



Students Have Two Hours to Create a Seaworthy Structure

For immediate release

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The whistle blows and they're off: cardboard boats glide to the finish line on the other side of the pool, their builders madly paddling for all they're worth. For those with good designs and construction (and maybe a bit of luck), the cardboard vessels not only make it across the pool, they also hold the weight of team members as they pile in, one by one.

Skills Ontario hosts Cardboard Boat Races and associated Video Production Challenges to create a practical, tangible, and fun way to introduce students to the design, building, and effective teamwork skills necessary for working in the skilled trades and technologies.

Both primary and secondary schools participate on separate days. Teams of four are provided all the necessary materials to build a boat in just two hours. Students must bring their problem-solving, teamwork, and design skills as they create a seaworthy structure out of corrugated cardboard and duct tape. Sponsored by 3M and Norampac Cascades, Skills Ontario Cardboard Boat Races will draw over 1800 competitors in 14 cities from 250 schools in Ontario.

Meanwhile, teams of two record their boat building peers' progress from the construction stage to the races to capture the best video of the action. The student videographers then edit and produce a mini-documentary at their schools. Each production is judged and the winners are selected.

"The students had a wonderful time. The skills involved with problem resolution and group work are wonderful to see. Thanks for the opportunity. We sure hope to participate again next year!"

– Joyce C, Primary School in Embrun, ON

Schedule of the Day – Approximate

9-9:30AM Arrival to Orientation

9:30-11AM Boat Construction (Great Photo Op)

11:30-12:15PM Clean-up and Lunch

12:30-2:30PM Race and Weight Bearing Challenges (Great Photo Op)

2:45-3PM Medal Presentation

About Skills Ontario – Promoting skilled trades and technologies in Ontario since 1989

Over the last 30 years, Skills Ontario has been growing a portfolio of programs including in-school presentations reaching 125,000 students across Ontario, career exploration summer camps, Young Women's and First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Career Exploration Conferences, and hosting Canada's largest skills competition which annually attracts 35,000+ spectators who cheerlead the 2,400+ competitors in 68+ trades and tech categories.