

JUMP START

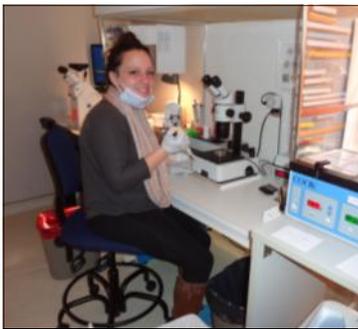
.....A CAREER



CO-OP NEWS

Fall/Winter 2013

CO-OP...EXPERIENCE IT!



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Co-op Student Award Recipients 2012-2013



Alexander Mackenzie HS

Rachel Burton
Eygló Thrastardóttir

Aurora HS

Vanessa Colton
Sam Ghajar-Davalu

Bayview SS

Iulia Baciu
Cheryl Che

Bill Crothers SS

Jaime Munro
James Wood

Bur Oak SS

Kelly Kong
Michelle Nguyen

Dr. G. W. Williams SS

Alex Boyd
Johnny Son-Nguyen

Dr. John M. Denison SS

Trevor Knott
Carleigh Strain

Emily Carr SS

Julia Mezzavilla
Athaven Nithianantha

Huron Heights SS

Samantha Coombs
Shivonna Simbhudas

Keswick HS

Denise James
David Stephens

King City SS

Parisa Mirzapour
Parnian Soltanipanah

Langstaff SS

Helia Nabavian
Christina Uggé

Maple HS

Alejandra Arevalo
Pawrnaa Perinpanayagam

Markham District HS

Gabriel Chan
Gordon Sun

Markville SS

Karen Lau
Vinothan Selvalingam

Middlefield CI

Vedanti Patel
Zahra Tootonsab

Milliken Mills HS

Amy Cao
Christopher Cho

Newmarket HS

Shane Kerr-Taylor
Gillian McMurray

Pierre Elliott Trudeau HS

Glory Widjaja
Samantha Yeung

Richmond Green SS

Stephanie Gastis
Samuel Hui

Richmond Hill HS

Andrea Hung
Nicole Segal

Sir William Mulock SS

Shahzaib Anwer
Muhammad Maisam Wazir

Stephen Lewis SS

Mary Belyk
Ben Gindin

Stouffville District SS

Taylor McGouran
Nick Trajovski

Sutton District HS

Justin Lamping
Bailey Lawrence

Thornhill SS

Brittany Kafka
Renee Lin

Thornlea SS

Reva Arieli
Kristy Yu

Unionville HS

Alice Chen
Cindy Keeling

Vaughan SS

Nicole Basovich
Daniel Levy

Westmount CI

Jonah Lowy
Dean Vaksman

Woodbridge College

Vivian Nguyen
Nancy Pham

Kristy Yu, Co-op Student, Thornlea Secondary School, writes...

Co-op is filled with opportunities and possibilities that will change your life!

Many people have asked me - *what was most memorable in high school?* I'm sure there are plenty of things on the list, but one thing that I've always answered with, were my Grade 11 & 12 work experiences in the Co-op program. I had the opportunity to work as a **Teacher's Assistant at Willowbrook P.S. and Johnsvie Village P.S.**, which allowed me to explore and learn about the job and most importantly - me!

After all these years of hesitation and fear of not knowing what I want to do, Co-op has assured me in my career path to do what I love most - teaching. Something important that I learned was to never set a bar in this course, for you'll never know what possibilities and opportunities lie ahead of you. Co-op at Thornlea S.S., without a doubt, changed me and shaped me to become the person I am today. I've learned much more than I could possibly imagine such as improving my employability skills, writing a proper résumé, and discovering my future career. This is not any ordinary program or course, but truly a life-changing experience that you will not regret taking!



STUDENT VOICES



By Max Morozov, Co-op Student,
Dr. G. W. Williams S. S.

