# *Media Release*

***Wednesday, November 8, 2008***

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## 7 ONTARIO STUDENTS HONOURED AT QUEEN'S PARK, TORONTO

From left to right: Dan Van Holst, Andrew Marcolin, Jamie Feenstra, Brian Martin, Minister John Milloy, Jud Tofflemire, Stacy Dubois, Scott Blair

**Kitchener, ON – On Tuesday, November 4th, 2008, as part of Skilled Trades Awareness Week, Skills Canada – Ontario, Colleges Ontario, OCAS and CON*NECT** presented a reception in Toronto at The Sutton Place Hotel in honour of the seven Ontario students representing Canada at the World Skills Competition in 2009. Competitors were introduced to the members of the Ontario Legislature earlier in the morning.

Seven students from Ontario have earned the prestigious honour of becoming members of Team Canada for the WorldSkills Competition and were introduced on Tuesday, November 4th, 2008 to the Ontario Legislative Assembly. The following list outlines their age, home town, college and achievements thus far:

**Andrew Marcolin**
Age 22
From Wallaceburg, Ontario
Mechatronics Team of 2 (with Jamie Feenstra)
St. Clair College of Applied Arts and Technology
Gold at Ontario Technological Skills Competition 2007 and 2008
Gold at Canadian Skills Competition 2007 and 2008

**Jamie Feenstra**
Age 21
From Wyoming, Ontario
Mechatronics Team of 2 (with Andrew Marcolin)
St. Clair College of Applied Arts and Technology
Gold at Ontario Technological Skills Competition 2007 and 2008
Gold at Canadian Skills Competition 2007 and 2008

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**Scott Blair**
Age 20
From Westport, Ontario
Carpentry – Individual
Algonquin College of Applied Arts and Technology
Gold at Ontario Technological Skills Competition 2005 and 2008
Silver at Canadian Skills Competition 2005 (Secondary Level)
Bronze at Canadian Skills Competition 2008

**Jud Tofflemire**
Age 21
From Goderich, Ontario
Electronics
Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning
Gold at Ontario Technological Skills Competition 2008
Bronze at Canadian Skills Competition 2008

**Brian Martin**
Age 21
From Guelph, Ontario
Plumbing
Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, In-school studies at
Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning
Gold at Ontario Technological Skills Competition 2008
Gold at Canadian Skills Competition 2008

**Stacy Dubois**
Age 21
From Kanata, Ontario
IT Office Software Applications
Algonquin College of Applied Arts and Technology
Gold at Ontario Technological Skills Competition 2007 and 2008
Gold at Canadian Skills Competition 2007 and 2008

**Dan Van Holst**
Age 20
From Waterloo, Ontario
Automotive Service Technician
Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning
Gold at Ontario Technological Skills Competition 2008
Silver at Canadian Skills Competition 2008

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Guests to this reception titled, **"SKILLS AT THE PARK",** also included: Minister John Milloy, Training, Colleges & Universities, Laura Formusa, CEO, Hydro One, Ann Sado, President of George Brown College of Applied Arts and Technology, Linda Franklin, President of Colleges Ontario, Greg Hughes, CEO, Ontario College Application Services (OCAS), Warren Hoshizaki, Director of Education, District School Board of Niagara, Gary Cronkwright, CEO, CON*NECT and Gail Smyth, Executive Director, Skills Canada – Ontario.

Every year young people from across our province and all regions of Canada compete in skilled trade and technology contests. These competitions provide an opportunity for young Canadians studying a skilled trade or technology to be tested against exacting standards and against their peers from across the nation. The main goals of this event are to provide competitors with hands-on work experience and to raise awareness for the general population of the value of and challenge in skilled trades and technology careers. Students vie to win the honour of being crowned the best in their chosen discipline. These competitions provide our budding Canadian talent an opportunity to move forward and perform on the world stage.

37 successful Canadian competitors have formed Team Canada, including 7 from Ontario. They will be participating in 34 contest areas and will represent Canada at this prestigious international event that will involve 1000 competitors from 50 member regions/countries. The Team that will represent Canada at the 2009 WorldSkills Competition was selected after the 2008 Canadian Skills Competition. Canada is pleased to be hosting the next WorldSkills Competition in Calgary on September 1-7, 2009.

WorldSkills is an international organization that actively promotes vocational training. The mission of WorldSkills International is to challenge young people, their teachers, trainers and employers to achieve world class standards of competence in commerce, services and industry, and to promote the status of vocational training.

For additional information on WorldSkills Calgary please visit www.worldskills2009.com

**Skills Canada – Ontario** is a not-for-profit organization that promotes careers in the skilled trades and technologies to young people in Ontario as viable first-choice career options. Through partnerships in education, industry, labour and government, Skills Canada - Ontario is helping young people brighten their futures and industry strengthen theirs. Skills Canada – Ontario will host the 20th Ontario Technological Skills Competition (OTSC) on May 4-6th, 2009 in Waterloo.

For additional information please visit www.skillsontario.com

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