

Volume 13, Issue 27 ☐ July 03, 2006

Important Dates to add to your calendar...

- ☐ **Jul 5th, 12-3:30 HPM GMT Meeting.** Host: Mancor, Speers Road facility, Oakville
- ☐ **Aug 16th, 11:30-5:00 HPM Board Meeting.** Host: GE Multilin, Markham
- ☐ **Oct 11th, 12:00-3:30 HPM GMT Meeting.** Host: COM DEV Space, Cambridge
- ☐ **Nov 22nd, 11:30-5:00 HPM Board Meeting.** Host: Rockwell Automation
- ☐ **Nov 29th, 8:30-4:30 HPM Share Showcase** – See the diversity & harvest innovative ideas from each HPM'er



"Keynote speakers were of diverse subject matter but all important and relevant. Look at the two contrasting and styles on the last day, "engaging Norm" followed by "Strategy Dan". All speakers were first class. The practitioner sessions were more than just the normal "Rags to Riches" stories. They gave a great insight into WHAT they did, WHY they did it and HOW they did it. They told of how they managed the 'push-back' - and the effect on the people and the business. They offered some real takeaways other manufacturing folk could relate to.

Gary Kerr – Leader, Australian Delegation

plants, hosted Workshops and day-long Accelerated Learning Experiences, or shared openly their Best Practices for a free exchange of knowledge and know-how.

In a word, these 879 people were **TOUCHED** by the 2006 AME Canadian Regional Lean Conference organized by AME's Canadian Region, the High Performance Manufacturing Consortium, Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters, Innovation Insights, Plant Magazine, the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, and Canada's Technology Triangle with the help of the Greater Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber of Commerce.

Industry support for the conference was enthusiastic from COM DEV, RIM, Giffels, who sponsored the Lean Leaders Night, plus CTS, Eaton Electrical, HPM, MicroBird, La-Z-boy, Flexsim, Nothers Awards, Run-Time, the Edmonton Economic Development Corp. with the Conference's Platinum Sponsor being the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade.

Other than Canada where did the 879 come from?

50 came from 22 US States, 19 from England, 5 from Australia and two each from Ireland and Hungary.

Canadian Participants

From Manitoba, 54 attended; from Alberta came 42, and from Saskatchewan 31. Fifteen attended from Quebec, 12 from British Columbia, 9 from Newfoundland and 7 from Nova Scotia... with the host province of Ontario contributing 629.

Ontario Participants

From within the Kitchener-Waterloo-Guelph-Cambridge area the participation varied – however a good number of **area companies were tour hosts** over the 3-day period.

- ☐ Guelph contributed 69 attendees
- ☐ Cambridge 56 attendees
- ☐ Waterloo contributed 18 attendees (but combined with RIM's 44 participants – the total reached 62.)
- ☐ Oakville – 59 London – 49
- ☐ Kitchener – 41 Burlington – 29
- ☐ Mississauga – 28 Toronto – 27
- ☐ Brantford – 25 Concord – 18
- ☐ Sarnia/Windsor – 16 Walkerton – 16
- ☐ Bolton – 14 Markham – 11
- ☐ Hamilton – 11 ... **From Other CDN Cities**

**The Facts Are In...
Kitchener Conference
Impacted 879
Manufacturing
Practitioners**

*... from 6 nations, 22 US States,
8 Canadian Provinces*

*"This was the best conference I ever attended
– and I've been to many."*

Brian Clements - Algonquin Automotive, Former VP Steelcase

These data are based on the 'touch' principle as identified by AME's Chairman, Tony Laraia – Mfg. leader at Wiremold's Legrand Operations in CT.

The rate of change is dependant upon one's ability to touch people in the right way - to begin the necessary cultural shift that can produce a sustainable pattern of behaviours that has Continuous Improvement as its core.

879 is now the accurate number of the total number of people who attended, organized, supported, and volunteered to deliver a 'culture-changing' 4 days that clearly conveyed the message **that it does not matter whether you are competing against China or the rest of the world – Success in Manufacturing begins at home.** It begins with the mindset that enables one to look at the processes right in front of them and see what is really there. It begins with the belief that 50-70% of the waste or 'ugliness' in our home-base operations is there because we just cannot see it. It is invisible to us because we live in it every day. As one speaker said "It is amazing how ugly our baby has to become before we see what is before us."

