

JUMP START

.....A CAREER

CO-OP NEWS



Spring 2009

Dual Credit Accelerated OYAP - An engaging learning experience that opens doors to opportunities!

By Salim Jamal, Curriculum Consultant/OYAP Coordinator - Community-Based Education, and Sheila Nayler, Special Projects - Community-Based Education

This semester, over 70 students from YRDSB schools participated in our YRDSB Dual Credit Accelerated OYAP offerings in seven different trades: Automotive Service Technician, Cook, Plumber, Electrician, Early Childhood Educator, General Carpenter, and Residential Air Conditioning Mechanic. These students were registered as OYAP apprentices and acquired valuable skills through their Co-op/OYAP placements. This learning was supplemented with a rigorous and engaging 8 weeks of hands-on and in-class training delivered in leading edge facilities with highly skilled instructors at our various College sites. These Dual Credit Accelerated OYAP programs enable grade 12 students to earn all/part of their Level One Apprenticeship training + up to 4 Co-op credits + up to 3 additional high school credits. This sets them on a trajectory towards completing the remainder of their apprenticeship training and certification, and opens the doors to many other rewards, financial incentives, and opportunities. "Without the dual credits, I wouldn't be able to graduate this year" stated Phil Snider from Dr. John M. Denison SS, when asked how the program was a benefit to him.



Peter McBride, the father of Andy McBride from Huron Heights SS commented, "This is an excellent program. My son loves it! Because the hands-on training is specific to his goals, he is motivated to do well and looks forward to being in class everyday. He can't wait to start working as an Apprentice!"

Matt Stickwood from Dr. John M. Denison SS, Matt Davis and Kristen Olsen from Stouffville District SS clearly stated that the Dual Credit programs were definitely giving them a "head-start" in their chosen careers and "bridging the gap" that often exists between completing high school, and entering the workforce.

Ryan Mawhinney from Dr. John M. Denison SS, Sam Gallo from Sir Wm. Mulock SS and Andy McBride from Huron Heights SS felt that this program has provided knowledge and experience which helped to keep them engaged in the learning process.

Kyle Feltham from Dr. John M. Denison SS participating in the Dual Credit Accelerated Electrical program stated, "I love this program! I'm learning everything I need to know to work in the trade. We learn the theory and then have to apply it."

Dual Credit Accelerated OYAP (Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program) programs are available to all secondary students in their final semester of high school. Students must be enrolled in full day semester two Co-op and meet specified application and eligibility criteria. These programs are offered in partnership with our Colleges/Training Delivery Agencies, the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU), and our secondary school Co-op/OYAP departments. Interested students should consult their Co-op teacher at their local high school.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Student Voices	2/3/4
Placement Supervisor Voices	5
Accelerated Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) / Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Program	6
International Cooperative Education (ICE) Program to Ecuador	7
Where are they now?	8

STUDENT VOICES

Explore your 'career fit' through Co-op!

By Kimi Lee, Co-op Student, Markville Secondary School

The Co-op Education experience provides enriching opportunities for students to further explore their field of interest. Through 'hands-on' experiences in the workforce, students not only learn the necessary skills and personal qualities required to be successful in their future career but also reflect on their personal 'fit' with the professionals.

My Co-op placement for four months at **Markham Stouffville Hospital-Adult Surgery Department** served as a tool to re-establish my personal passion towards the medical field. My duties ranged from filing the patients' binders to watching medical procedures done on patients. The friendly and supportive atmosphere enhanced my learning experience. During the last month of the placement, I was fortunate enough to job-shadow multiple medical practitioners such as nurses, physiotherapist, orthopaedics, speech pathologist, pharmacists, and physicians. Medical personnel shared their views on their jobs, showed what they did on a daily basis, answered any of my questions, and gave insights on educational paths to take.

The interactions with patients, when I assisted them in their daily exercises or answered them through the P.A. system, were impacting. A majority of patients were discharged within a week after their surgery and the visible improvement in their health was a rewarding experience. One of the memorable experiences at Markham Stouffville

Hospital was when I worked as a translator for a Korean patient who spoke limited English. Despite my minimal role, the patient and her family members expressed their joy in my company. This is when I realized how much of an impact I had on patients as I carried on a seemingly simple task. In retrospect, I feel that I grew into an individual with compassion, dedication and responsibility.

The experience at Markham Stouffville Hospital confirmed my interest in oncology and supported the pursuit of my goals. **Learning does not only come from textbooks, it also comes from personal experiences.** I hope many more students learn about the benefits of Cooperative Education and explore their potential careers beyond books.