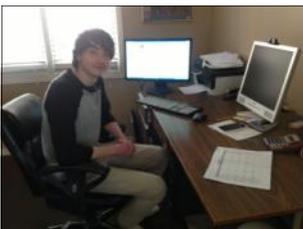
Watch Technician



Taking a full day Co-op course in Grade 11 has been the best choice I have ever made to kick start my career. I worked at **Rolex Canada**, where I learned to develop my skills as a watchmaker and get a good idea of where I want to see myself in ten years from now.

While attending Dr. G. W. Williams S.S., I always saw Co-op posters on the wall around the school and saw how much fun the Co-op students had learning in a workplace environment, which made me want to take Co-op too. But where? I knew one passion I had was towards designing luxury goods from Design Tech class, and I thought...*Hey, what about watches? Can I make a career out of luxury watches?*

Rolex had posted a video on careers in watch making, and I loved the precision of the craft and knew I wanted to be there for Co-op. After many calls and emails I was granted an interview. The VP of Rolex liked my knowledge of their products and that I had researched so much about watch making and the watch movements. I had to commute to mid-town Toronto daily and was placed in their pre-apprenticeship program designed for just Rolex watches. I started by recording the specifications on incoming watch repairs with high level security looking on, and then worked in polishing, sales, parts and quality control, and handled incredibly expensive watches. My supervisor at Rolex was a wealth of knowledge about the precision trade and how important it is to satisfy the customer. I did real work and will be working for Rolex for the summer too, hopefully for the rest of my career!



By Kameron Lee,
Co-op Student,
Newmarket H. S.

Online Sales & Marketing

Throughout my involvement in the Co-op and SHSM programs [at **Your Online Business**], I was given wonderful opportunities and experiences that have enhanced my learning and allowed me to grow and expand my knowledge.

The Co-op program is much more than just work beyond the school walls. It is a provider of defining moments that make you wiser and smarter day by day. Learning the right way from the people who have mastered what interests you, and who share the tricks of the 'trade' with new students eager to learn, is the best way to do it. I can't think of a better way to expand your knowledge of a career, and decide which career path is best for you than through a Co-op program.

My experience has shown me new programs and new ways to problem solve, create and expand on tasks and jobs given to me by our clients and my supervisor. It was an exhilarating opportunity with so much to give and I took all the knowledge I could.



By Amy Cao,
Co-op Student,
Milliken Mills H. S.

Tax Policy Agent Assistant



I believe Cooperative Education is an amazing program that all students should take. It provides students the opportunity to gain valuable work experience and enhance their skills in the working world. Some of the many benefits that Co-op students gain include expanding their network, connections, confidence, time management and communication skills. This list only includes a portion of everything that I have learned at my Co-op placement, the **City of Markham**.

Cooperative Education provides students, like myself, a better understanding of what they would like to pursue as a future career path. This experience has allowed me to understand and become familiar with the taxation sector of accounting.



After my Cooperative Education experience, I have decided that I would like to pursue the accounting career path in the future.

STUDENT VOICES

Co-op ... An Opportunity Not to be Missed!



By Shahzaib Anwer,
Co-op Student, Sir William Mulock S. S.

Operations Technologist

My Co-op position was an Operations Technologist at the **York Region Roads Department**. When I went to my placement, I realized that there is much more to Civil Engineering than just building structures. It has to do with designing, environment, and even finance. The tasks I had were different every day, along with a major designing project for a weather tower. Some of the many tasks that I did included using and making AutoCAD drawings for roads and structures, budgeting costs for winter and non-winter maintenance of the roads, and making sure railway crossings are well maintained.



The best learning experience I had was being able to learn a variety of things with the many highly skilled engineers from the finance, maintenance and design departments. The advice I would give a future Co-op student is to get involved as much possible and learn from as many people as you can. It will really help you to understand what the career offers.

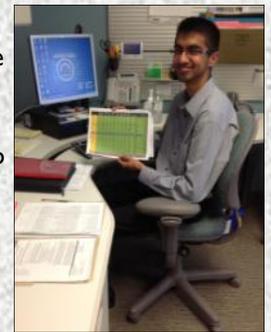
By Muhammad Maisam Wazir,
Co-op Student, Sir William Mulock S. S.

