

JANUARY
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VOLUME 13

Certificates
Completed

- Fork Lift Theory
- Propane Handling
- Safety Basic
- First Aid / CPR
- WHMIS
- Fall Arrest



Construction Update
Small and Very Skilled

Although we had a very small group this semester the growth was exponential. This group created commercial grade shelves for the local library, butchers blocks that were sold all over the region, and created mass produces a collapsible Muskoka chair, very impressive. Those alone were very impressive but this group also did trim work in a condominium penthouse, kitchen rips for Habitat for Humanity, created high end tool boxes and refurbished the shop.

All of the work they completed come second to the fantastic character of these students, they will all be moving on as well spoken, respectful young men. Some have graduated, some have been accepted to accelerated OYAP for Carpentry, and the remainder have decided to further their education to improve their future prospects.

Thank you for all of your hard work, I hope that some of the small and big lessons stick with you for life.

Ryan Neale



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Jesse Simmerson's Story

Eop is a program that specializes in construction so if you like wood shop you will like this course you go out and do jobs instead of just making little projects. I really liked this program I have a feeling that when this semester ends I will miss this

may be hard to get along with some people but if that is the case work with someone else. The projects that we have in the class are normally really easy but if you get them done when you get assigned work you wont have

in the future. The certificate that you get from this class are things like first aid, forklift training, fall arrest, scaffolding these will all be useful certifications in the future especially if you are in the construction industry. In this class if you pay attention and actually work you can learn a lot of new things. I would say though having a good work ethic and I mean caring about what you make and work hard most of what you make will turn out really good. If you just slap something together then it will end up being really bad you want to make nice things in this class that way when it comes to work others don't have to go and fix something that you may have made crap. I would have to say as long as you work hard I would recommend this program for you.



program. The teachers do not treat you like a kid they give you a job to do and they expect it to get done like in the real world they don't chase you down. They encourage you to ask for help when you need it. With this course it depends on how much people are in this class and can also depend on which semester you're in because in this class if there is enough people you could end up building sheds. The teachers are really nice at times it

to worry about it



Sam Shafa



The 5 pillars that are the essentials to the program would be: Safety, Teamwork, Decision Making, Problem Solving, and Conflict Resolution.



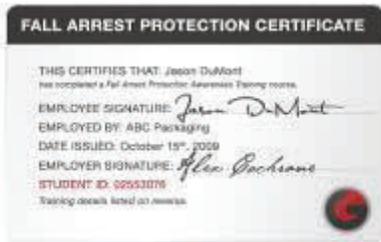
The picture above involved one of the tasks given in the course, which was the creation of cutting boards and/or butcher blocks. We learned as a class how to construct a simple board than add fancy designs by creating inlays. By the end of the assignment, it was very noticeable that the class all improved. This was a great experience, and I appreciated being in the program, as that was just one of many new things I have learned during that semester.



During this course, we learned how “Safety First” was our a priority, no matter what the situation. We learned how to deal with any dangerous situation, and also how to prevent accidents, and spot hazards easily with safety precaution strategies.



Sam Shafa



The images on the side are some of the many certificates we obtained during the semester. The training courses provided a great experience, as I learned a lot about many safety hazards that could occur in a workplace, and how important it is to focus on a good and safe work environment.

While obtaining these certificates, I got a chance to visit new places, like Local 27 (the Carpenters' Union) and Local 506 (the Labourers' Union). We also visited different schools for many workshops, which inspired me to do better in this course, and now I am also possibly looking towards a career in construction.

Once completing all of these training courses, I also realized that my learning was useful for me because I could use these in my resume, to give me the opportunities that many jobs require.

Sam Shafa



As the semester is at an end, I would like to sum up that I enjoyed the course EOP and I have learned a lot from it. For example, I learned how to use every tool in the construction shop with great knowledge and understanding, also learned about all the safety precautions needed in a construction workplace and also all the potential hazards. Some other experiences I have been a part of involve kitchen repairs, as well as home refurbishing, which gave me new methods of doing things in the shop, and possibly in a workplace. The teachers who taught the course are excellent. They provided all the information before doing anything in the shop, and their number one priority was safety first. No matter what the situation, the safety of students was always what mattered the most. I would recommend this program to any student, as you learn so much from this program and the opportunities given are great. As a student of EOP, I felt like I was treated with a lot of respect and also like an adult, which was interesting. We were given tasks to do on our own, and also the responsibility of completing them, which made us feel like we made our own choices. Some certificates I received were fall arrest, propane safety, and forklift training. This could benefit me very much in the future, as it looks good on you as a potential employee to an employer, which usually will make you a better qualifying person for a job.

Raffaele Panetta's Story!