Two weeks ago, 879 people were touched by a conference that delivered an unvarnished and hard-hitting message conveyed by practitioners who opened their

From Other Major Canadian Cities

- Winnipeg - 51 Attendees
- Edmonton - 21
- Calgary - 16
- Saskatoon - 09
- Moose Jaw - 08
- St. John's - 06
- Victoriaville - 06
- Vancouver - 05

*"I have had contact with 5 of 6 [Alberta] Consortiums and all who have attended provided very positive comments on the Conference. They described it as outstanding, providing them with the necessary energy to come back and work on issues in their organization, and being focused on the fact that the Global marketplace is adding an acceleration to the need for change and the rate of change.
Very high rating for the Keynotes, the ALE'S, the Value Stream presenters, and the Tours.
Full value for the time and dollars invested!"*

Brian McCready – VP Alberta Division CME, Alberta

The Trend Continues – Lean Journey to World Class Accelerates by Exposure!

Observations at last year's Boston Conference saw **even small and medium size mfg companies sending extraordinary numbers of staff to recognized Lean conferences**. This trend continued here in Kitchener two weeks ago with a total of **24 companies sending 10 or more attendees** - up to a maximum of 44.

This approach often occurs when a company's culture is in its evolutionary stage and the progressive management teams coach the process to move their evolution in the right direction. For older companies – nothing is more powerful than seeing peers in other companies doing things the doubters thought could not be done – and doing them well. As a rule, seeing a peer execute a process is more powerful than listening to a manager/supervisor. It gives the skeptical person a chance to discover how it is done for him/herself. Such discovery has great 'sticking power'. The approach requires leadership. At this conference, those taking leadership by helping to develop a rapid 'help-team' right inside their own company include:

Research in Motion	44	Attendees
Mancor Industries	26	
Vicwest / Weststeel	26	
Hammond Power Solutions	24	
COM DEV	22	
Canada Post	21	
Cogent Power	18	
CFN Precision	17	
3M	16	
Larsen & Shaw	16	
Procor	16	
Trojan	16	
Husky Injection Molding	14	

"It was great to see such open sharing of ideas, and people being open to suggestions. I hope that RIM , Com Dev, and Rockwell managed to get something useful from us as we appreciate the time that they gave to host us."

Hilary Logan, Spokesperson
U of Cardiff Executive Lean Masters Program

"Well, we had a superb time. Thank you for all the great organization and help. We thoroughly enjoyed the conference - and the visits on Thursday and Friday. It was a real bonus to have Bob Kerr guide us on the tours. Thank you once again, on behalf of the Cardiff group."

John Bicheno, Director U of Cardiff Exec. Lean Masters Program

CDN Blue-Bird Bus	13
Rockwell Automation	13
Polycon	12
Air Boss	11
Labelad	11
NCR	11
Dana	10
Lanxess	10
MEDT	10
Messier-Dowty	10
SC Johnson	10
Doepker	08
Motor Coach	08
National Steel Car	08
Dare Foods	07
EH Price	07
Zenon	07
Cascades Boxboard	06
Forintech	06
Hammond Manufacturing	06
Orenda Aerospace	06
TC Canada	06

Those sending 5 of their staff:

- Case New Holland ~ Goodrich Landing Gear
- Gerrie Electric Wholesale** ~ GE Advanced Mtls
- Plastiflex ~ Nestles ~ Welco-Beales

The above numbers include the original passes **and** only the transferable passes the Conference registrar was aware of. The number of passes transferred between individuals and not reported isn't known.

So how many have been touched? It could reach well over 1,000 people – especially if those who were part of the ongoing 232 Conference Builder's Advisory panel who did not attend the conference were added. By being a member of the Advisory Board, the conference touched them - as they touched the conference by their advice and input.

'54 Manitoba manufacturing people have returned from the AME Lean Conference in Kitchener-Waterloo with lots of buzz - some were impressed with the tours and others were inspired by the speakers. Congratulations to the conference committee on a job well done. Good things ahead for MB Manufacturers with the "take-aways" brought back.'

Don Breakey – Executive Director MCME Consortium MB