

Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Programs - Making a Difference for Students at Markville Secondary School

By Alice Ruffo, SHSM School Coordinator, Markville Secondary School

Markville S.S. was approved by the Ministry of Education to offer two Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs: one in Business and one in Information and Communication Technology (ICT). As part of an SHSM program students complete a bundle of nine credits, which will include four sector specific courses in their senior years. In addition, these students develop specialized knowledge and skills through a two credit Co-op experience in their sector specific work environment.

In our first year of SHSM at Markville S.S. we have 57 students enrolled in the two programs. Students complete sector focussed contextualised learning activities in senior Math and English classes. For example, students in a Business SHSM may have to write a business proposal in their grade 12 English class, while an ICT SHSM student may make a movie trailer script as an English assignment. Students better appreciate how English relates to their individual field of interest. In addition, all of our students have had the opportunity to take part in several sector specific certifications in First Aid, CPR, ergonomics, WHMIS and customer service.

Markville S.S. was able to purchase a set of VEX robots which has now been incorporated into our senior computer science and computer engineering technology courses. It has resulted in exciting enhancements to the way these courses are taught. Walk into those classes and you see students engaged in robot creation, programming or brainstorming with each other and staff. Similarly, our Business department is using tablet computers to model business presentations.

The addition of these SHSM programs has allowed our students to enjoy reach ahead opportunities that have enabled them to gain experience in their sector first hand. They spent a day in the financial district finding out what it's like to be a trader or a financial advisor on Bay St., as well as learn about financial management issues. We have had fantastic guest speakers from the Bank of Canada and Bell Business Markets give presentations on topics including: counterfeit detection, workplace trends and job market analysis. They have toured the Schulich School of Business, Seneca IT department and the American Express corporate headquarters and will soon visit the George Brown Business Campus on King St. in May. It has certainly been a positive win for the Markham business community as well. Our partners are also excited by this larger pool of talent as an increasing number of our students head to Co-op placements.



This program has been embraced by students and staff alike. In fact, Markville plans to apply for three new SHSM programs: Arts and Culture, Environment and Health and Wellness to begin in September 2013.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

♦ Student Voices	2-4
♦ Where are they now?	5
♦ Placement Recommendations	
♦ Dual Credit Accelerated Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)	6
♦ Costa Rica Summer Co-op (International Co-op Education)	7
♦ Teacher Voice	8

STUDENT VOICES

What Cooperative Education means to me...

By Priya Chaudhari,
Co-op Student, Maple H.S.

Cooperative Education means more to me than can be said in words. My Cooperative Education placement at the **Maple Health Centre** provides an opportunity to work closely with many different professionals in the medical field such as nurses, doctors, social workers, administrators and physiotherapists. Working with each of these professions in one Co-op placement is a great opportunity to help one choose a career that is right for them. My Co-op experience not only benefited me, but also the organization.

The Maple Health Centre greatly enjoys teaching students and appreciates all the work that students contribute to the organization. There are many important tasks that the Maple Health Centre trusts students to be responsible for such as charting information in their computers, walking programs, restorative feeding programs, delivering supplies and assisting the staff during difficult tasks such as physiotherapy range of motion programs where an extra hand is always needed.

The Cooperative Education experience has benefited me as I am more comfortable working and speaking with adults than I ever was before. In addition, I now have the opportunity to volunteer for the organization during my summers and to stay involved in my community. Without Cooperative Education, I never would have met the staff and residents at the Maple Health Centre and I would have missed out on an amazing life experience that is now guiding me to become a registered nurse.



CANADIAN FORCES (MILITIA) CO-OP

By Private Sam Zhao, Co-op Student, Milliken Mills H.S.

My life is forever changed by what I have accomplished and experienced by taking the **Canadian Forces (Militia) Co-op course**.

Now I have a greater appreciation for the people who I work with, because people like Sgt. Murray spend years of their lives overseas in order to have safety and basic human needs. I strongly recommend other students to take the Militia Co-op course because you really learn who you are.

