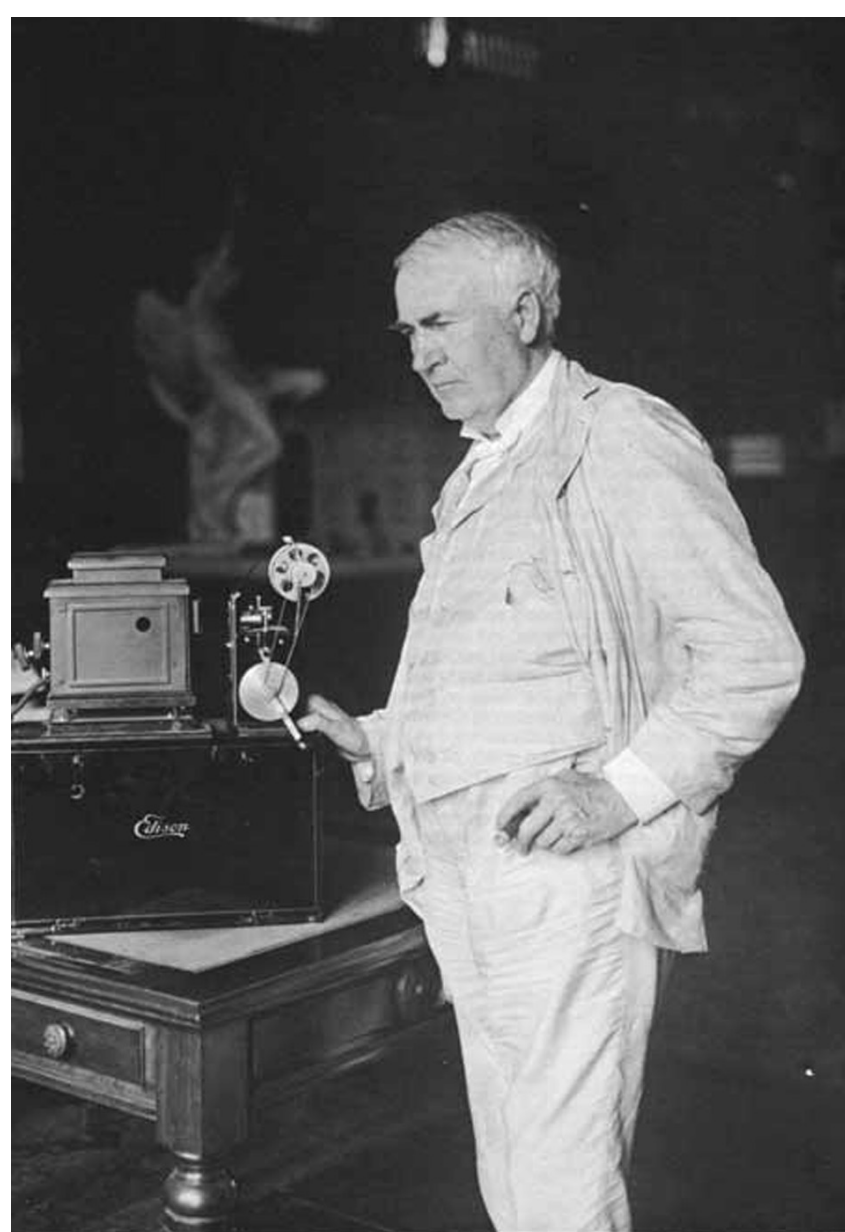


Invention *to* Innovation



Thomas Edison and the kinetoscope

Museums are repositories of past technology. Here, hundreds of inventions, that at one time amazed and entertained the world, from typesetting machines to voice recorders, now languish in obscurity. And yet, Museum London's collection attests to the interest these inventions and others once held for the city's citizens. Where did they come from and how did they change the way Londoners experienced their world?

Many of the examples on exhibit here are the result of the work of individuals like Thomas Edison whose labs and workshops produced the prototypes of dozens of articles that are still with us today though in much evolved form. Today, innovation most often comes from collaborative labs and centres, several of which can be found in London, Ontario. Individual genius is still part of invention, but more often, it is a long process of testing and retesting that involves many people over long periods of time.

This exhibition highlights recent innovations from three London companies: 3M Canada, LacMac, and Trudell Medical International, some of which may be familiar to visitors while others surprising. Many of these inventions are as crucial to people's lives today as those of one hundred years ago were to people of that era.

Invention to Innovation was produced in partnership with students from the Public History program at The University of Western Ontario. Please visit their exhibition website at www.invention2innovation.ca.

Innovation Now

The Stiller Centre and TechAlliance

The Stiller Centre

To create an "innovation excellence zone" of collaborative competition with partners in the private and public sectors that passionately believe in the discovery, that demand innovation, and support entrepreneurship. A zone where ideas and companies flourish, supported by the resources and networks required to compete successfully in global markets.

-The Stiller Centre Mission

Located in The University of Western Ontario Research Park, the Stiller Centre was developed to provide lab facilities and support for researchers, giving them the opportunity to refine their products and to make their businesses attractive to investors. This incubator model of company development plays an important role in nurturing entrepreneurship and innovation in London. The Stiller Centre is currently home to 16 tenants. One tenant, BTR Technologies, is working to develop new bio-fuels which will help keep the Earth clean for future generations.

The Convergence Lab, which opened in April 2006, is the focal point of the Stiller Centre. The lab contains microscopes, centrifuges, a minus 80°C freezer, incubators, shakers, and glassware. Fledgling companies rent space in the Convergence Lab where staff are available to help budding businesses who do not have the financial capital to start from scratch develop successful business models relating to their innovations.

Following their term at the Convergence Lab, companies move into one of the tenant labs at the Centre. Tenancy offers companies full access to the Centre's services, including conference and basic office facilities. If a company requires any resources unavailable at the Centre, Shared Services will find the necessary equipment or expertise. In addition, researchers have the advantage of being in a collaborative environment. The Stiller Centre represents a modern way of doing research, facilitating spontaneity and uniting researchers in their development of new technologies.

TechAlliance

[TechAlliance] is an umbrella for the entire community to come together, under one structure, one philosophy, which is to make London a leading technology centre and to work together to do that.

- Lindsay Sage, Director, Programs and Services, TechAlliance

TechAlliance is a not-for-profit organization supported by various London technology companies. It was founded in 2002 to promote and collectively nurture established and growing businesses, varying in size from 1-3 person research companies to large multi-nationals. TechAlliance is working to establish London as a centre for the knowledge-based economy of the future.

Through Lunch-and-Learn sessions and Peer-To-Peer groups, members come together to share their knowledge in an environment of collaboration. Large businesses, such as Trudell and 3M, participate in job-specific sessions.

A council of local business executives provides investment to promising companies under the Venture Services program. One success story is Scisense, who used a \$500,000 grant to expand research into the development of new tools for scientists in the fight against heart disease. TechAlliance also works with the City of London, the Government of Ontario, the London Economic Development Corporation, The University of Western Ontario, and Fanshawe College.