

**From DRIE Digest Volume 4, Issue 4, November 1995**

## **HAPPY 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY DRIE!**

At its September 12<sup>th</sup> meeting DRIE celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. What better way to signal the event than with a truly exceptional speaker. DRIE was delighted to have the “father of business recovery” Ed Devlin address the audience on the history of Business Resumption Planning and the issues which face us in our industry as we hurtle into the future.

As always, Ed’s talk was stimulating and entertaining and we appreciate his flying up from Philadelphia just to be with us for this special event (and a piece of cake!).

It’s hard to imagine DRIE has been in existence for 10 years. Imagine what the next 10 can bring!

**Also:**

### **DRIE Southwestern Ontario**

DRIE SWO had a very successful inaugural meeting in London in June. Hosted by London Life, the meeting featured guest speakers Don Brooks of BusCon and Steve Hurley of Comdisco, as well as presentation of certificates of appreciation by President Rod Mabley to seven participating organizations who continue to support the DR community. Launching a new chapter takes planning and organization – but it also takes money and DRIE SWO benefitted from the financial contributions of Bell, BusCon, Comdisco, GE Capital, IBM, SunGard and Vytalbase T-R.

Coverage of this initial meeting was carried in the London Free Press (see re-print of David Miller’s article below).

Following the success of the London meeting, DRIE SWO’s “travelling road show” went to Waterloo on September 13. Guest speakers Jack Finn of SunGard and Ralph Dunham of Continuum provided excellent sessions to a full house. This meeting was hosted by Economic Mutual. The December 6 meeting will be back in London and the 1996 meetings will alternate between London and Kitchener-Waterloo, with the exception of the June meeting which will be an all-day event held in Hamilton in conjunction with the Sixth World Conference on Disaster Management.

Also:

# *London Free Press*

*Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June, 1995*

## **Disaster Recovery**

**Firms told disaster plan will pay dividends later  
With rising computer use, data recovery has become a big concern.**

*By David Miller  
Free Press Business Reporter*

Disaster Planning isn't something that many businesses think about much – the same as most of us don't worry about emergency surgery, most of the time.

The again, any firm hit with a disaster will have to work through recovery anyway. So why not work out a plan now, instead of during a crisis? "If you fail to plan, you have already planned to fail," says Don Brooks of London, President of BusCon Planning Ltd., a speaker at Wednesday's inaugural meeting of the Disaster Recovery Information Exchange – Southwestern Ontario. This organization has been operating Canada for more than ten years and has just initiated a Southwestern Ontario chapter.

Brooks, formerly Bell Canada's Emergency Coordinator for Ontario, pointed to a variety of disasters that can disable a company. Ranging from the Oklahoma City bombing to minor fires caused by electrical circuits, the threats are abundant, he warned the audience. "When the event happens, you have to go through the process anyway. It's not easy when all hell has broken loose and it's coming down around your ears."

Brooks estimated that a major disaster could wipe out 73% of businesses without a disaster plan, up to two years after the event. A disaster, he explained, differs from an "emergency" in its timing and magnitude. And a disaster can prevent a company from carrying out "critical business functions" vital to carrying on.

With computer usage doubling every few months, disaster planning has become increasingly preoccupied with data recovery and systems maintenance after an incident.

HOT Site: A growing industry is "hot site" providers, who will arrange to carry on information processing for a client in the event of computer disruption, he said. That's OK, temporarily, but can be costly, and longer-term plans should be in place to handle data processing problems, he said.

Not to be forgotten is the human reaction to a disaster, often referred to as post-traumatic stress.

Brooks said co-operation of senior management is critical to formulating a disaster recovery plan. Sometimes that can involve a cost-benefit analysis pointing out the cost of the plan versus the losses involved in a disaster. There's usually a break-even point where the final advantages outweigh the disadvantages, Brooks said.