There are several "gut checks" throughout the course where you really learn to appreciate the things you take for granted such as food, shelter and sleep. On ruck marches you will learn your physical limits and, most importantly, you learn determination, teamwork and a will to not give up. You will make lifelong friendships on this course because you spend 24 hours and 7 days a week with the person beside you - they will be as close as family.

I believe that the Canadian Forces is an excellent career choice and there are countless numbers of opportunities in the forces. The fastest way to become a qualified soldier is to take Militia Co-op and accept a life of responsibility and dignity.



STUDENT VOICES

Adapted Aquatics Program - Thornlea S.S.

By Cara Leung, Co-op Student, Thornlea S.S.

I have been in **Thornlea Secondary School's Co-op program** for two semesters working with the **Adapted Aquatics** students. This program has given me an opportunity to work with special needs children, and to be honest, I think I've learned a lot more from them than they have from me. The program not only taught me how to work with these amazing people, but also how to live my life. These children attend the pool once a week and they truly value every second they are there. I can see the excitement in their eyes, in the way they laugh, and in the way they splash around happily in the water. It reminds me of how I overlook these simple things in life, and at times don't appreciate what I have. I feel fortunate to have worked with these children and also the staff who have helped me. Mr. Kazakis, my Co-op teacher, Ms. Smith, my Co-op supervisor, and Lindsay, the lifeguard, have all been so caring throughout the whole experience and made it even more enjoyable.



Cooperative Education is an Absolute Must!

By Linda Kaleis, Co-op Student, Sir William Mulock S.S.

Having been given the opportunity to complete two different Cooperative Education placements has been an absolutely phenomenal experience. I was able to work as a personal support worker's assistant with **We Care Health Services** last year, which opened my eyes to the diversity of the fields of health care. Co-op definitely allows you to familiarize yourself with what you actually want your future to look like and also to determine your interests. I realized after my first placement that I wanted to work in a hospital setting, so I completed a second Co-op placement at **Southlake Regional Health Centre** in the cardiac clinic.

Wow! There are no words that even come close to describing how lucky I am to have been exposed to an actual hospital, while working with their health care team, and observing the latest state of the art technology procedures. Not many Grade 12 high school students can say that they have ever seen an open-heart surgery before. All in all, I believe that every high school student should take Cooperative Education at least once to: confirm their passion for whatever career choice they have in mind, attain professional working experience, develop new skills and overall confidence, and especially to receive incomparable references from supervisors that will serve as important contacts when later searching for a job.



Co-op: A Decision for the Better

By Helen Geng, Co-op Student, Emily Carr S.S.

When I started Co-op at **Fossil Hill Public School** at the beginning of Grade 11, I thought I knew about teaching, but there was still so much to learn. I was required to make countless photocopies, write and carry out lessons and interact with the students not as a peer, but as a teacher, all of which are skills I learned in my placement.

As a high school student, I understand the pressure to do something with your life. Co-op can help greatly with this, no matter what kind of placement you are looking for. I was able to learn about the profession I will hopefully one day call my career, attained employability skills, adapted to different situations, and just learned so much about myself.

It isn't too late to sign up. Talk to your Guidance Counsellor, Co-op Teacher, or another Co-op Student.



STUDENT VOICES



**By Andreia Da Mota,
Co-op Student, Maple H.S.**

**Health
Care**

During the Co-op program, I worked in the Day Surgery Unit at **York Central Hospital** where I gained knowledge and experience in the medical field because of the frequent opportunities to observe and ask nurses about their careers. By interacting daily with nurses and patients, I have become a confident and more outgoing individual and also learned to handle difficult situations maturely. I have gained more appreciation towards nurses because I saw them working to the best of their ability, maintaining a positive attitude and taking time to make sure that every patient felt comfortable and safe.