"Learning does not only come from textbooks, it also comes from personal experiences"



Sara Best from Maple High School reflects on her Co-op Placement in Long Term Care...

Through my Co-op experience at **York Central Hospital Long Term Care** I have learned and discovered so much about myself. Through dealing with people that have disabilities and problems in their old age, I have really gained respect and compassion towards the older generations. I feel through this experience I have become a more caring, patient and calm person, who handles conflicts and stressful situations better than ever before. I know, personally, that I have been of great help to my supervisors because of all their support and recognition of my work. I think that the

Co-op class and placements are a great way to get involved in the community and learn a trade or skill that can be very valuable later on in life. I have really liked working alongside my supervisors. I have made lifelong friendships and I thank them for having me as a Co-op student and teaching me everything I wanted to know about the field. This Co-op experience has left me with nothing but good memories and skills that will last a lifetime. I would definitely do it all over again.



STUDENT VOICES

Build your Portfolio with Co-op!

Meagan Bowden, Co-op Student, Newmarket High School, writes...

Taking Co-op during my grade 12 year was the best decision that I have ever made. I had already made up my mind that I wanted to go into journalism, but to get into the course at Ryerson University I needed a substantial portfolio. This led to my decision to take a Co-op position at **The Era Banner**, the local newspaper in Newmarket.

My first day was extremely nerve-racking; I had some experience but nothing near working in a newsroom. In the beginning, I was given small articles to write called 'briefs' which advertised for a local event in a few sentences. On my first day my brief got published and later, bigger and better ones would follow. For bigger articles I was given a press release where I would research, contact people, interview them, and then finally formulate an article. Of the dozen or so articles that I wrote practically all of them were published.

My supervisor, the Assistant Editor, made me feel very comfortable. I never hesitated to ask her questions, of which I had a lot of. The newsroom was in constant demand which encouraged me to be more self-reliant. I became more independent and it forced me to communicate and form relationships with people in the newsroom.



My biggest accomplishment at the paper was the two articles that I fully developed myself. The first article I developed was about youth and fake ID's. I researched and contacted my own sources, whom I interviewed. It resulted in the most successful article I have written because it appeared on the front cover of the paper. The second article I developed involved more creativity. I took runway photos from the internet and ventured to the mall to find resembling outfits. The idea was to discuss the season's trends, so I interviewed the spokesperson for H&M and the manager of Forever 21. After I wrote the article, a photographer and I went to the stores where I was photographed wearing the outfits I had selected. The final product was a half-page spread featuring none other than myself.

The success of my time at The Era Banner can be measured in many ways. I gained confidence in myself and in my writing and I made amazing relationships. Most importantly, I was accepted to Ryerson for Journalism. I believe that my acceptance couldn't have been possible without my well-rounded and developed portfolio I had created at The Era Banner.



Mobile Marketing - A Creative Co-op Experience!

By Sarah Jorstad, Co-op Student, Alexander Mackenzie High School

I was lucky to complete my Co-op term at **Go Mobile Media & Showbiz Marketing** in Vaughan. This company specializes in mobile advertising, meaning that they like to do things 'out of the box' - something that will grab your attention, and something you would definitely talk about. I worked alongside the President and the Operations Manager which made my placement that much better because these people are so great and full of heart, very honest and hardworking.

A campaign for *Bell's Solo Mobile* used Go Mobile glass cube trucks to display strange scenes with an ideology that it would be 'something to talk about' and 'give a call to your friends'. These displays would be driven all around downtown Toronto capturing the eyes of Torontonians every day. One of the scenes displayed Vikings rowing in a sea of orange play pit balls with a sky scene and palm trees in the background. You would never guess how difficult it was to find 7000+ orange only play pit balls in North America which called for much sourcing across the country!

Working in this industry truly showed me another view to marketing and advertising. There are some genius people in this industry - their imagination is so wild and enchanting. Being involved in this placement opened my eyes to what is really out there. I believe everyone should embrace Co-op because you grow in ways you would have never believed, and it also prepares you for College, University or whatever your future prospects include. I am so grateful to the President and the Operations Manager at Go Mobile and moreover, my fantastic Co-op teacher, Ms. Covatta [Co-op Department Head, Alexander Mackenzie H.S.], for finding me my placement.



STUDENT VOICES

Lawyer Assistant

By Stacey Danis, Co-op Student, Westmount Collegiate Institute

My name is Stacey Danis, and I successfully completed the Cooperative Education 3-credit program which consisted of two different placements, each one reflecting and complementing aspects of the other.

