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WINDSOR CONTRACTORS TO HOST 2004 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND AGM

This fall, the Windsor contractors have invited ECAO members to hold their Annual Conference and General Meeting in their hometown, September 29th to October 3rd, at the Casino Windsor, a four-diamond property with superior facilities and exceptional service and Canada's highest-rated casino.

The event kicks off Wednesday evening with a Mix & Meet Wine Tasting presented by some of southwestern Ontario's finest winemakers. The following morning, Ralph Nichols, of the Dale Carnegie Corporation, will inspire and motivate conference-goers with his keynote address on leadership and success.

Business sessions on Thursday and Friday include estate planning, workplace safety incentives and corporate governance. While the delegate's are benefiting from these excellent sessions, their partner's will be visiting Point Pelee National Park, Pelee Island Winery, Jack Miner Sanctuary, the Canadian Club Brand Centre and the Odette Sculpture Park. Friday afternoon will present an opportunity for attendees to play a round of golf at Windsor's most exclusive course, the Essex Golf & Country Club. The Essex is a traditional Donald Ross design and hosted the Canadian Open in 1976, the LPGA's duMaurier Classic in 1998 and the AT&T Canada Senior Open in 2002.

Following the golf, conference attendees will be entertained with a "Saturday Night Murder" mystery dinner with a 1970's disco club as the scene of the crime. The dinner will be held in the Essex's elegant and stately dining room. Delegates and their partners are invited to dress up with platform shoes, polyester clothes and 'out of sight' hair. Can you spell Y-M-C-A?

Additional events include the Henry Ford Museum or Ford's recently opened "Rouge Factory Tour". As always, the conference wraps up Saturday evening with the President's Reception and Gala.

Visit www.ecao.org to find out more and let the excitement begin!

MEMBER SERVICES SURVEY NOW ON-LINE

The Member Services Committee of ECAO needs your help! In order to assist ECAO in making your association better for you as an individual member, an e-survey has been created. Each individual member is requested to complete the survey and express their views with respect to member services and activities provided by ECAO. As an incentive, ECAO will be awarding three ECAO logo jackets, which will be presented during the ECAO conference in the fall. Deadline for submissions is September 15th. The survey can be found on the ECAO website when you login as a member at www.ecao.org. If you don't already have your Login Name and Password, contact Lucy Roberts at the ECAO office at 416-675-3226 X312 or lroberts@ecao.org.

FEDERATED INSURANCE ANNOUNCES ON-LINE QUOTES FOR PERSONAL LINES

ECAO and Federated Insurance Company of Canada are pleased to announce a new member service for all ECAO members. To get your on-line quote for personal lines insurance (home and auto) simply click on the links provided on the ECAO Member Services webpage at http://www.ecao.org/visitors/services_for_members.htm.

LICENSING LEGISLATION CAUGHT IN NDP FILIBUSTER

Bill 70, which includes a section enabling the Electrical Contractor Registration Agency of ECAO (ECRA) to establish province-wide licensing of electrical contractors, was introduced on April 29, 2004 (see Ontario Electrical Contractor Magazine for full story). Since the Bill had all party support, it was expected that it would pass before the end of the first session of the legislature. Unfortunately, Bill 70 got caught up in a broad-based filibuster driven by the NDP in reaction to the McGuinty budget, the federal election and other opposition party baggage. As a result the Bill was not passed by the end of June as planned.

This action is a temporary setback that delays passage until fall 2004. In the meantime, the ECAO, OEL, ESA and the municipalities continue to develop transition plans for implementing province-wide licensing.

In preparation for province-wide licensing, ECAO is beginning a campaign to register all ECAO master electricians and licensed contractors with ECRA. To get registered, contact Penny Semenenko at 416-675-3226 X314 or psemenenko@ecao.org.

NON-CONTACT VOLTAGE DETECTORS

As per the new Section 1801 I of the Principle agreement all new and existing apprentices will be provided with a non-contact voltage detector which will be funded by the Joint Electrical Promotion Plan (JEPP).

After researching available products on the market the Greenlee GT-11 detector was selected. JEPP is working closely with Greenlee to develop an information/safety CD. This interactive safety training CD is provided as an overview of how the GT-11 non-contact voltage detector's specifications and safe operating procedures. It will also include a self-test and printable confirmation form.