My experience in EOP was fantastic! This is the second time that I have taken this course, and like the first time it was great, as it is one of those courses that you keep learning new things about life, and the workplace. In this program, we learn about the different trades in construction, and the one trade our program specializes in is carpentry. This program teaches you the basics about the trades so that when you go out into the workplace, you have a basic knowledge about what you are doing. This year our class didn't have a lot of people, as we were six in total, but that is still a good amount to get the jobs done. The size of the class varies from year to year, and normally



it's between ten to twelve people. I love this program, which must be one of the reasons that I took it twice in one year. I think the thing I love the most is the fact that you are never at the school, as you are always on different job sites, doing different jobs, such as building sheds, making decks, and doing kitchen ribs for Habitat For Humanity. We do a lot of volunteer work for Habitat For Humanity, as they call our teacher to do kitchen ribs for them, and let me say that they have to be the best kind of job that you'll do in this program.

The best part about this program is how they treat you. You are not treated like a kid anymore; in this program, you are treated like an adult. Both our teachers, Mr. Neale and Mr. Leduc, are amazing. They aren't your average teachers; they become your best friends, people who you can really rely on. They are the ones who make this program amazing,

as the two of them make it seem like you are on a job site, which is great because it prepares you for later on.

During this semester we received multiple certifications, another advantage about this program. These certifications can assist you in getting a really good job in the future. I



know this personally, because the experience and certifications that I received helped me get the jobs I wanted with no issues. The certifications that you receive are First Aid/CPR, scaffolding training, fork-lift training safety, propane safety training, whmis training, fall arrest, and electrical.

I would definitely recommend this program to people that love working with their hands, and would like to see what the trades are all about.



Robert Davidson's Story

My experience in (EOP) has been great because of the things that we did, and how this program works. To start, we got treated as workers, not just as kids that would go for a normal class at school. Also, there were six people in this class that I got



to know better, and we worked better and faster in groups for projects. Another part that I liked in this class was our day trips out, like going to training, lunch and day to day work. When I first started to build my chair, I thought that I would never make more, but to this day, I have actually built four, each one been better then the one before. An-

other part to this class that was good was the two greatest teachers: Mr. Leduc and Mr. Neale. They are people that have inspired me to try and get better at what I do, and I have gained more knowledge from them then I would from anyone. A skill that I gained is collaboration because I could not do the work without them, to do a proper job that is worth doing. Another advantage I gained from this program is all the certifications, one of the most memorable ones being fork-lift training (even though we don't have the driving part yet).



It felt important to me because I can now say that I have the in class work done and I'm ready to drive. Having been in this class now for a semester, I would rec-



ommend this to someone that has a good work ethic and is able to work in a group and take

good criticism. This class would be great to many people that are looking into the trade's side of the workforce, instead of working behind a desk. A certification that I received was fork-lift, fall arrest, propane, First Aid and CPR, and scaffold training. Now I think that having all this certification can help me

find a part time job with the skills I have learned, and can prepare me for the future. So in conclusion, this program is not for everyone, but there are great positives to this class with new friends and new knowledge to be learned. This class will be a memorable class that I will never forget.



Avery Scott— Cooper's Story



Over the past semester, I have been honoured to be in the E.O.P. class that I am currently in. In my opinion, E.O.P. is one of the greatest experiences in school and I enjoyed this class very much. In E.O.P. , everyone is treated equally as a person, and no one is left out from a project, as in E.O.P, most projects are done in groups or pairs. I feel like this Exploring Opportunities Program changed me as a person physically and mentally as well. If there is one thing I can say about the E.O.P., it would definitely be that you are always benefiting by taking this course. Each and everyday, you either learn something new, or are working on a new project of some

sort. I feel like, if I had not taken E.O.P., I would not nearly know as much as what I do now about building, constructing and design projects. On top of all this, you gain excellent relationships with the 2 amazing teachers that we work with, Mr. Neale and Mr. Leduc. You also gain close relationships with all of your class mates, as in the end of the day we all work together to

get the job done. The teachers we work with are absolutely amazing teachers. Mr. Neale is a great leader and is very experienced in the things we do, and this is why we are so successful with what we do. If we ever need help or a hand with something, Mr. Neale is usually there to help you out. Same as Mr. Leduc, he is very helpful and would help you with almost anything you need help with. When working in the shop, we tend to stay very serious when using heavy equipment, although, when not working, we tend to joke around as a class and with the teachers, and tell each other story. In my own opinion, I have bonded very well





with both Mr. Neale and Mr. Leduc. I have felt like if I needed to tell either Mr. Neale or Mr. Leduc something, I could do so and, this is because of the bond I have with both teachers. I feel as though, I would definitely recommend this program to a friend, or even someone who is not a friend. I would Recommend E.O.P. to almost anyone who is either interested in working with wood, heavy machines and creating new projects, or



