a private company will obtain a cheque owing to them for apprentice credits. "The incentives and credits available to hire and retain apprentices are often not know to shops. Receiving a call from a company who will handle that credit for you is inviting, but the fees are not. Shops can easily fill out and send in the forms themselves, without paying contingency fees or a large percentage of the monies owing to them, said Mr. Nigro

CarFixWORLD SIGNS ON SIGNIFICANT EXHIBITORS

Several significant players in the Canadian aftermarket and collision industry have signed on for CarFixWORLD, the automotive industry exhibition taking place September 29 to October 1, 2006 at Toronto's National Trade Centre. The exhibitor commitment continues to grow and an early survey of potential show visitors indicates attendance will exceed initial expectations, according to John McLean, the event's manager. Exhibitors who have signed on include Carcone's Auto Recycling, Cars Systems Inc., Chicago Pneumatic Tool, Citation, Delphi, Dominion Sure Seal, Fleetchek.com, Global Finishing Solutions, Gojo Industries Inc., Henkel, Hofmann, Inov8, Matco, Transport Canada, RS Finishing Systems Inc. and Thermofluid Technologies. CarFixWORLD also conducted an email survey to trade publication readers in both the repair and collision sectors. Nearly 1,000 replies were received. The survey indicated consistent enthusiasm for the "one big show" concept from all sectors of the aftermarket community. Survey respondents indicated an enthusiasm for the show to focus seminars on product training, business management, technology/equipment, tools and recruitment. "This speaks to our extensive schedule of seminars and special presentations at the show. CarFixWORLD will set a new benchmark for the industry," noted McLean

Special points of interest:

MEMBER BENEFIT PROGRAM

For the first time in Ontario, autobody and collision repair shop owners/operators can enjoy reduced costs while helping their local trade association. **Save** thousands of dollars on your garage insurance policy costs. Save almost \$1000 with a special offer from ADP. Make **thousands** of dollars with increased profits from our special consultants. Simply join your local collision repair trade association by calling 1-866-309-4272 for your membership kit.

WWW.CIIA.COM

The Automotive Industry's Information Centre. Featuring news, employment postings and Collision repair shops across Canada

*10 steps to a more profitable shop.
Yours free to download on the opening page of*



www.ciia.com

**New Autobody Compliance Web site
Autobodyhelp.ca**



**For further details please visit our news / events section
on www.ciia.com or call 1-866-309-4272**