These detectors are not meant to replace the obligation of the journey person to ensure that the apprentice does not work on any live circuits. It is a device to allow the apprentice to confirm that he is working under a safe, non-energized condition.

It is anticipated the detectors will be distributed to the local areas at the end of July.

ECAO is negotiating with Greenlee for a special contractor pricing that will include imprinting their company logo for any of those contractors who wish to purchase them. If you have any further questions do not hesitate to contact Gary Lehman at 416-675-3226 X315 or glehman@ecao.org.

INDUSTRY ADVISORY – RESPIRATORY PROTECTION UPDATE (ASBESTOS)

The Ministry of Labour will consult shortly on draft amendments to Regulation 838 respecting Asbestos on Construction Projects and in Buildings and Repair Operations. A copy of the proposed regulations is available on the ECAO website at <http://www.ecao.org/visitors/safety.htm>.

The Ministry recommends constructors, contractors and employers implement these measures immediately as good practice to ensure enhanced respiratory protection for workers.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ELECTRICAL SECTIONS OF THE SAFETY REGULATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

The Ministry of Labour has produced draft amendments to the Electrical Sections of the construction regulations and is seeking your input. A copy of this latest draft is available on the ECAO website at <http://www.ecao.org/visitors/safety.htm>. Send your comments to grobertson@ecao.org, which will be submitted to the Electrical Trade Committee of the Provincial Labour Management Health and Safety Committee (PLMHSC).

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

ECAO will be establishing a Workplace Safety & Insurance committee and is seeking volunteers. If you wish to participate, please contact Gary Robertson at 416-675-3226 X316 or grobertson@ecao.org.

OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE CONSULTATIONS

The Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) is inviting comments from the public on all sections of the *Draft Report of the Chair of the Occupational Disease Advisory Panel*. You can now download a copy of the draft report, as well as the Summary and Guide to the Draft Report from the WSIB's web-site (www.wsib.on.ca).

The purpose of the Report is to help provide a solid and clear platform for both fair and consistent occupational disease policy making and adjudication at the WSIB.

If you wish to register your comments through ECAO, please contact Gary Robertson at 416-675-3226 X316 or grobertson@ecao.org.

HYDRO ONE IMPROVES SERVICE ORDER REQUEST FORM

Hydro One has changed the service order request form used by contractors to request a new service layout, service upgrade or cable locate.

The new form allows Hydro One to provide more accurate estimates for these services and also complies with privacy legislation. Hydro One will no longer accept the old contractor fax form after September 30, 2004.

Download the new fax form at www.HydroOneNetworks.com and click on 'Contractor Fax Form for Service Requests' or contact Hydro One by phone at 1-800-367-0855.

CONTRACTOR REPRESENTATIVES SOUGHT BY EAGLE GENERATORS

The Eagle Generator Factory is looking for a limited number of electrical contractors to install and represent its generators in Ontario. Qualified contractors can contact Barbara or Paul at 1-714-534-5000 or sales@westecmachinery.com for further information.

ECAO WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Beehler Brothers Electric Limited, Kingston, ON, Quinte-St. Lawrence Member, Accredited Representative: Francis Beehler.

Ellacott Electric Ltd., Ottawa, ON, Ottawa Member, Accredited Representative: William Ellacott.

JET Electrical Technologies, Ajax, ON, Toronto Member, Accredited Representative: Jim Tilley.

Local Electric, Cobourg, ON, Oshawa & District Member, Accredited Representative: Ron Johnson.

Novak Electric Co. Ltd., Markham, ON, Toronto Member, Accredited Representative: Novak Drecun.

Thor Contracting, Ajax, ON, Toronto Member, Accredited Representative: Mark Young.

York Power and Lighting Inc., Markham, ON, Toronto Member, Accredited Representative: Robert Dudman.

Associate Members

Ceecom Inc., Markham, ON, Category: Consultant/Soft Services Supplier, Principal Representative: Ray Talwar.

Federated Insurance Company of Canada, Laval, PQ, Category: Insurance Provider, Principal Representative: Mauro di Tullio.

GTA Leasing Corp., Etobicoke, ON, Category: Vehicle Sales, Leasing & Service, Principal Representative: James Prosser.

Power Systems Technology (Eegenco) Ltd., Manotick, ON, Category: Manufacturer, Principal Representative: Laurie Ferris.