

Celebrating our 25th Anniversary

NOVA

tool & mold inc.

Let Nova Tool innovate for your next tooling program.



Tyler Drouillard, Mold Maker, John Novosel, Jr., President and GM and Paolo Moscone, Mold Maker Leader with two Lift Gate Panel molds for automotive OEM.

Looking forward to the next 25

By Anna Cabrera Cristofaro
Special to The Star

When John Novosel Sr. arrived in Canada from his native Croatia, the trained chef had few places in which to exercise his culinary expertise.

"He had a number of friends from the old country who were in the (tool and mold) trade," says his son, John Novosel Jr. "So he started working for a number of tool shops in the Windsor area, and eventually became a plant manager at one of the shops.

"A succession took place at that shop, and it was then that he decided to move out on his own, starting Nova Tool in 1989."

Four men made up Nova Tool and Mold at its inception – John Sr., John Jr. (then an apprentice), a senior moldmaker and an engineering manager. Through mass mailings and personal relationships, the four team members explored creating products outside the automotive industry.

"We did that on purpose, because we came from a tool shop that was strictly auto," says John Jr. "We wanted to diversify, and we did.

"But being in Windsor, and being right next to the motor capital of the world, we eventually got into auto. Today, our work is about 50% automotive, 50% non-automotive. We've chosen to stay diverse."

Nova Tool and Mold was originally located in a building in Oldcastle, inside a 10,000 sq. ft. unit that stood beside a smaller, 5,000 sq. ft. space occupied by another company. Nova's first project was a toy tool – a grocery cart for dolls – for a U.S. company that produced plastic toys for all of the major toy suppliers. The company continued to flourish in the toy business, and eventually moved on to vacuum cleaners and parts, aiding in the creation of bagless vacuums in the 1990s. Two major telecommunications companies became Nova's next major partners, for which Nova built telecommunication molds for mainframes and phone systems. ATVs, watercraft and snowmobile parts also became part of Nova's regular roster.

"We were in a semi recession at the time, but because we were always lean and diversified, it worked," says John Jr.

But moving to the auto industry was unavoidable, and the company gladly took on automotive work in 1991, developing drivers' and passengers' side airbag tools. At the same time, Nova Tool and Mold became known as the premier chair mold-maker, creating plastic patio furniture for every major furniture manufacturer.

The business continued to grow. "Things were good... we were growing," says John Jr. Eventually the company ran out of space in its original facility, and when their neighbours decided to move out, they moved into their space, expanding to 15,000 sq. ft. By this time, the four-man shop had grown to 15.

But the company kept growing, and soon, the 15,000 sq. ft. unit proved too small.

"So we opened another location on Halford, a 12,000 sq. ft. space, and the business continued to the point that we became an approved supplier to one of the Big Three," explains John Jr. "And we grew even more... and operating out of the two facilities was just not efficient anymore."

An addition was then built to the Halford plant, extending the space to just under 30,000 sq. ft. It's where Nova Tool and Mold still stands today.

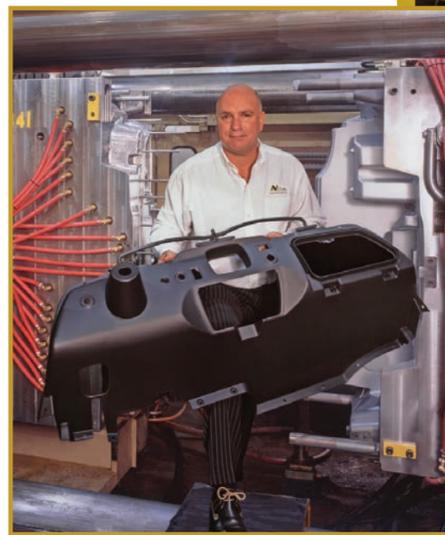
"Now that we've survived the first 25 years, we look forward to continuing to innovate and work toward improving current operations," says John Jr., who is now president and general manager of Nova Tool and Mold. John Sr. is retired, but continues to serve as an advisor.

"We've always been diversified, but we also work on a lot of innovative tooling," continues John Jr. "We've been involved in research and development from day one. We've been called a boutique mold shop – we take a current product or new process and help develop into production tooling.

"There's a saying in this industry: you're only as good as the last mold you built," says John Jr. "So the majority of our work being repeat business and word of mouth is a testament to how hard we've worked.

"We're looking forward to the next 25 years."

Nova Tool and Mold would like to extend their deepest gratitude to their loyal customers, suppliers and their tireless employees.



Alex Toldo Technical Sales Manager at tryout for ATV Instrument Panel.



Alex Toldo, Technical Sales Manager and Charlie Bastien, Engineering Manager with a Marine Outboard Motor.



John Novosel Sr., Founder of Nova Tool and John Novosel Jr., President & GM standing behind a multi cavity fuel tank for lawn & garden equipment.



Mario Pennesi, Controller & John Barsotta, Plant Manager with an Automotive Mold For A Gear Shift.



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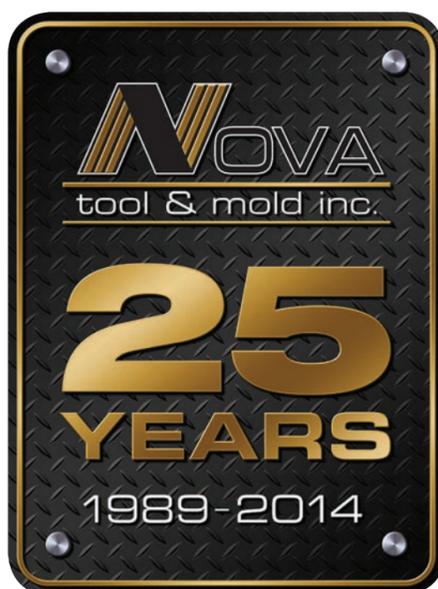
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Congratulations on your 25th Anniversary

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