Accounting Assistant



My Co-op placement was in the finance department of the **Southlake Regional Health Centre**. Before starting my placement, I always had the perception that jobs in the office, specifically accounting related, wouldn't be as enjoyable as other careers, but now, all that has changed. Over the course of my placement, I received a chance to explore all aspects of a finance-related career. On a daily basis, I would update patient accounts, create financial documents using various programs, organize data using an electronic database, and charge patients for various services performed by the hospital. I was assigned the responsibility of creating a long-term statistics report which kept track of how efficiently the hospital was collecting payments from patients. I even managed to take part in a meeting with the hospital executives where my findings were presented in order to help with decision making.

I would really encourage future Co-op students to make the most of every moment during Co-op and always seek new opportunities to learn and gain valuable experience, because Co-op is indeed an incredible journey.



By Howard Wong,
Co-op Student, Markville Secondary School

Marketing Assistant

During my term as a Cooperative Education student, I worked at **Dovetail Communications** as a Marketing Assistant learning the sales and marketing aspects of the business. At Dovetail, I learned about how marketing intermingles with the actual business world. Marketing is not as simple as trying to sell something; in fact, it incorporates a lot of other important aspects such as product and time management, as well as developing good relationships.

From this stupendous experience, I have learned a lot that will enhance my personal and professional skills in the future. On a personal note, I have undoubtedly enhanced my punctuality and time management skills because of the need to commute to work every day. Additionally, my communication skills have grown stronger due to the need to communicate a lot with others. My professional skills are what have developed the most. I have learned that in the working world, it is very important to do your work efficiently, which is to be fast while making minimal mistakes. Furthermore, my placement has shown me what it is like to do multiple assignments in a real job. Without Co-op, this could not have happened. The Cooperative Education program has definitely taught me a lot and has allowed me to gain a feel of the working world. It allowed me to explore a pathway and see if I like it.



Cooperative Education Certificate of Outstanding Achievement

awarded to

Gordon Sun, Co-op Student, Markham District High School



Gordon wrote his own 'News Release'...

Gordon Sun is one of the winners of the YRDSB Cooperative Education Certificate of Outstanding Achievement at Markham District High School. Gordon served as an editor at **Rogers TV** for a weekly show called "York Region Living". He communicated weekly with producers and reporters to edit and complete a 30 minute show on time. In addition, he served as a reporter for features - he wrote scripts, called clients, and did on-camera reporting as part of his placement. Gordon has learned the practical skills of editing and reporting in a high paced and competitive professional environment. In addition, he has enhanced his time management, collaboration, and oral communication skills that will stay with him for the rest of his life.

Gordon's favourite experience was his final task at the end of the year which resulted in reporting an event at the Varley Art Gallery in Unionville. Gordon was treated as a professional reporter and received positive reviews from Gallery staff. His final feature aired on live television during primetime which was available to more than 2.3 million viewers!

Cooperative Education has helped Gordon to develop a strong sense of interpersonal skills in the professional workplace and developed his media-related skills. Gordon has some advice to future Co-op students: develop a strong relationship with your supervisors and treat your placement as if it were a real job. Good luck!

**Assistant
TV Editor
Reporter**



Placement Supervisor Recommendation

To Whom It May Concern,

I was introduced to Nancy Pham when she began to work for me as a part of her Cooperative Education program.

After working with Nancy Pham, I noticed that she is a very sharp, diligent and determined worker. She is a fast learner and picks up on tasks quickly. Nancy is a team player and gets along with people easily. She is very mature for her age and adapts well to different situations. She was such a great asset to my business that I hired her to continue working for me after her Co-op program ended.

I highly recommend Nancy Pham because of her work ethics and the skills that she can contribute to your business. I can confirm that she is an efficient worker who can contribute a great amount of assistance and success to your business.

