



ONTARIO ELECTRICAL LEAGUE

Dialogue

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editorial FOCUS



Outdoor Electrical Challenges

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on the JOB

OEL activity is just another way to give back for Precision Electric

By: Stacey Roy

Scott Huckins, owner of Precision Electric considers his work with the Ontario Electrical League (OEL) to be an extension of what he's been doing his entire career – helping future and fellow electricians anyway he can.

As a first generation electrician, Huckins was encouraged to enter into the trades through school and regional competitions like the Halton Skills Competition.

"I took third in it 25 years ago," Huckins recalls. "Nobody typically ends up on the path that they started on. I'm weird in that way because I've wanted to be an electrician since I was 18."

Besides a brief hiatus where he worked in the design and program end of things,



Scott Huckins of Precision Electric enjoys giving back when he can be it with the OEL or educating Ontario's next generation of electricians.

the Milton area man has done just that, and has shared his experiences along the way.

This season he sat as a judge in the 2015

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Tri County Chapter finds unique way to give back

By: Stacey Roy

The members of OEL's Tri County chapter are putting the old adage "one man's trash is another man's treasure" to work in a new community donation program that swaps scrap metals for dollars in support of the Brant Community Healthcare System Foundation (BCHS Foundation).

"We're just in the throws of getting it developed," said Mal McEachern of the Tri County chapter.

Over the last few months chapter members have been working with BCHS Foundation and Reclaim Solutions

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To ensure delivery, maintain membership!

Precision Electric

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Halton Skills Competition. Huckins has shown through his experience and efforts that every electrician can make a lasting difference in the life of those coming into the industry.

“We try to help out where we can,” he said.

In addition to volunteering to judge the Halton Skills Competition, Huckins has also been involved in a school board initiative (Men As Career Coaches) that pairs professionals with senior students for a day of mentoring and career guidance.

“I’ve done it every year since its inception,” Huckins said.

Behind this considerable volunteer effort is a desire to see his industry grow, particularly in the face of growing demand and signs of a shrinking pool of tradespeople. Precision Electric is currently working on a six-to-eight week waiting list for their clients who willingly accept this lag time for quality service. While quality work is one of the things Precision Electric has built its name on since opening in 1994, Huckins knows his waiting list is not unusual in his field and points to one reason for this: “I think there’s a lack of skilled trades right now. Everything in the world runs on electricity, and we need more electricians.”

His desire to see positive change in the electricians’ field has led the Milton professional to the OEL where he has worked with

“Nobody typically ends up on the path that they started on. I’m weird in that way because I’ve wanted to be an electrician since I was 18.”

– Scott Huckins, Precision Electric

the Contract Committee alongside some incredible talent.

“It’s an impressive team environment. I’ve always been interested, but in the last year I’ve had more time and been able to volunteer on the committee,” Huckins said.

He’s really enjoyed sitting at the table and providing input to representatives of the Electrical Safety Authority and the Ontario College of Trades, some of which have been accepted and reflected in industry initiatives.

Interestingly, it was an inspector who initially approached Huckins and encouraged him to consider active membership in the OEL. Huckins said this chance conversation has brought about many benefits to his business from information sharing to relationship building.

“I’m happy he did. It’s helped develop my relationship with the inspectors, which is huge,” Huckins said.

Precision Electric services residential and commercial clients, and has been installing energy saving products, such as LED lights, for eight years. They have become a trusted professional resource for any job no matter how big or small. Next year, Huckins hopes to add another professional to his crew so he can better serve his customers. For more information on Precision Electric, please go to www.precisionelectric.ca or call 416-564-9766 to speak to Scott. ☺

Tri County Chapter

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Incorporated to create the Weigh Your Scrap and Give Back program. The program encourages contractors to call Reclaim Solutions Inc. and have them weigh their scrap material and convert it into cash on site. At this point, the contractor has the option to donate all or a portion of the scrap’s cash value to the BCHS Foundation. McEachern emphasizes that the amount to be donated is entirely up to the individual contractor.

“I think we’ve got a good partnership with the three organizations. We want to see what we can do,” McEachern said.

The opportunity to receive such valuable support from the professional contractors in their community is a win-win for BCHS Foundation.

“The BCHS Foundation is excited to be involved in this wonderful initiative. . . we are grateful to the many companies and individuals who have already signed up to participate in the Weigh Your Scrap and Give Back Program,” says Sherri Bocchini, president and CEO, BCHS Foundation.

Keith McIntyre, of Neighbourhood Electric, has donated 10 green drums, which will be used to collect the scrap metal at participating sites. These drums feature the program’s logo and



“Brad Cooper of B.J. Cooper and Sons Electrical deliver their scrap barrel” – Submitted photo

“We want to see what we can do” Mal McEachern, Tri County chapter.

have been out at various locations since the spring.

“The fact that they [Reclaim Solutions Inc] can . . . weigh it right there is huge,” expresses McEachern.

The foundation recently spoke to the Tri County chapter membership about their work and the importance of donors such as those who are taking part in this program.

BCHS Foundation purchases necessary equipment for both the Brantford General Hospital and for The Willets, Paris. Items such as Geriatric Chairs, Ventilators (\$56,000 each), Vital Signs Monitors, Glidescopes and event Critical Care Beds (\$30,000 each) are all urgently needed and not funded by the ministry. The Tri County chapter recognizes the vital service both the hospital and Willets, Paris provides to the community, and hopes this new program will provide regular quarterly donations on behalf of electrical contractors from the region.

“There isn’t really anybody, at some point of life, that will not need the hospital for something,” McEachern said.

Scrap metal is a common waste product from job sites. The Tri County chapter felt this program was a positive way to be active in their community. ☺