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## Spotlight on Skills

“hooked” on competitive contests



Name: **Lina Shamoun**

Trade: **Hairstyling**

City: **Kitchener, ON**

I was a grade 12 student at St. Mary’s High School (Kitchener) when I entered the secondary level hairstyling contest at the 2002 Ontario Technological Skills Competition. From that day on I was “hooked” on competitive contests. I also competed in the 2003 & 2004 New Talent Women’s Fashion and Style; the 2003 & 2004 Hairstylist of the Year and the 2004 North American Student Stylist of the Year contests.

Competing at the province and national skills hairstyling competitions has opened so many doors for me. Being a competitor for the past three years has built my confidence level and prepared me for challenges that come my way.

Being part of the provincial and the national competitions is amazing! Seeing the students, mentors, advisers, and the Skills Canada – Ontario staff members at the ceremonies and hearing the crowd cheer feels good. Everyone is full of energy and ready to share the excitement!

Traveling with Team Ontario, I have met people from all over the country. The competition is tough for all competitors but the experience teaches us how to be a strong, determined and hardworking in other aspects of life.

I would like to thank - Jane Smith, my grade 12 mentor from St. Mary’s High School; and Dee Fortier, owner of Deeva Hair, my employer and mentor. I would also like to thank all volunteers, teachers and advisers that make the competitions possible. Special thanks to Laura Thomas, Training Consultant (Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities), Gail Smyth, Executive Director of Skills Canada - Ontario, as well as the Board of Directors and the staff of Skills Canada - Ontario.

Those days are amazing memories that will never be forgotten. I highly recommend all the elementary, secondary and post secondary level students to get involved in the competitions, just to experience how rewarding it feels!