**Basso DiCesare, Sales Representative
Royal LePage Maximum Realty, Brokerage**

**Nancy Pham, Co-op Student,
Woodbridge College**

Real Estate Assistant



Dual Credit Accelerated Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)

Accelerated OYAP programs combine the Co-op experience with instruction at the college/training institute. It is offered in semester two and is open to students in their graduating year.

www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/oyap www.oyap.com



Accelerated OYAP - Carpentry

By Garet Szendrei, Co-op / OYAP Student, Dr. G. W. Williams S.S.

Garet was with D & L Construction and Carpenter's Local 27 for Accelerated Carpentry.



I have grown from my experiences drastically in terms of my understanding of the real working world and what it is like in my trade. Waking up early, driving myself to and from my Co-op / OYAP placement has helped me grow as an independent young man, and I now see the world in a different light. High school, in my eyes, is fantasy compared to the working world.

One of my most valuable learning experiences this semester would be everything I have had to balance in one semester. Looking back at my experiences makes me realize how much I have accomplished and how real life is once you get out there. Most of my friends have not yet experienced what it is like outside of school. Because of this, I feel that I am at a big advantage, and am prepared to deal with life's future endeavours. I have had real world challenges throughout the semester, including going for more than 1 interview to find a placement and having a tough Co-op supervisor. But, it has all been towards my future career and now I'm well on my way.

Accelerated OYAP - Plumbing



By Janet Davis, Teacher & Dept. Head, Community Based Education, Pierre Elliott Trudeau H. S.



Justin Chan, Co-op / OYAP Student, Pierre Elliott Trudeau High School

- OYAP Student at **Home Depot**, 2011-12.
- OYAP Student at **Drain Plus Plumbing & Heating**, 2012-13, and participant in the Dual Credit Accelerated OYAP Plumbing Program at Humber College, Semester 2 of 2012-13.

I met with Justin when he applied for a 2-credit Co-op in Grade 10. Expressing interest in the trades, and after a variety of discussions, self assessment tests and some pathway planning, he decided to try the trades with his first placement at **Home Depot** in the Plumbing and Electrical Departments to get to know the products, and learn about plumbing and electrical aspects by working alongside licensed trades people. He made his decision to pursue plumbing based on the knowledge and work he did for Home Depot, and solidified that with a satisfying Rich Performance Task where he designed an underground irrigation system using computer aided design tools and identifying products and pricing.

After this successful experience, he was accepted for a position with **Drain Plus Plumbing & Heating** while at the same time being accepted for the Dual Credit Accelerated OYAP Plumbing Program at Humber College. Being signed as an apprentice, Justin was able to accumulate credit towards his apprenticeship and was highly successful in the Humber Program. Asking Justin how he has felt about these experiences he says, "Co-op really allows you to know what you want to do in your future." His advice? "Try something out, and see if it's right for you."

I wish success for Justin as he continues his 'journey'.



The Dual Credit Accelerated OYAP students have plenty of insight to share with other students considering a future in the trades. If you are interested in Accelerated OYAP Programs (Automotive Service Technician, Carpentry, Child Development Practitioner, Cook, Electrical, Plumbing, Refrigeration & Air), please visit with the Cooperative Education Department in your high school for more information, open house dates and an application.

International Co-op Education (ICE) Costa Rica Summer Co-op Program

A Letter from an Alumnus to Students and Parents: *The Challenging Task Of Convincing My Parents...*



Querido estudiantes y padres (*Dear students and parents*),

¡Hola todo el mundo! (*Hello everyone!*)

I am an alumni member of the **International Summer Co-op, Costa Rica 2011 Program** and I would like to share with you my experience.

I was sixteen years old when this program was first created and from the start, I knew I would be a participant...someday. Unfortunately, it was extremely difficult for me to convince my parents to permit me to join. Even after discussions between my Spanish teacher and my parents, my parents were still not convinced. Even though I was not able to participate during the first year of the program, I did not accept defeat - again and again I kept trying to convince my parents. Finally, one day in November of 2010, my parents said YES!

