



AFTERMARKET GRASS-ROOTS TRADE ASSOCIATIONS KICK OFF MAJOR PROPOSAL FOR "RECYCLE YOUR TOOLS" INITIATIVE

January 5, 2011

Too often young people find that the costs of tools restricts them from entering apprenticeship and doing the work they love - working on cars.

Recognizing the need to address that issue, the Ontario Automotive Recyclers Association (OARA), has provided initial funding for a "Recycle Your Tools" initiative that will help in proposal writing and research of this unique program.

The goal is to remove barriers from becoming a worker or apprentice in the motive power trades.

The program, recommended by the Hamilton District Autobody Repair Association (HARA) and the Automotive Aftermarket Retailers of Ontario (AARO), will involve a charitable tax receipt that is issued for hand tools donated by retiring techs, closing dealerships or shops.

When fully operational, students enrolled in Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) or Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) courses will catalogue, inventory and web place the tools and make them available at no charge or reduced costs to students entering apprenticeship or workplace environments. There are plans to provide tools to employers to be offered as retention bonuses, where apprentices could keep their employer-donated tools if they stayed at the repair facility for a specified time frame.

This planned initiative answers an industry need identified in the latest CARS Council sectoral report and should help increase the number of young people and apprentices entering the automotive repair and automotive recycling industries.

OARA is providing the funding to the Industry Education Council of Hamilton through the Retire Your Ride vehicle retirement program. Members donate a portion of the proceeds from each vehicle to charity with total charitable donations exceeding \$1 million dollars in the final two years of that program.

This initiative from the three largest grass-roots automotive trade associations follows on the heels of five workshops offered in southern Ontario by the three groups and highlights a growing positive relationship within the grass-roots organizations toward better co-operation to help industry and better serve the public.

For more information please contact:

About OARA – OARA members process end-of-life vehicles (ELVs) in an environmentally responsible manner, ensuring the environment is protected from potentially harmful operating fluids and toxins such as mercury and lead. They also recover guaranteed Green Parts from vehicles and ensure they are re-used saving the energy and pollution from having to manufacture a new part. Saving the environment and saving money has been successful combination for over 100 years. Steve Fletcher, Executive Director, Ontario Automotive Recyclers Association. 519-858-8761 or visit www.oara.com

About HARA – The Hamilton District Autobody Repair Association and www.cija.com are the largest collision repair trade industry group in eastern Canada, and provide services to industry and members shops to help them operate profitably in a professional, environmentally-friendly fashion for the benefit of consumers. HARA is active in apprenticeship programming, skills development and efforts to match more apprentices to openings in industry. Please contact John Norris, Executive Director, Hamilton District Autobody Repair Association (HARA) www.cija.com 1-866-309-4272

About AARO – Our association provides Independent Auto Repair shops with a united and credible voice before government. AARO has developed an Environmental Compliance Check-up Team to ensure all our members are in compliance with Environmental regulations. Our members continue to update their knowledge, their tools and equipment to effectively meet the demands of the new automotive technology. Since 1939, AARO has welcomed members in the automotive industry. Diane Freeman, Executive Director, Automotive Aftermarket Retailers of Ontario (AARO). www.aaro.ca 1-800-268-5400