SKILLS WORK!®

IN ONTARIO

In This Issue...

- Fundraising Dinner
- Hall of Fame Awards
- Mark Your Calendars!
- 2009 Qualifying Competitions
- Canada Blooms ~ Landscape Gardening Results
- Provincial Championship Cardboard Boat Races
- Ontario Technological Skills Competition (OTSC)
- "Beef up the Bursary" Fundraising BBQ
- Young Womens' Conferences
- Career Exploration Showcase
- Summer Camps
- Scholarships

Greetings from the Executive Director

We are days away from this year's Ontario Technological Skills Competition and our 20th Anniversary Celebrations. It is hard to believe that it has been 20 years since our very first Competition at Mohawk College's Stoney Creek Campus. In honour of this milestone, we will be introducing two new monetary awards; one for the highest scoring secondary school student and one for the highest scoring post-secondary school student. A very special thank you to Dickie's Work Wear for their support of these awards!

I was pleased to attend a "Meet the Miners Reception" at Queens Park on March 25th. As you can see from my happy face below, I was presented with a cheque for $60,000 as part of the Ontario Mining Association's three-year commitment to Skills Canada - Ontario. Their on-going generosity has been instrumental with the costs associated with the production of the Skills Work® Booklet. After the presentation, I was pleased to meet the Premier, Dalton McGuinty, and personally invite him to this year's Competition. No word yet on whether or not he will be able to attend.

From April 1st - April 3rd, I attended the SkillsUSA – New York Competition in Syracuse, New York. It was an honour to be asked to be the keynote speaker for their Opening Ceremony on April 1st. If you are interested in reading my presentation, it has been posted on our website.

We will be introducing a seventh College to the 2010 Qualifying Competitions; Confederation College in Thunder Bay will join Canadore College, Fanshawe College, Georgian College, Humber College, Niagara College and St. Lawrence College as hosts of Skills Canada - Ontario's Qualifying Competitions. Thank you to all of these Colleges for their on-going support of the career aspirations of young people in Ontario.

I look forward to seeing all of you during the first week of May. In the meantime, enjoy this wonderful spring weather.

Kindest regards,

Gail Smyth

Executive Director

Skills Canada – Ontario

1-888-228-5446 ext. 229

April 2009

SKILLS CANADA-ONTARIO

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Promoting Skilled Trades and Technology in Ontario

Fundraising Dinner

Hall of Fame Awards

Thanks to the outstanding generosity of our supporters, the Skills Canada - Ontario Fundraising Dinner and Silent Auction held on March 3rd, 2009 was an outstanding success. This year's special guest included the Honourable John Milloy, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities.

During the evening, we presented, to seven outstanding individuals, the **2009 Klaus Woerner Skilled Trades Hall of Fame Award.** The winners included:

Garfield Dunlop, *Simcoe North M.P.P.*

Vern Haggerty, *Manager Construction Program, Defense Construction Canada*

Russell Jessop, *Business Agent, United Association Local 527*

Christian Kalemba, *Retired President, Festo Inc.*

Mark Roth, *Head of Co-operative Education Department, Stratford Northwest Secondary School*

Dr. John Tibbits, *President and Chief Executive Officer, Conestoga College Institute of Technology & Advanced Learning*

Stanley West, *Retired Chef/Baker/Patisserie Professor, Niagara College*

Each year, proceeds from this event are earmarked for the Skills Canada - Ontario Bursary. Since 2002 this bursary has provided financial assistance to approximately 420 competitors traveling to the Canadian Skills Competition.

From left to right: Scott Blair, Gail Smyth, Stacey Dubois

Scott and Stacey will be representing Canada at the WorldSkills Competition in Calgary, AB.

Mark Your Calendars!

April 18th, 2009
Qualifying Competitions

May 4th – 5th, 2009
Ontario Technological Skills Competition, Waterloo, ON

May 4th – 5th, 2009
"Think Skills...Think Future!" Young Womens' Conferences, Waterloo, ON

May 5th, 2009
"Beef up the Bursary" Fundraising Barbecue, Waterloo, ON

May 6th, 2009
Ontario Technological Skills Competition Closing Ceremonies, Waterloo, ON

May 20th – 23rd, 2009
Canadian Skills Competition, Charlottetown, PEI

July & August
"Skills Work!®" Camps throughout the province of Ontario

September 1st – 6th, 2009
WorldSkills Competition, Calgary, AB

2009 Qualifying Competitions

This years Qualifying Competitions will be held on April 18th, 2009. The Qualifying Competitions were designed to assist both Skills Canada - Ontario and school boards across the province select competitors for the OTSC. There are currently 612 competitors registered to compete at six partnering colleges across Ontario, including: *Canadore College of Applied Arts and Technology, Fanshawe College of Applied Arts and Technology, Georgian College of Applied Arts and Technology, Humber Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning, Niagara College of Applied Arts and Technology and St. Lawrence College of Applied Arts and Technology.*
Each college location offers the following seven contests:

2D Computer Character Animation (Team of two)
Carpentry - Individual
Culinary Arts
Precision Machining
Small Powered Equipment
T.V. Video Production (Team of two)
& Welding

The top two or three students/teams in each contest from each location will be eligible to advance to the 2009 OTSC.