The first placement I took part in was working in a criminal law firm, **Stephen Price and Associates**, which specializes in charges of driving while intoxicated. Here, I was assigned various tasks such as transcribing video interviews, organizing clientele portfolios, as well as preparing books of precedent prior to courtroom appearances. Furthermore, I was honored with the opportunity to experience the process and proceedings of a high profile murder trial. As an aspiring criminal lawyer, observing various court proceedings enhanced my knowledge and understanding of the dynamics of a criminal trial.

The second placement I took part in was where all the lawyers' work is put into action - at the **Court-house / Old City Hall**. Here, I performed a range of duties including typing documents such as a 'recognizance of bail', transferring documents between courtrooms, as well as assisting the general public.

Throughout my journey participating in the Co-op program, I have developed many valuable and essential employability skills. It has not only helped broaden my knowledge in the field of law, but has confirmed my desire, dream, and goal of becoming a lawyer. By carrying out tasks firsthand, my already keen interest in law was significantly enhanced. The Cooperative Education Program was one of the most beneficial and rewarding experiences I have ever participated in.



By Chris Welsh,
Co-op Student,
Milliken Mills H. S.

Teaching Assistants

By Stephanie Cochrane,
Co-op Student,
Sir Wm. Mulock S. S.

I would first like to start off by saying that I have no regrets about taking Co-op at **Aldergrove Public School**. It has been nothing but a positive experience. I learned so much about myself, and along the way I've learned many life lessons. Without a doubt, I would recommend Co-op for anyone interested in getting a feel for an occupation.

From day one, I just knew that it was going to be an awesome experience. I can remember on the first day as I walked in, I kind of got the usual, "Who are you?" or "Hey - You're Danny's brother" comments as I walked down the hall. After a day or two, I was already being called "Mr. Welsh!"



And, after a week and a half, I was helping the class and teaching lessons. Walking down the hall and being looked up at (literally) as well as all of the wonderful students, will be memories never forgotten.

Overall, Co-op has just been a remarkable course and I can definitely say that I look forward to going into the profession of teaching!

My Cooperative Education placement was in a grade 6 class at **Clearmeadow Public School** as a Teaching Assistant. I arrived each morning at 8:30am and caught up with my supervisor about the schedule for the day.

To date, I have had the opportunity to: teach my own literacy lessons to the students; perform a read-aloud of the book, *Hana's Suitcase*; assign a small writing assignment that I created myself; and, much more. The students are eager, well-behaved, and a blast to spend time with...most of the time! I have gained a vast store of empirical knowledge from this experience such as: how to create a proper rubric; how to deal with the typical 'problem student'; how to attain and keep the class' attention; and, how to manage my time around the creation of lesson plans and marking on a daily basis. What I enjoyed most about my placement was working with the children and having the opportunity to create my own lesson plans and assignments. Education is the most valuable thing on this earth for us, and I wish to become a positive member of the teaching community.



PLACEMENT SUPERVISOR VOICES



**Arthi Velupillai,
Co-op Student,
Woodbridge College**

It gives me great pleasure to write this reference for Arthi Velupillai. Arthi came to **Woodbridge Public School** in February 2008 for her Co-op placement and was placed in my grade 2 classroom for half a year.

Her various tasks involved assisting students in Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies and Art. In addition, Arthi marked work in nearly all subjects, photocopied and assisted another grade 2 teacher with a variety of tasks. Arthi was also responsible for teaching printing each week. She had great classroom management skills and her lessons were successful.

Arthi took the initiative to help in the classroom and assisted the supply teacher whenever I was away. She was positive with her interactions with the students and they enjoyed her calm and friendly manner with them. Arthi could be depended on to work independently. In addition, Arthi was always professional with the staff. She demonstrates a genuine interest in the education of children. She displayed an excellent sense of teamwork and cooperation with staff and students.

Jamie Mizuno
Grade 2 Teacher, Woodbridge Public School



**Hailey Huels,
Co-op Student, Alexander Mackenzie H.S.**

Hailey Huels has worked hard and has shown much dedication in her Co-op placement in my kindergarten classroom [**O. M. MacKillop Public School**] this year [2008]. She has interacted very effectively with the kindergarten students and they have responded very well to her. Hailey has been a quick learner and has become familiar with our routines in a short time. She has shown responsibility and initiative in carrying out tasks and has often gone beyond task requirements to create and develop. She has managed many different aspects of the program, and has been equally comfortable working individually (e.g. home reading program), in small groups (e.g. art projects), or with the whole group (e.g. teaching a game). It has been a pleasure having Hailey in our classroom.