In conclusion, I have greatly benefited from this Co-op experience because I have learned and practiced skills that I will use during my life for me to be a confident person, student and citizen. I have opened my mind to new careers that I may pursue in the future.



**By Harvinder Sandhu,
Co-op Student,
Woodbridge College**

Hospitality

My overall experience at the **Courtyard Marriott** working in the field of Hospitality has been very enjoyable. I was given many different experiences by working in Housekeeping, Maintenance and at the Front Desk. I learned a lot about myself and my personality. I learned many skills such as developing my communication skills and working effectively with people. I was able to learn responsibility which I have

carried over into my personal life. These skills will definitely help me in my future career which may possibly be Hotel Management.

Overall, Co-op has been the best course I have ever taken and I am considering taking it again in Grade 12 so that I can experience another field. By doing this, I will be able to solidify my decisions for my future career.



Name: Alex Simpson, Co-op Student
School: Markville S.S.
Placement: News Reporting, Channel 12 Television

Brief company description:

Studio 12 News is Durham's #1 Daily Local News Program and a CBC affiliate located in Oshawa, Ontario. Channel 12 is a CBC affiliate jointly owned by Corus Entertainment and Dan Carter Productions. Studio 12 News with Kate Wheeler airs weeknights at 5 p.m. repeating at 7 and 11:30, providing viewers on what's going on in Durham Region.



Description of my responsibilities:

I work in the news department at Channel 12. I research, schedule and conduct interviews, film on location, write and produce stories, and generally assist in the news department. I am responsible for chasing my own story and making sure I have everything I need to make it valid such as more than one source and enough footage. I do stories almost daily that air on Channel 12, and I am very fortunate to have a news team which supports and helps me. When I am not doing a story, I set up the teleprompter and help other reporters with anything they need.

What I have learned:

I have learned how the news industry operates and how to work within it, how to chase stories, write stories and I have become a better videographer.

My favourite experiences:

During my time at Channel 12, I have done a lot of entertainment reporting. I've interviewed people like Hedley, recording artists Shawn Desman, Tyler Medeiros and Young Avz, Michael Jackson's "This is It" guitarist Orianthi, Megadeth drummer Shawn Drover, "Brand New Chick" singer Anjulie, Desperate Housewives actor Ryan Carnes and comedian Darrin Rose from MuchMusic's Video on Trial. I've had the chance to film concerts like Selena Gomez, Alice Cooper, Hedley and Disney LIVE! I also got to walk an elephant down the streets of downtown Bowmanville, which is something you don't get to do every day!

How Co-op has helped me:

Co-op has helped me gain more confidence and taught me how to be more persistent.

Advice to future Co-op students:

A year ago I never thought I'd be where I am today; find something that you love to do and do it! Take Co-op to try something new and have new experiences.



L-R: Alex interviews singer Tyler Medeiros

Where are they now?...Co-op Opens Door to Career

By Felicia Hussain, Kindergarten Teacher, Highgate P.S.
(Previous Co-op Student at Middlefield C.I.)

Felicia writes...

Like all of us at some point, I was very unsure of what I wanted to do in terms of my future and career. Then one day in class, someone explained the Cooperative Education program and its benefits. I decided to take the risk and try it out, what could it hurt? I worked with an amazing guidance counsellor who helped me work Co-op into my schedule and still ensure that I graduated with enough credits to fulfill the university requirements. My Co-op placement was in a Grade 3 classroom and from the moment I began to the moment I completed my time there I was enthralled by the entire concept of teaching and everything it entailed. Teaching turned out to be something that catered to all of my interests and challenged me. It was something where I could use my organizational skills, pass on what I love and know to others, and it presented challenges for me to solve. After this, I began to pursue a teaching career and because it was something that I loved - it made working towards my goal all that much easier. I am now doing my first full year of occasional teaching in a kindergarten classroom at Highgate P.S.



Felicia's mother writes...

