

JUMP START

.....A CAREER



Co-op / Pathways News

Spring 2018

Experiential Learning Opportunities at YRDSB

By Reshma Badiani and Kim Vrensen, Curriculum Consultants, Community Based Education (Co-op)

Do you know students who:

- Show an interest in IT software applications?
- Demonstrate a skill competency in the trades?
- Have a “knack” for electrical components?
- Need to understand the importance of workplace employability skills?
- Want to determine how to get started on a path that is right for them?

Students in the YRDSB have an opportunity to learn about the trades and technology through a variety of experiences:

Skills Ontario Speaker

YRDSB schools have the opportunity to invite a Skills Ontario speaker into their intermediate or secondary classroom to share pathways information about the skilled trades.

Skills Ontario Cardboard Boat Race

Support a team of elementary or secondary students who can participate in an interactive cardboard boat race; students will use mathematics and design skills to build their own boat out of cardboard, and race down a pool under timed conditions during the months of December/January/February.

Technology Challenge for Grades 5-8

Sponsored by The Professional Engineers of Ontario - York Chapter offers two technology challenges in March of each school year.

NEW Elementary Robotics Competitions

Qualifier for the York Region Skills Challenge March 1st - over 100 elementary school teams (grades 4 to 8) registered for these qualifying competitions in February.

York Region Skills Challenge (YRSC)

An exciting event that showcases our students' talents every March. YRDSB students can enter a skills challenge in over 20 events ranging from Character Animation, to Lego Robotics, to Hairstyling and Fashion, to Prepared Speech, to Carpentry.

Ontario Skills Challenge

Winning teams from our York Region Skills Challenge compete at the Ontario Skills Challenge in May. Schools are invited to bring classes of students to see the provincial competition or participate in a variety of hands-on workshops related to skilled trades and technology.

We hope to see YRDSB students and staff participate in any of the above experiential learning opportunities.

For more information, visit: www.yrdsb.ca/skills



www.yrdsb.ca/skills

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Grade 7 & 8 Carpentry Challenge...

A new event at the York Region Skills Challenge (YRSC) this year!



The Carpenters' Union Local 27 hosted the YRSC Grade 7 & 8 Carpentry Challenge at their training centre. Teams of four students were asked to construct a scale model of a modest house based on a design they arrived with. Team construction projects were judged on a number of criteria including creativity, quality, team work, and demonstration of basic practical and theoretical knowledge of Residential House Design and Construction. Students were also given a tour and a career talk from two female tradespeople about the opportunities in the skilled trades.

The following is a reflection from Eric Cronin, Grade 8 Teacher at Glen Shields Public School, who organized a winning team at the event...

Upon receiving a S.T.E.M. kit (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) through a Board initiative, I introduced it to the students at our school at a club which was run during our lunch period. There were as many as 12 female students participating in the scopes for all of the Intermediate Skills Challenges that they had expressed an interest in. In preparation for the challenge, and in order to be equitable, I needed to choose 2 girls from a group of 5, who had actively participated in the preparations for the scope. The three other girls continued to participate and used the S.T.E.M. kit in the classroom.



I provided the construction materials needed to prepare for the challenge according to the scope. We used one to two lunch periods (100-120 minutes) per week over a number of months to plan and use the tools and materials. The group that participated delegated roles to meet the scope of the challenge and they all gained experience using various aspects of the tools.

The girls were extremely excited to participate in the YRDSB Construction Challenge and were elated with their success at this event. As a teacher, it was equally exciting. They were extremely motivated and increased the number of days per week to three, in order to prepare. One of the girls has selected Construction Technology in high school as an elective course. I know there is great interest among our current group of students in grades 4-7 as I have had many students inquire about participating next year. I have proudly displayed the trophies from the YRDSB challenge in our classroom!

www.yrdsb.ca/skills

Sutton EOP - Success Story 2016-17

By Ray Rietvelt,
EOP Teacher, Sutton District High School



Students from Sutton District High School enrolled in the Exploring Opportunities Program (EOP) with a focus on small engines participated in an exciting partnership with the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation.

Students travelled to Georgina Island on Lake Simcoe and received training and hands-on experience in forest management while assisting the First Nation in management of the threat to island forests posed by the Emerald Ash Borer.