I hope as future participants you can learn from this story, that if parents / guardians are not convinced about the benefits of this program - be patient and continue to talk and try to convince them. The important thing is to never give up, and that determination and perseverance will take you far in life.

Besides the challenging task of convincing my parents, the process of preparing passports, to packing suitcases, to practising Español (*Spanish*) was overwhelming. But, I assure you that once you step on the plane, you will know that all the hard work has paid off and that you made a very courageous and life-changing decision. In fact, I was crying on the plane and it was not tears of sadness, but rather tears of joy because I was delighted to finally embark on my own learning journey.

One thing I would like to add for parents and guardians - yes, it is scary to think about sending your teenage daughter or son abroad even just for twenty-one days. Yes, it is hard to believe that your child is ready to go on an adventure of their own. And yes, you have doubts and concerns. Will my child be well fed? Will she remember to do this? Will he remember to do that? All these feelings are understandable, but I guarantee you that granting your children permission to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity will not only prepare the next generation of global citizens, but also create independent, inquisitive and intelligent thinkers. So please, show your support and encouragement and your children will thank you for this wonderful gift. I know I thanked my parents and I still do.

A funny end to my story was when my mom greeted the teacher of the program in Spanish (my mom didn't know any Spanish before I started this program) and asked her if I could sign up for the program again the following summer! She also asked if there was a program for parents!

Buena suerte estudiantes y padres (*Good luck students and parents*) and may you all enjoy your Costa Rica immersion experience.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Mak

(Alumnus, Costa Rica Summer Co-op Program 2011, Milliken Mills High School)



Working at FUDEBIOL, a Biological Reserve

A well-earned meal after cooking class



My host brother and me - winning a game

Helping to make breakfast



My roommate and host family

More Info:

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/Coop/ICE/>

Where are they now?

This article was written by Jasmine Law (photo below), Co-op Student, Pierre Elliott Trudeau H. S.

Her Co-op placement in Journalism was at the **Economist & Sun**, Markham.



She wrote this feature article about another Pierre Elliott Trudeau H. S. Co-op / OYAP Student, Kevin Cheung, and how his Co-op experience helped him 'jumpstart' his career!

Kevin Cheung is an example of a youth's success story built from ambition and determination at a young age. The 23 year old started his career in Grade 11 as a Co-op student under Ms. Janet Davis' instruction at Pierre Elliott Trudeau High School. In 6 fast years, he has graduated from a sheet metal worker for Co-op at **Trent Metals Inc.**, to a licensed journeyman, and now, a business owner.

Driven to realize his goals, Kevin got accepted into the Dual Credit Accelerated OYAP Program offered through the York Region District School Board. During his Grade 12 year, he attended George Brown College to take his Part I (Basic) as a Refrigeration/Air Conditioning Systems Mechanic, along with working 400 hours at **Aire One Heating & Cooling** in Markham. Kevin graduated in 2006 as a signed apprentice, and he continued to work in the industry, returning to College for his Part II (Intermediate) and III (Advanced) and his Gas Fitters 3 and 2 licenses and wrote his final exam just 5 years after graduating from high school.

"In terms of my overall experience, the journey was definitely a bumpy ride," said Kevin. "The whole process of becoming a skilled tradesman is quite the challenge on its own. But, it has become a very positive experience nonetheless - and I do not regret making this career choice."

Kevin was steadfast in his goals, and makes time to visit his high school periodically to share with other students how to pursue a career as an apprentice and the advantages of starting young and taking advantage of the programs in our high schools.

Finally independent and fully licensed, Kevin, with his company, **Airwise Mechanical Ltd**, is ready to take on the world at his mere 23 years of age. "If you have a dream, make it come to life," Kevin stated. "Put your heart and soul into it and prove to the world what you're capable of."

Kevin's company, **Airwise Mechanical Ltd**, specializes in furnaces, air conditioning, water heaters, gas piping and much more.



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