As with any parent, we are all concerned with the success and well-being of our children. When my daughter began doing her Co-op with the intention of possibly becoming a teacher, I was happy that she was enjoying what she was doing. Cooperative Education gave her a chance to try out a potential career. I am very grateful that she had this opportunity and it took her down a path that led to her doing what she loves.

PLACEMENT SUPERVISOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Shawn Singh
Co-op/OYAP Student, Woodbridge College

Shawn Singh was assigned to work with **Gemini Group Electrical Systems Inc.** for a period of 5 months as part of the school Co-op program. During this period, Shawn was assigned many duties including supporting and assisting electricians out in the field. In addition, he was assigned low voltage work and mechanical assembly of electrical equipment which he completed with minimum supervision. Shawn has excellent communication skills.

He is a reliable, pleasant and a highly motivated individual who can successfully work independently to ensure that the job is completed. Shawn has demonstrated that he is flexible and is always quick to volunteer to assist in other areas as required. Shawn has my highest recommendation.

Andre Jordao,
Operations Manager
Gemini Group



Giselle D'Souza
Co-op Student, Woodbridge College

While at **Antoniette Catenacci Haute Couture**, Giselle D'Souza demonstrated above average skills relating to the creative design industry and has shown a great enthusiasm to learn. She demonstrated common sense and the ability to solve problems independently requiring minimal supervision. She has been reliable and punctual and has always shown complete dedication, motivation and determination to complete her tasks as perfectly as possible. She is one of the few students I have had through the years who truly comprehends the design industry and that to succeed - very hard work needs to be put forth. She has a very creative mind and with her determination and hard work I believe she will become a great designer one day.

Antoniette Catenacci
Designer and President
Antoniette Catenacci
Haute Couture



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

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 or know a student 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.

By Victoria Alexander, Electrical Apprentice, Maple H.S. & Humber College, Centre for Trades & Technology

The most valuable learning experience to me while in the Dual Credit Accelerated OYAP program at Humber College

was the chance to be in a college environment - experiencing the college instructors teaching methods and learning new things that I can actually apply in the real world. I would recommend this program to any student interested in the electrical trade because it helps high school students to get ahead.



By Shran Sanjith, Child Development Practitioner, Markville S.S. and Seneca College

I took the Child Development Practitioner Accelerated OYAP program to gain a greater understanding of children, their emotions, expressions, and to be able to communicate with them at their level. Also, I wanted to experience college life while still in high school. I am really enjoying the CDP program and my college teacher is wonderful. My recommendation - if you are really interested in children and this program, do not hesitate to apply, guys can do this too!



OYAP Students:
(L) Courtney, (R) Shran

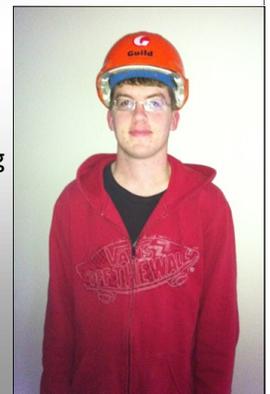
Where Are They Now? DDD

Adam Harris, Electrical Accelerated OYAP Graduate, is loving life and his career!

Adam had always expressed a keen desire to be an electrician as early as Grade 10 and the Electrical Accelerated OYAP program at Humber College was the perfect opportunity to try out the trade and prove to himself that this was indeed the right career path. Adam's Grade 12 second semester consisted of theoretical and hands-on learning at Humber's Centre for Trades & Technology, as well as invaluable on-the-job training with various electricians through his Co-op program. "He absolutely loved it and knew that he was in the right industry. Clearly the OYAP program gave him a fantastic head start on his career", says Mrs. Harris.