Canada Blooms

Landscape Gardening Results

Landscape Gardening - Post-secondary is one of the few OTSC contests held off-site and on a separate date. This year, Landscape Gardening - Post-secondary was held during Canada Blooms at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre in Toronto, from March 19th to March 22nd, 2009. The Skills Canada - Ontario Garden at Canada Blooms provides talented landscape design students the opportunity to showcase their skills in a competitive environment amongst their peers. Upon arrival, all teams were provided the same garden design, the materials to build the garden and three days to complete the task.

The winners of the 2009 OTSC Landscape Gardening - Post-secondary contest were:

Gold: **Gavin Maybury** and **Jeff Sarty**, *Fanshawe College of Applied Arts and Technology*
Silver: **Gillian Perry** and **Mitchell Schinkel**, *St. Clair College of Applied Arts and Technology*
Bronze **John Paul Bartle** and **Nathan Talsma**, *Fanshawe College of Applied Arts and Technology*

Provincial Championship Cardboard Boat Races

Each year the Cardboard Boat Races provide the opportunity for Ontario students to test their math and technology skills in a fun and interactive environment. At this popular, full day event, teams of four students arrive with formulated design ideas and are provided the materials to construct a cardboard boat during the initial two hours of building time. In the afternoon the competitors put their designs to the test in the host location swimming pool, in both a race and weight challenge.

The Provincial Championship Cardboard Boat Race - Secondary Level was held on February 26th, 2009 at the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex in Waterloo, ON.

Skills Canada - Ontario would like to congratulate all students who took part in the 2008-2009 Cardboard Boat Races across the province. Your dedication and hard work allowed many of the teams to earn Top 10 results this year!

Top Elementary Results:

Most weight held for 90 seconds: *Ecole separee Saint Denis* - 914 lbs.
Fastest lap time: *Fallingbrook Community Elementary School* -15.03 seconds

Top Secondary Results:

Most weight held for 90 seconds: *Eden High School* - 908 lbs.
Fastest lap time: *Heart Lake Secondary School* -10.73 seconds

Congratulations to the Gold winning students from *John McCrae Secondary School* for their outstanding performance at the 2009 Provincial Championship Cardboard Boat Race.

From left to right: Eric Leduc, Tamara Erak, Aranka Szabo, Rebecca Hardie, Laura Kutten

Ontario Technological Skills Competition

Monday, May 4th, 2009
Elementary Day

8:30am-9:00am
Elementary registration
9:00am-9:30am
Elementary Workshops
9:30am-3:30 pm
Elementary Challenges
9:30am-3:00pm
Grades 7&8 Young Womens' Conference, *Bingemans*
9:30am-3:00pm
Career Exploration Showcase

Tuesday, May 5th, 2009
Ontario Technological Skills Competition

7:00am-7:30am
Competitor registration
7:30am-8:00am
Competitor orientation
8:00am-4:00pm
2009 OTSC
9:30am-3:00pm
Grades 9-12 Young Womens' Conference, *Bingemans*
9:30am-3:00pm
Career Exploration Showcase

Wednesday, May 6th, 2009

9:00am-12:00pm
Closing Ceremonies

9:00am-12:00pm
Career Exploration Showcase

The **20th Ontario Technological Skills Competition** (OTSC) is Skills Canada - Ontario's cornerstone event, attracting over 1,600 competitors and 30,000 visitors from across the province. Over 60 contests in the skilled trades and technologies are offered at the competition to secondary and post-secondary students, including apprentices. In addition to the many established contests, the 20th OTSC will introduce two new pilot contests: Sheet Metal Work and Heavy Equipment Service. These contests allow participants to showcase their skills, talent and knowledge while providing many networking opportunities with partners from industry, labour, government and education.

In order to make the 20th OTSC a reality, over $5 million worth of tools, equipment, material and supplies are generously donated by sponsoring organizations that understand and support the mandate of Skills Canada - Ontario. Hundreds of volunteers work countless hours throughout the year to ensure the contests run smoothly and that the hosting facility is prepared for the event. As well, in order to accommodate all of the events the OTSC has to offer, a forth Ice Pad has been added to the event, resulting in 300, 000 square feet of floor space!

Many secondary and post-secondary level gold medalists from the OTSC will advance to the Canadian Skills Competition as members of Team Ontario on May 20th-23rd, 2009, in Charlottetown PEI.

