

Rockwell honoured for funding tech showcase

The Canadian Champion, Friday, May 10, 1996—14

Halton Region's PEO Challenge was recently honoured with two Partners in Education Awards from the Conference Board of Canada.

The Professional Engineers of Ontario (PEO) Challenge hopes to influence grade seven and eight students to pursue math, science and technology studies as they go on in their education.

Milton's Rockwell International Suspension Systems Company has been a partner in the challenge since its inception three years ago. Students involved in the challenge work in teams with their teachers to solve an engineering problem related to the manufacture of steel coil springs at Rockwell's suspension systems facility in Milton.

Each team is assigned necessary materials and an engineer to act as a mentor. Together the teams present their respective solu-

tions to a panel of Rockwell and PEO engineers, who act as judges.

This year the challenge involved 22 teams at 18 schools in Halton working on a problem related to steel coil springs. Solutions will be presented on May 11.

"The PEO Challenge requires students to use their math, science and technology skills to solve a real problem," said Jeffrey Dixon, manager of manufacturing engineering at Rockwell's Milton facility. "Involvement also demonstrates to students the value of teamwork, and sharing and building on each other's ideas. Imagine a group of seventh and eighth grade students presenting technical proposals to a panel of Rockwell engineers, and you will have an idea of how math, science and technology studies are being brought to life for these students."

Bob Moulder, a math teacher at Brookville Public School, has been involved in the PEO Challenge for three years, and says the initiative has stimulated student interest by connecting mathematics to the real world.

"The PEO Challenge has been a fantastic experience for our students," said Mr. Moulder, adding that pupils often have difficulty understanding the value of mathematics until they see the discipline in action as a problem solving tool. "One of the most gratifying aspects of the program is the interest it excites about careers in technology."

The PEO Challenge is one of several projects sponsored by Rockwell to encourage excellence in mathematics, science and technology studies and build enthusiasm for careers in technology-related fields.

Rockwell contributed \$40,000 to the University of Waterloo's building fund, part of a \$200,000 five year commitment. The company also gave \$25,000 to fund general research at the University of Toronto, and smaller amounts to a number of colleges and universities for various programs.

Singing lessons a capella

A Cappella Showcase is a women's four-part harmony chorus which meets every Monday night at the Optimist Club on Commercial Street.

Beginning May 13 the group's director Judy Comeau will be teaching a series of five group vocal lessons. The lessons are free and include a voice analysis.

The singing group began in Milton in November, 1995 and boasts 50 members. New members are always welcome.

The vocal lesson program begins at 8 p.m. each Monday, with registration at 7:30 p.m. on the first night. For more information call Rockwell at (905) 876-0508.

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