Mrs. Tenenbaum
JK/SK Teacher, O. M. MacKillop Public School

Aria Bassiri, Co-op Student, Stephen Lewis S.S.

Aria Bassiri is a Co-op student from Stephen Lewis Secondary School who started volunteering at **Kick Physiotherapy and Sports Medicine Inc.** in March 2008. During his placement he was a dependable volunteer who would show up early and stay beyond his required hours. Aria was a tremendous asset to the clinic. He was always cheerful when talking with patients and helpful with other staff members. Aria showed great initiative and dependability during his stay at our facility.

Aria is completing grade 11 and will unfortunately no longer be volunteering at our clinic. His help will be greatly missed and I strongly recommend him to any future employer or volunteer organization.

Dr. Carlo Di Nardo
Kick Physiotherapy and Sports Medicine Inc.



Accelerated Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)

**By Salim Jamal, Curriculum Consultant /
OYAP Coordinator, and
Sheila Nayler, Special Projects Coordinator**

Former Huron Heights S. S. Co-op/OYAP student, Ryan Kilgour, was the proud recipient of \$1500 and the General Contractors' Section Apprenticeship Award.

This award is presented annually at the Carpenters' Local 27 Training Centre graduation ceremony to the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) student demonstrating the highest achievement in the classroom and workplace components of apprenticeship training. Ryan's interest in carpentry ignited at Huron Heights S. S. through his technology courses and his participation in Co-op/OYAP. Students enrolled in Co-op/Accelerated OYAP with their secondary school earn all or part of their Level I apprenticeship training through our partnerships with local colleges, training centres, and the MTCU [Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities].

Ryan writes, "The Co-op/OYAP program was my gateway into carpentry. It gave me the opportunity to learn firsthand about carpentry while I was finishing my high school education. This gave me a jump start and prepared me for this career by slowly taking me out of the classroom and into the field. Co-op/OYAP is an absolutely amazing program and it was possibly one of the best decisions I have ever made".



Left to Right: Salim Jamal, Curriculum Consultant/OYAP Coordinator
Ryan Kilgour, OYAP Student
Sheila Nayler, Special Projects Coordinator
Ken DeLyzer, Co-op Dept. Head, Huron Heights S. S.

Specialist High Skills Major Program (SHSM)

**By Winson Li, SHSM Student,
Richmond Green S. S., Construction Program**



An opportunity to participate in the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Construction Program at Richmond Green Secondary School gave me a peek into my pursued career field.

As a member of SHSM, I participated in many field trips which further educated me in the daily life of the Construction Trade. I received my certification in ladder safety training, harness training and also had the chance to participate with the grade 12 students on their trips to Habitat for Humanity in which they built houses for those less fortunate.

SHSM also prepares you through technology and construction courses that are mandatory for the certification. Students must take courses such as construction and technology as well as Cooperative Education. My Co-op placement was located at Hill Plumbing-Heating & Electrical Supplies in Richmond Hill where I learned many new basic skills and names for tools and items.

SHSM has not only prepared, but cemented my decision to advance towards my next step into the industry of construction. The SHSM Program is an amazing chance for a new experience and motivation in life.



**For more information on OYAP, Accelerated OYAP, and SHSM Programs,
contact your school's Co-op or Guidance department.**

International Cooperative Education Program (ICE) to Ecuador

Memories of ICE in Ecuador!

By Sofia Lau-Alves

ICE Student (2008) / Pierre Elliott Trudeau H. S.

I can honestly say that the ICE program was such an influential part of my life that it still seems as if I was there yesterday. The program was definitely a positive chapter in my life because it brought many lasting friendships, memories, and experiences.

Some people who are now very important in my life are: Ecuadorians who were the members of the host family that I lived with; co-workers at my Cooperative Education zoo placement; extended host family members; and, of course the Canadian ICE students. The Cifuentes family, who hosted me, really opened up to me and literally made me feel like I was part of their family, which was the most incredible feeling ever. At first it was really hard and awkward for me to call my host mother and father 'mom' and 'dad' in Spanish, but eventually it just came naturally. I became really close with my host siblings and I genuinely see them as my actual siblings now. A year later, I am still in contact with the family and some co-workers through Msn Messenger and get updated every now and then about their lives. Further, I made strong friendships with some of the other York Region students who took part in the program. We still get together for reunions and reminisce about the numerous exciting, nervous, happy and sad memories we had during this experience. I believe the experiences the students shared are what brings us together and keep that bond. I am really appreciative of the relationships that have developed through my involvement in the ICE program. I now have new people I can call family, which is an amazing feeling!