"Beef up the Bursary" Fundraising Barbeque

WHAT? Skills Canada - Ontario Fundraising BBQ

WHEN? Tuesday, May 5th, 2009, from 11:00am-3:30pm

WHERE? RIM Park Manulife Financial Sportsplex

COST? $5 for two hotdogs or one hamburger, chips and a drink

WHY? All proceeds from this BBQ will go towards the Skills Canada - Ontario Bursary.

Young Womens' Conferences

The **"Think Skills...Think Future!" Young Womens' Conferences** are just around the corner! These conferences, held in conjunction with the OTSC, are an opportunity for female students to connect with female role models that work within skilled trades and technologies careers. This year's conferences promise to be as exciting as ever; we have many inspiring mentors - such as Kate Campbell, of *Holmes on Homes,* and 2008 Gold Medal Finalist, Jennifer Speers - that have already registered to come and share their experiences with the young women in attendance.

Monday, May 4th, 2009
Elementary Conference for Girls in Grades 7&8

9:00 am	Registration and Mentor Reception
9:30 am	Welcoming Remarks by Councilor Kelly Galloway, *City of Kitchener*
9:50 am	Icebreaker Activity
10:10 am	Five Sector Networking Rotations
12:00 pm	Lunch; Spotlight Speaker: Kate Campbell, *Holmes on Homes*
12:20 pm	Union Gas Junk Drawer Wars (Hands-on Activity)
1:30 pm	Evaluations, Door Prizes & Closing Remarks
1:45 pm	Shuttle to RIM Park; Exploration of the OTSC & Career Showcase (*Mentors are invited, but not required to attend*)
3:00pm	School groups depart from RIM Park

Tuesday, May 5th, 2009
Secondary Conference for Girls in Grades 9-12

9:00 am	Registration and Mentor Reception
9:30 am	Welcoming Remarks
9:50 am	Icebreaker Activity
10:10 am	Five Sector Networking Rotations
12:00 pm	Lunch; Spotlight Speaker: Jennifer Speers, *2008 Competitor & Gold Medal Finalist*
12:20 pm	Union Gas Junk Drawer Wars (Hands-on Activity)
1:30 pm	Evaluations, Door Prizes & Closing Remarks
1:45 pm	Shuttle to RIM Park; Exploration of the OTSC & Career Showcase (*Mentors are invited, but not required to attend*)
3:00pm	School groups depart from RIM Park

The Career Exploration Showcase

The two-day long showcase, featured at this years OTSC, provides the ultimate opportunity for students from across Ontario to take part in various interactive activities that stimulate their interest in a variety of different skilled trades and technologies. With over 50 Career Showcase booths displaying exhibits from the five different sectors of skilled trades and technologies - *construction, transportation, service, manufacturing, and communication* - students and spectators alike are able to gain knowledge of the skilled trades and the opportunities that are available for them.

SKILLS WORK!®
Summer Camps

As spring arrives, preparation for our "Skills Work!®" Summer Camp program shift into high gear. The **"Skills Work!®" Camp** is a week-long day camp that provides students going into grades 7&8 with a hands-on opportunity to explore careers in skilled trades and technologies. Through interactive workshops and industry tours, campers also learn about the employability skills that are needed to succeed in the world of work. These camps will take place throughout the months of July and August in a variety of locations across the province. More updates have been made to our roster for the 2009 camp season. Dates and locations include:

July 6-10

Cambrian College, Sudbury ♦ Mohawk College, Stoney Creek Campus ♦ Lambton College, Sarnia ♦Humber College, Toronto (North Campus)

July 13-17

Conestoga College, Waterloo Campus ♦ Mohawk College, Stoney Creek Campus ♦ Lambton College, Sarnia ♦ Humber College, Toronto (North Campus)

July 20-24

Conestoga College, Doon Campus ♦ Georgina Trades Training Inc., Sutton (full) ♦Centennial College, Toronto (full)♦Confederation College, Thunder Bay (Tentative)♦Northern College, Timmins (Tentative)

July 27-31

Conestoga College, Doon Campus ♦ Fleming College, Peterborough ♦ Sault College, Sault Ste. Marie Collège Boréal, Timmins (Tentative)

August 10-14

St. Lawrence College, Kingston ♦ Canadore College, North Bay

Scholarships

Skills Canada - Ontario Scholarship

The Board of Directors of Skills Canada - Ontario is pleased to award this scholarship each year to a student or students pursuing post-secondary education in the skilled trades and technologies through an apprenticeship or community college program.

"Dickies Award of Excellence "

NEW!

This scholarship will be granted each year to the competitor achieving the highest individual score at the Ontario Technological Skills Competition in both the secondary and post secondary levels.

Taking Flight Award CIM

NEW!

The Canadian Institute of Mining is now offering four scholarships a year, each worth $1,000, recognizing Aboriginal high school and post-secondary students across Canada who wish to pursue a career in mining.

For more information on Scholarships & Awards, please visit our website, at www.SkillsOntario.com