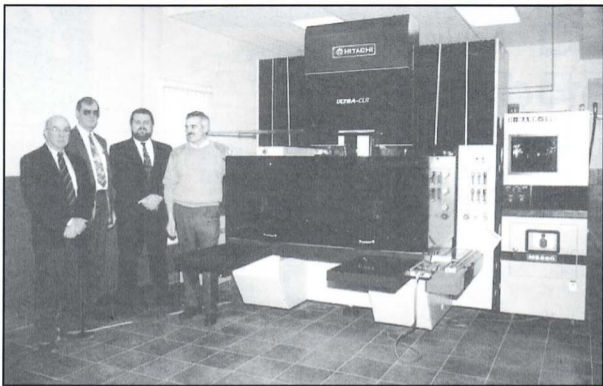


CLASSIC TOOL & DIE STAYS AHEAD WITH HITACHI EDM

"Although it seems like yesterday," says Classic Tool & Die's President Ivo Oppio, "seventeen years ago we were the first tool & die shop in the Windsor area to buy a wire EDM". Was Classic ahead of its time? Well, it appears that way because 80% of the industry now uses wire EDM.

In 1978, Classic consisted of a 600 square feet shop, and the ambitions of Ivo and his wife Kathryn, who began by doing detail work for other small shops. Within a year Classic moved into the die business, specializing in progressive dies for the automotive tier 2 suppliers, most of whom are stampers. Today Classic occupies over 8,000 square feet of space in a modern facility in Oldcastle (Windsor), Ontario, complete with full CADD capabilities. Plans are in place to add to the facility and to expand the engineering department.

Recently, Classic moved ahead of the pack once again with their latest acquisition, a Hitachi 810Q Ultra Cut wire EDM. Hitachi Digital Graphic (USA) Regional Sales Manager Dick Martin says, "This new Hitachi EDM will attract all kinds of new specialized work for Classic because it is the largest capacity wire EDM in Canada. It



Pictured above from left to right are: George Shaffer, Hartford; Dick Martin, Hitachi; Mark Emerson, Hartford & Ivo Oppio, President to Classic Tool & Die.

is a full 5 axis EDM with an auto loader, set up for unattended working in excess of 100 hours". "A few competitive EDM's come close to this machine on the X and Y axis but the Hitachi is considerably larger on the Z axis and its part capacity is greater", states Mark Emerson, National Sales Manager for Hartford Technology Ltd., the distributor for Hitachi in Canada. Since acquiring the Hitachi EDM, Classic has also purchased larger capacity machine tools to work with it.