Sofia (front middle) with her Ecuadorian family



Corey and Ecuadorian school children collecting garbage from the beach

By Corey Wideman

ICE Student (2008) / Stouffville District S. S.

When I decided to participate in the ICE program I had some reservations knowing that I, unlike many other ICE students, didn't know anyone in the program. The ICE program almost immediately alleviated this stress through orientation activities and frequent interaction during monthly meetings. Overseas, we were encouraged to become acquainted with Ecuadorian communities, connect with each other to share experiences, and participate in excursions. The relationships that I formed with my ICE peers encouraged me to step beyond my perceived limits, making me a more confident, open-minded person.

Ever since my experience with ICE has ended, I feel more connected and involved with various aspects of my community as a result of the relationships I formed through ICE. Moreover, my relationships with family members and friends strengthened throughout the course of ICE. Direct parental involvement in ICE combined with genuine interest in my endeavours from other family members and friends enabled us to share my hardships and successes throughout the program.

The entire duration of the ICE program, both in Canada and Ecuador, would not have been possible without the continuous support of ICE peers, family, friends and members of my community. The lasting relationships established throughout my journey have resulted in great character development and maturity. I will undoubtedly maintain these relationships that will continue to have a meaningful impact on my life throughout the future.

ICE Website: www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/ice



Where are they now?

Samantha Kovach, former Keswick High School Co-op Student, writes...

Taking Cooperative Education at Keswick High School is probably one of the best choices I have ever made. I think that it was a great experience and taught me some valuable life lessons. I took Co-op both semesters of grade 12 and learned so much by job shadowing my Manager/Mentor, Mr. Hickey [Teacher, Keswick H. S.], as **Keswick High School's first ever Student Public Relations Representative**. I learned computer skills, interviewing skills, photography, and public speaking. It was an eye opening exposure that helped me to grow as a student and get a chance to work in the 'real world'.

One of my assignments was to create a magazine about Co-op which I named *Peoples' Dream Jobs*. Each article featured how Keswick High School Co-op students experienced their passion while learning, getting credits, making valuable contacts, and seeing what the real world is like to work in. They also revealed what they had learned from taking Co-op and how it influenced their career path choices.

As a separate assignment, I wrote stories about 'Character Initiatives' at Keswick High School. Our regional newspaper, *Georgina Advocate*, was so impressed with our students' positive interaction within our community, that they featured eight of these stories in their newspaper.

This opportunity made me see what the business world is all about and helped me to develop the skills that I need to succeed in my studies at Seneca College where I am studying Business Management. I also plan to further my education at York University in the Corporate Communications Program. Co-op helped me to confirm that Public Relations is indeed the career path that I want to pursue. In the future, my goal is to one day open my own Public Relations Firm. All of this thanks to Co-op!



The Community-Based Education Team:

Gale Harild, *Administrator, Community-Based Education*

Salim Jamal, *Community-Based Education Consultant / OYAP Coordinator*

Steve Poste, *School-Work Transition / Technological Consultant*

Linda Alati, *Pathways / Alt. Ed. Consultant*

Kim Taylor Reed, *Curriculum Consultant-Guidance*

Jen Green, *Transition Consultant*

David Peacock, *International Cooperative Education Teacher / Coordinator*

Brenda Pembleton, Fiona Willison, Shawna Blencowe:
Administrative Assistants

Editors: Gale Harild / Brenda Pembleton / Fiona Willison

Design/Typesetting: Brenda Pembleton / Fiona Willison

**A Publication of the Community-Based Education Office,
Curriculum & Instructional Services,
Centre for Leadership and Learning,
E. C. Newmarket
Phone # 905-727-0022,
ext. 3429, 3433, 3438**



WEBSITES:



Community-Based Education

www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/community.based.education

Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)

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

International Cooperative Education Program (ICE)

www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/ice

This issue of Jump Start/Co-op News is posted to the following websites:

YRDSB/Schools/Community Based Education/Cooperative Education/Newsletter-Jump Start a Career:
<http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/pdfs/w/cbe/JumpstartNews.pdf>

YRDSB/Schools/Programs/Guidance Services/High School/ Cooperative Education:
<http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/pdfs/w/cbe/JumpstartNews.pdf>

YRDSB Board Wide Web (bww):

<https://bww.yrdsb.ca/C9/CBE/default.aspx>