

# the distributor

AN ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTORS ASSOCIATION PUBLICATION



## Community Partnerships a Win-Win for London Hydro

Joint ventures between London Hydro and the University of Western Ontario and Fanshawe College bring students and electricity industry together

Over the past several years London Hydro has provided support and guidance to the London community in many ways - one of the most impressive is its relationship with the University of Western Ontario (UWO) and Fanshawe College.

London Hydro and the Faculty of Engineering at UWO have enjoyed a mutually beneficial, but unofficial partnership for many years. In fact, London Hydro sponsors the E.V. Buchanan scholarship, as well as utilizing specialty consultant assignments, summer student employment and supporting the fourth year engineering design competition.

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# Community Partnerships a



London Hydro recently invested \$50,000 in technology and research at Western's first Green Building, the Claudette MacKay-Lassonde Pavilion. From left to right - Paul Davenport, UWO President; London Mayor Anne Marie Decicco-Best; London Hydro Chair, Peter Johnson; Vice Chair, Mohan Mathur. (Photo courtesy of London Hydro)

As time went on both parties realized the value a formal partnership would provide to both organizations. London Hydro's management and board determined through a formal agreement that they would commit funding of \$125,000 over five years (\$25,000 per year) to facilitate collaborative research, student training and performance of technical service. Training of two students under the summer employment programs was also included in the agreement.

This joint venture brings the students and electricity industry together by allowing students and faculty in the Electric Power Engineering Program at UWO access to a working utility where they can test theories and train students. It also allows London Hydro access to research facilities, engineering graduates and the benefit of supporting our hometown university's expertise in the area of Electric Power Engineering.

Building on a growing community partnership to ensure London as a leader in the area of sustainable energy, the utility recently invested \$50,000 in technology and research at Western's first Green Building, the Claudette MacKay-Lassonde Pavilion.

London Hydro's Board believes that this investment in human resources will help yield many exciting career opportunities in the

alternative energy field and London Hydro is proud to provide its support to meet the needs of future generations.

"As with other successful partnerships with the University and the City, we're proud to participate in Western's Green Building Initiative," says London Hydro Chair, Peter Johnson. "By way of our support, we're investing in today's research and development of alternative energy, as well as tomorrow's cultivation of the much-needed talent and skills of future leaders in the electricity field."

## Building on a growing community partnership to ensure London as a leader in the area of sustainable energy . . .

As we have supported the UWO in energy conservation and power systems research initiatives, Fanshawe College is also very active in research activities and London Hydro has provided some funding to assist with the research and development of an integrated photovoltaic power system.

# Win-Win for London Hydro

... continued from front cover.


UWO is currently undertaking an exhaustive array of research subjects in integrating large solar power systems to the grid. Fanshawe College's proposal is slightly different and unique: it is a small, focused investigation and the salient feature of the proposal is to make the otherwise non-dispatchable solar generation as a dispatchable one. This is due to the innovative thought of combining on-site storage with the solar generator. The key factor of this focused research would be the development of an optimal control algorithm that will maximize the "money value" of solar generation. It is an exciting topic to research, the results of which will be available in two to three years.

London Hydro's funding of \$45,000 will be matched by the National Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), for a total value of \$90,000.

These exciting initiatives provide London Hydro and the community with an opportunity to invest in the development of highly skilled and talented individuals that will help to meet the needs of our future energy requirements while preserving natural resources. London Hydro's Board and management view this as a tremendous opportunity to work together in community partnerships to develop new and exciting technologies.

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IndEco Strategic Consulting Inc.  
77 Mowat Avenue Suite 412  
Toronto Ontario Canada M6K 3E3