Students and staff, in partnership with band members, identified and selectively logged Ash trees in the central part of the island. Forestry techniques, chain saw skills and safe forest practices were offered to students through a variety of partnerships. Instruction around cultural practices used while working with the First Nation was also offered to the students. Training occurred, prior to commencing work on the island, at the Georgina Trades Training Inc. Centre in Sutton. Students then travelled to the island via ferry two days per week to put into practice the concepts that they learned through this program. Other days were spent on classroom instruction and equipment maintenance.



Hands-on experience for students included developing a plan for felling each tree, practice in notching and wedging techniques, and when ready - using a chain saw to drop trees to the forest floor. Students also sectioned the logs into appropriate lengths for future milling and devised and executed a plan for the transportation of these logs to pick-up points on the island.

Congratulations to the students of Sutton District High School and the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation on a successful, innovative and engaging partnership.



CO-OP STUDENT VOICES

experience...learn...reflect

Becoming the career woman I want to be...

By Amy Korzeniowski,
Co-op Student, King City Secondary School

Strength

I am currently 17 years of age, 5 foot 6 inches, 130 pounds - not exactly your typical firefighter body build. Ever since I've been considering my future, people are constantly questioning if I am strong enough to be a fire and emergency services worker. To tell you the truth, I still can't clearly answer the question as the answer keeps changing. The more I learn, the stronger I become, and learning takes time. From the time I began my Co-op I've learned to answer the question with confidence. Being strong is partially about your physical abilities to lift significant weight, yet the technique of how you use your strength is equally important. Even more crucial is your mental strength, your willpower, your perseverance and the confidence that comes from feeling pride in your accomplishments.

Confidence

The most essential thing I developed from my entire Co-op experience is confidence, both in myself in general, and towards the specific tasks I do. Yes, I am a female with a Co-op placement in a very male dominated 'firefighter' environment, but that doesn't mean that I should be afraid to do what the 'guys' do, including taking chances, giving advice, and standing up for what I feel is right. Confidence helps me see past the difficult situations, encouraging success and seeing how I will reach my goal. I won't just stand on the side as a female...I'll do it...just watch me.

Courage

I came into Co-op with a solid foundation of support from family, friends and teachers. My supervisors and colleagues at my placement at FESTI, whom I have so much respect for, have helped me find my next steps towards becoming a confident and proud firefighter. I now know that firefighting is a career for me. Co-op has been so important in forging my future, and because of that, I strongly encourage everybody to have the courage to follow their dreams. Be confident in everything you do, take risks, and have the courage to enter into any field of work, male dominated or not.

Co-op Placement:
FESTI - Fire and Emergency
Services Training Institute,
Mississauga, Ontario



CO-OP STUDENT VOICES

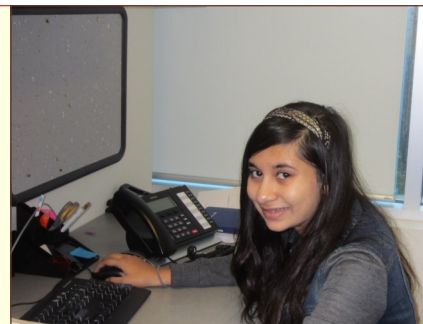
experience...learn...reflect

Exploring Career Opportunities in Healthcare

By Hiya Shah,
Co-op Student, Maple High School

By playing with my doctor's kit in my childhood or watching Grey's Anatomy, I have always visualized myself in a white coat with a stethoscope wrapped around me. Completing a semester of Cooperative Education at **Vaughan Health Centre** was a wonderful opportunity to experience the wide spectrum of healthcare.

Because of this new learning experience, I was able to enhance and improve my interpersonal, communication and teamwork skills. For instance, when I started my placement I was very quiet and shy especially when interacting with people who were older than me. Therefore, my supervisor assigned me the task of collecting client experience surveys to enhance my communication and presentation skills. Doing this task repetitively increased my comfort level when interacting with people of all ages. My Co-op supervisor also gave me the opportunity to explore all of the healthcare careers at the health centre. I was able to work with most of the physicians, surgeons, nurses and allied professions (podiatrist) throughout my placement. Because of these experiences, I have decided to pursue a career as a neurosurgeon. I would recommend every student participate in the Cooperative Education program to explore different career opportunities in a specific field or industry. Maybe one day I will be back in this same health centre as Dr. Shah with a Co-op student shadowing me!