someone who is looking for a new experience or a fresh start, E.O.P. is the right program for you to take for all of this. I feel like, when taking E.O.P. you learn so many new things that you are rarely bored, and this is why I would recommend it to almost anyone interested in the program. All throughout the program, you receive many certifications that are very useful in your everyday life in the future such as, fall arrest safety, scaffolding certification, propane safety training, forklift safety training and also first aid training. These certifications are very important and can very simply impact your career in your favour in the future. All in all, I would say in my opinion, E.O.P. is probably one of the most important courses in the school to this day. When it comes to working in the construction industry, taking E.O.P. will instantly better your skills in woodworking and such. Exploring Opportunities program is by far one of the greatest programs in school and I would never deny it to anyone, and i would recommend it to anyone



Basic Woodwork!!!!

Rob Blair's Story

My experience in EOP was a very good experience and I really enjoyed it. There were, and still are, a few down sides, but for the most part it was great. What I really liked was being able to do something I actually enjoy for school credits, instead of being forced to sit at desk, bored and ready to explode. I liked learning things that will actually help me in the future and I appreciate having that knowledge. I liked all the projects we did, because it was fun just to work and that's it. They all had many different steps that needed to be taken to properly complete them.



I liked that I was treated, not as a kid, but as an individual adult. I was given my freedom, which I really need, and I had my own responsibilities. The bad part is that if you can't keep up or are slacking, you'll have a problem. It's kind of like being at work: you're the employee, and the teacher is your boss.

This semester I gained a lot of



skills, certifications, and new friends. I learned a lot about woodworking and how to do many different things, almost too many to list. I learned about organization, through needing it, and improved my skills in organizing a job. It's important to have organizational skills and know how to organize a job, because you can go and just build whatever it is that you're building, but without organization you'll eventually fall behind, and then you'll wish you had taken the time at the beginning to organize and plan things out. I have also gotten quite a few certifications involving the construction field, which I think could help me in the future. Lastly, I made new friends through this program, from students who have been in the program in the past and the teachers.

The teachers are great. You can have fun with them, and at the

stuff, including knowledge, new

same time they are there and can help you with practically anything. In EOP, the relationship between you and the teachers is less of a teacher-student relationship, and more of a friendly boss-employee relationship. They try to make it as fun as possible for you, and give you as many different opportunities as possible. There really couldn't be any other teachers to run this course because it wouldn't be the same or nearly as good as what it is.

I would definitely recommend this program to a friend, but honestly I would only strongly recommend this program to a certain type of person, because this program is suited for that certain type of person.

This program is important in the school because it helps kids that have trouble in school, who are academically challenged, or are just not made for sitting in a classroom, not to mention the kids who are serious about getting into the trades, because it gives them opportunities. It also helps them get through high school. That's what this program did for me. Overall, it was a great experience, I learned quite a bit and most of all had fun. Thank you!



Once again this semester would not have would not have happened if it were not for the support of the York Region District School Board and the administration of Richmond Green Secondary School. With the Guidance of Mrs. Conrad–Knight and the support of former vice principal Miss Pathay, and current vice principals Mr. Grieve and Mrs. Borrell. On behalf of the students and teachers thank you for the opportunity to make a difference that directly effects our students on a personal and professional level.

R. Neale



Mr. Leduc's Final Word!

I would like to thank all the fine young men who took part in the EOP program this term. They all exceeded my expectations: they came to class ready and willing to work hard each day, treated each other with respect, and wanted to learn a new trade. We worked well as a team and completed some amazing projects this term: folding Muskoka chairs, inlaid shaker tables, butcher blocks, tool boxes, work benches, and shelves for the public library. Robert Blair – thanks for the positive attitude, respect, cleanliness, and amazing work ethic; that will serve you well in years to come. Avery Scott Cooper – thanks for your sense of humour, respect, teamwork, and taking your

skills to the next level. You have been an amazing young man; I will miss you coming to school asking me what I have for lunch so you can decide if you are going to eat it. Jesse Simmerson – thanks for your loyalty, amazing work ethic, and your perseverance to complete all our projects



on time. Robert Davidson – you were the first student in the shop, you were respectful to the teachers, and you were

an integral part of our team. Raffi Panetta – thanks for shaking my hand every day; morning and night for a job well done. You are one of the most respectful young men I have ever been around and I wish you all the best in your future endeavours. Sam Shafa – thanks for being respectful, willing to take on any job that was asked of you, and following through to finish all our projects on time. I hope that each one of you realise that we were a FAMILY and that if you ever need anything you know where to find me. I love each and every one of you.

Duke.