After sending out many résumés and networking through family and friends, Adam received a lucky break and was fortunate enough to receive a full-time job offer as an electrical apprenticeship with **Guild Electric Limited**. He is well on his way to becoming a journeyman with benefits, great training and a great future. The "icing on the cake" was that his Co-op placement hours were credited towards his required apprenticeship hours. Also, while in high school [Dr. G. W. Williams S.S.] he had earned his Level I, Electrical Apprenticeship Training at Humber College, through the Dual Credit Accelerated OYAP program, before joining the Guild Electric Limited team.

"Adam is living proof it [OYAP] not only works - it has a real benefit to someone who is committed to a trade." says Mr. and Mrs. Harris, proud parents of Adam!



International Co-op Education (ICE)

Learn, Share, Act: Our Journey to becoming Global Citizens through Summer International Co-op to...



Costa Rica



By the 2010 and 2011 Costa Rica Summer Co-op Students...

We knew we were heading off on a really cool adventure: earning 2 Co-op credits in bio-diverse Costa Rica; living in a local community with a host family; and, working on group projects in the rainforest and on a turtle reserve, surrounded by unforgettable national parks, beautiful beaches, and the cutest monkeys.

It just doesn't get better than that does it? But it did! Not only did we have an unforgettable journey, in the process, we...

- *became aware of the wider world and our roles as world citizens*
- *respected & valued diversity*
- *better understood how Costa Rica works economically, politically, culturally, technologically, environmentally*
- *became outraged by social injustice*
- *participated in and contributed to the community*
- *were willing to act to make the world a more sustainable place*
- *took responsibility for our actions*

SOURCE: OXFAM'S DEFINITION OF GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP 1997

We headed out as young students looking to earn credits and maybe make a difference, and we came back Global Citizens!



Building a retaining wall at a Biological Reserve



Planting trees in the rainforest



Admiring Poas Volcano

Visit Website:
www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/ice
 Costa Rica Summer
 International Co-op



Judy Brugge, Co-op Teacher, Dr. John M. Denison S.S., writes...
Co-op /OYAP is an incredible opportunity for students to explore a wide variety of interests. Here are some comments made by Dr. John M. Denison students about their experiences.

Matt Belmontes at Persechini Fitness and Squash Complex

says, "I have learned to listen effectively to determine and meet clients' needs. On Tuesday and Thursday nights along with Saturday mornings I do orientations. I take people out onto the gym floor, walk around the track and find out a little about their history and what their goals are. From there I pick 6 exercises I am going to show them how to perform safely."



Camille Houston at Teddy Bears Picnic Childcare and Music Academy

says, "On a daily basis, decision making and problem solving skills are required for many situations. These situations can range from having a sick child, to an unexpected interview, or a fight between the kids. When any of these arise you need to be able to make a quick and responsible decision that is appropriate for everyone involved."



Dylan Killam at New Roads Chevrolet says, "Two goals that I set for myself was to obtain a job at New Roads Chevrolet and to finish my Co-op hours. Co-op is done for the semester and my manager, Rino, has hired me to do tires during the busy season. I plan to apply for Accelerated OYAP next spring in order to pursue my career as an Automotive Service Technician."



Mitch Worrall at Geek Power Web Design says, "I have achieved the goals I set out for myself during my placement. I have learned HTML and MSS codes and understand how websites are made. My goal of learning to layout a functional website independently has also been met. I am hoping to work at Geek Power for the summer!"



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

Ethan Milberg

Curriculum Consultant - Pathways

Vicky Essebag

Curriculum Consultant - Guidance K-12

David Peacock

International Cooperative Education Teacher

Brenda Pembleton

Administrative Assistant

Fiona Willison

Administrative Assistant

Shawna Blencowe

Administrative Assistant

WEBSITES:

Community-Based Education (WWW)

www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/community_based_education

Community-Based Education (BWW)

<https://bww.yrdsb.ca/services/cis/coop/Pages/default.aspx>

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

Editors: Gale Harild / Brenda Pembleton / Fiona Willison

Design/Typesetting: Brenda Pembleton / Fiona Willison

Articles may have been edited for publication purposes.