By Khaleeq Nasir
Co-op Student, Tommy Douglas Secondary School

The main reason I joined the Co-op program was due to my interest in the medical field. I really wanted to experience working with patients and observing other healthcare professionals, such as nurses and doctors. I was given this opportunity at **Ettobicoke General Hospital**, where I completed two rotations. The first was a half semester on the 7th floor Medicine Neurology department. Here, I was able to work with nurses and allied healthcare specialists, such as the clinical pharmacist and the clinical dietitian. I observed how each of these specialties played their role in providing top quality patient care. On multiple occasions, I have been able to personally work with patients by providing them with meals as well as feeding them. This was



great firsthand experience in patient care. My second rotation was in Diagnostic Imaging, where I worked with the CT technologists to get patients ready for scans. My day consisted of stocking up the supply shelves, bringing patients around from the waiting room for their scans, and directing them to change according to their type of scan. On some days, I was lucky enough to witness biopsies take place. It was a very interesting procedure to observe, and I am very grateful for the opportunity.

By working in the healthcare industry I now have a new respect for its complexity, and how many people go into the care of one patient. I highly recommend students take part in Co-op, as it will definitely give them the experience they need to determine whether or not their chosen career path is truly meant for them.



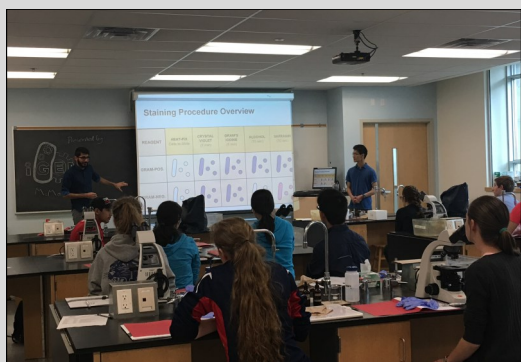
Specialist High Skills Major Program (SHSM)

SHSM is a Ministry-approved specialized program that allows students to focus their learning on a specific economic sector while meeting the requirements to graduate from secondary school.

YRDSB SHSM website: www.yrdsb.ca/shsm Ministry SHSM website: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/morestudentsuccess/SHSM.html>

SHSM works! *Reshma Badiani, Curriculum Consultant, writes...*

On Friday, May 26, 2017, Grade 11 SHSM Health & Wellness students from across the Board participated in the TD Discovery Days workshop at McMaster University. SHSM students explored a variety of career options in medicine and the health sciences by listening to a dynamic keynote lecture, participating in interactive workshops and a career panel discussion. Students gained a clearer picture of what it would be like to be a health professional by interacting with researchers, clinicians and educators in their real-life work setting. All of the workshops were hands-on and interactive and ranged from measuring vital signs in the simulation nursing laboratory, DNA Gel Electrophoresis and Analysis (*CSI in action*) to Orthopaedic surgery and casting.



"I learned an abundance of new information regarding mixing careers, such as Healthcare Lawyers. I learned that career changes throughout one's professional life is normal and that new experiences should be embraced as they make for more meaningful learning opportunities."

Arta, SHSM Student, Markham District HS

SHSM student reflections



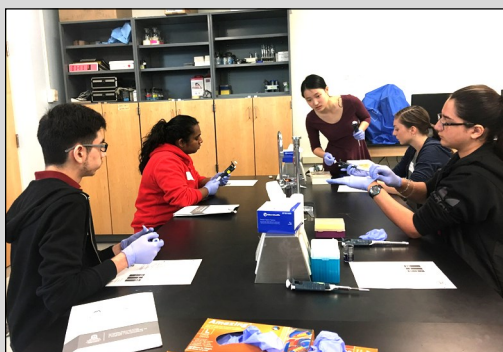
"I learned about the various opportunities and the numerous careers in the field of health sciences. Thank you for this awesome experiential learning opportunity."

Udain, SHSM Student, Middlefield CI



"This was a great opportunity to learn and meet others who are also interested in the health care field."

Grahanya, SHSM Student, Markville SS



"Amazing experience - fascinating and realistic insight on future career pathways along with a strong reinforcement of life skills."

Andy, SHSM Student, Pierre Elliott Trudeau HS



Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)

Accelerated OYAP combines the Co-op experience with instruction at the college / training institute. It is offered in Semester 2 and is open to students in their graduating year.

YRDSB OYAP website: www.yrdsb.ca/oyap

Ministry OYAP website: www.oyap.com

By Jennifer Sanderson
Co-op Teacher / Department Head
Bayview Secondary School

My student, Roulee Dagsi, has taken four credits of Co-op, two in Grade 11 and now again in her Grade 12 year. Roulee loved baking at home, and although it was just a hobby she really wanted to gain more knowledge and learn some more professional skills. She decided to enroll in Co-op at Bayview Secondary School to do just that!

