



Students showcase skills and teamwork at Skills Ontario Cardboard Boat Race Championships

Fifty-seven teams from across the province to face off in Waterloo

For immediate release, Ontario – It's time for students to put their skills and teamwork to the test once more for the Skills Ontario Cardboard Boat Race Championships, taking place **March 7th (Elementary) and 8th (Secondary)** in **Waterloo** (Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex).

The students, in grades seven through 12, have proven their skills at qualifying races across Ontario between October 2017 and February 2018. This year, Skills Ontario Cardboard Boat Races drew over 2,000 competitors from 250 schools in Ontario. Fifty-seven teams – a total of 228 students – have qualified for the championships in Waterloo.

The Skills Ontario Cardboard Boat Races seek to introduce students to skills such as construction and building, planning and design, teamwork, and workplace safety that are required for today's highly-skilled workforce in Ontario. Sponsored by 3M and Cascades, Skills Ontario Cardboard Boat Races connect education, hands-on experience, and employability skills.

The premise of the races is simple: 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 two sheets of 4' by 8' corrugated cardboard and some duct tape. Students are judged on construction, speed, weight, and team spirit categories.

These races represent a culmination of planning, testing, and practicing by students throughout the school year, many of whom build prototypes and practice technique during their lunch hours and after school. The students are not only dedicated, but very skilled: the Skills Ontario speed record for a cardboard boat to cross a pool is 10.73 seconds, and the weight record is 1411 pounds!

Quote

"The Cardboard Boat Races are such a simple and fun way to bring skills development and career awareness to students across Ontario," says Nick Komarnitsky, programming lead for Cardboard Boat Races at Skills Ontario. "The competitive thrill of designing and building a cardboard boat that will float and hold shocking amount of weight keeps bringing teams back year after year to these events."

Associated Links

[VIDEO: Skills Ontario Cardboard Boat Races](#)

[VIDEO: Rick Mercer at the 2014-15 Cardboard Boat Race Championships](#)

[Skills Ontario Online Media Kit](#)

[Follow the action on Twitter with #CBRskills](#)



About Skills Ontario

Skills Ontario is building Ontario's skilled trades and technologies workforce. We enable and empower all youth, including women and Aboriginal youth, to consider a career in the skilled trades and technologies. Engagement with students, teachers, parents, volunteers, employers and mentors ensure our programs connect education, experience, and employment. We deliver in-school presentations across Ontario, host Canada's largest skills competition, run a summer camp for skills development and connect students to employers. We are focused on growth sectors such as construction and infrastructure, technology innovation, and hospitality services.

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Media contact

Anne Ramsay, Manager of Communications, Skills Ontario
519-749-9899 x 230 | aramsay@skillsontario.com