Last year, Roulee worked at **Sugar Tiers** in Markham making the most delicious cake pops and the most delicate icing flowers to decorate cakes. She loved it and decided that baking and cooking could be more than a hobby and wanted to develop her desire to do hands-on work and to turn cooking into a career. She signed up for Co-op again in Grade 12. This time she interviewed and was successfully placed at **The Sheraton Hotel** in the kitchen working under talented chefs. She has helped make the food for many meals and events including the Quest Conference!

Roulee signed as an apprentice for the trade of 415A - Cook BR2. As an OYAP student, she is able to work on her training standards to prepare herself for her future plans to pursue a culinary arts career. I can't wait to eat in her kitchen someday! Dream big! In the words of Roulee, *"Stay motivated and focus on the stuff you really want to do in your life and have hope!"*

OYAP Cook Program



OYAP Carpentry Program



By Cameron Margerison,
OYAP / Co-op Student,
Markham District High School

My Dad is an electrician and I also wanted a career where I would be active and hands-on, rather than sitting at a desk. At MDHS, I took woodworking and construction courses that taught me about the importance of math (using a tape measure and conversions), and some of the tools I will need in the real world. Mr. More also helped me grow and advocate for myself so that I could become a leader in the classroom.

I chose Cooperative Education to pursue a career in the trades as a carpenter and to start building my hours towards my apprenticeship. I worked at **Upton Construction** last year for a four-credit Co-op and loved it. I learned the basics of how to frame a house, a lot about personal safety, how to work on a team, and all the tools that I will need to be a professional carpenter.

I chose Co-op again in my Grade 12 year so that I could enroll in the Dual Credit Accelerated OYAP, in which I was recently accepted. I thought it would give me a great head start in my career, and it's an awesome opportunity to expand my skills as I continue my apprenticeship out of high school. I hope to finish my apprenticeship then start up my own business in custom renovations and home building.



Where are they now? . . .



By Wing Zheng

**Former Co-op Student, Milliken Mills High School
Now - pursuing Master of Accounting degree at University of Waterloo**

I took part in the Co-op program at Milliken Mills High School (MMHS) in September of 2011. At this point I had yet to take an accounting course, but I thought accounting could be a career path - I just wasn't sure if it was for me. Taking the Co-op program gave me a better understanding of the work environment and it indeed was something I could see myself doing in the future. In addition, the teachers at the school and the Accounts Receivable Manager of **Timex Canada** gave me the support and encouragement to succeed and be where I am today. The program involved a real interview with the supervisor-to-be, which was a very useful experience to have and made me more confident in my future interviews, including with my current employer.

When I began working at Timex, the supervisor was patient with my learning, would adapt to my learning style and recognized each effort I made. I specifically recall it took me two repeated lessons to learn how to enter journal entries, of which each teaching style was different, so that I could better grasp the idea the second time around. While working at Timex, it was also the first time I interacted with auditors before I became one.

After I finished the program, I would continually visit Timex to update my supervisor on what I was doing; he was like a mentor to me. From entering my top pick school at the University of Waterloo in the Accounting and Finance program, to finding my first Co-op job in undergrad, and finally finding a full time returning offer at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), my supervisor always had a feeling that I would get this far. My choice to pick Accounting and Finance at University of Waterloo was because of Co-op at MMHS; I wanted a program that could offer me the same Co-op opportunities to learn even more.

After finding my second Co-op at PwC, I gained experience of being an auditor, just like the ones I saw at Timex. I audited many companies and their financial statements including construction, pipelines, mining, hospitals, pension plans, insurance, trust funds, and private equity funds. When I finish my Master of Accounting degree at University of Waterloo, which I am currently pursuing, I will return full time at PwC as a Senior Associate. If all goes as planned, I will receive my CPA designation by 2021 and I will have the Co-op program to thank for jumpstarting my career!

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Interested in hosting a Co-op Student?

Call: 905-727-0022 ext. 3438 or

Online: [Employer Placement Profile](http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/Coop/Pages/Employer-Placement-Profiles.aspx)

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/Coop/Pages/Employer-Placement-Profiles.aspx>

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BWW: [Cooperative Education \(Co-op\)](http://www.yrdsb.ca/services/cis/coop/Pages/default.aspx)

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