Skills Ontario

2016-17 PROGRAM GUIDE

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The beginning of the school year always brings so much excitement to our lives – new classrooms, new friends, new mentors, and new discoveries. The 2016-2017 school year will be a tremendous year for Skills Ontario, our programs, and competitions, with so many new opportunities for student participation and learning.

One of the many exciting things we have planned for this new school year is the launch of a new website: the Skills Work!® Online Resource will revise and renew our popular Skills Work!® Booklet, by making the information available online, more accessible and more dynamic, with the inclusion of videos and resource links.

In addition, we are excited to announce a new name for the Ontario Technological Skills Competition (OTSC): the OTSC is now the Skills Ontario Competition, and is moving to the GTA for the 2017 competition in May. The 2017 Skills Ontario Competition will continue to be the largest, most inclusive and accessible Skills Ontario Competition ever, with even more new exciting features to look forward to.

As always, our in-school presentations, aboriginal and young women’s initiatives and spectacular skills competitions – from the cardboard boat races to the Skills Ontario Competition – will continue to enhance the skill exploration and development of our students. Through experiential learning and mentorship opportunities, our programming encourages students to pursue the skilled trades and technologies as first-choice careers on the path to happy and successful futures.

We thank the many schools, teachers, volunteers, sponsors, board members, politicians, and staff that work hard every year to make these programs and initiatives successful. It is through their dedication and support that we are changing the lives of thousands of youth in Ontario, making our province a place where individuals can develop new skills and reap the many rewards of an exciting and fulfilling career.

Whether you are a new friend or an old one, we’re excited to have you join us this year. I invite you to visit our website and contact our staff to learn more about how you can get involved with Skills Ontario this year. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Warmest Regards,
Gail Smyth, Executive Director
Skills Ontario
Skills Ontario

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North Bay, Ontario
Skills Ontario:
Where to find us

Find us at any of the following locations,
or email us at info@skillsontario.com

Kitchener - Head Office
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Waterloo, ON  N2V 2B8
Phone: 519-749-9899 / 1-888-228-5446
Fax: 519-749-6322
Email: info@skillsontario.com
Website: www.skillsontario.com

Greater Toronto Area Office
 c/o Carpenters’ Local Union 27
  Training Centre
  222 Rowntree Dairy Road, Suite 2
  Woodbridge, ON  L4L 9T2
  Phone: 905-652-8805
  Fax: 905-652-8806

Ottawa Office
Algonquin College
1385 Woodroffe Avenue
Ottawa, ON  K2G 1V8

Sudbury Office
 c/o Collège Boréal
  21 Lasalle Boulevard
  Sudbury, ON  P3A 6B1
  (705) 560-6673 ext. 4165

Sault Ste. Marie Office
 c/o Sault College
  443 Northern Avenue
  Sault Ste. Marie, ON  P6B 4J3
  Phone: 705-759-2554 ext. 2540

Toronto Office - North
 c/o Humber Centre for Trades & Technology
  110 Carrier Drive
  Toronto, ON  M9W 5R1
  Phone: 416-675-6622 ext. 78088
  Fax: 416-675-8522

Thunder Bay Office
 c/o Confederation College
  P.O. Box 398, 1450 Nakina Drive
  Thunder Bay, ON  P7C 4W1
  Phone: 807-475-6462 or 807-475-6677

Toronto Office - Central
 c/o George Brown College
  146 Kendal Avenue, Room D305
  Toronto, Ontario  M5R 1M3
  Phone: 416-415-5000 ext. 4318

Windsor Office
 c/o St. Clair College Main South Campus
  P.O. Box 398, 1450 Nakina Drive
  Thunder Bay, ON  P7C 4W1
  Phone: 807-475-6462 or 807-475-6677

London Office
 c/o Fanshawe College, Room A1047
  1001 Fanshawe College Boulevard
  P.O. Box 7005
  London, ON  N5Y 5R6
  Phone: 519-452-4430 ext. 4852

Whitby Office
 c/o Durham College, Whitby Campus
  1610 Champlain Avenue
  Whitby, ON  L1N 9B2
  905-721-2000 ext. 4225

Sault Ste. Marie Office
 c/o Sault College
  443 Northern Avenue
  Sault Ste. Marie, ON  P6B 4J3
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School Affiliation

Affiliating with Skills Ontario gives students access to some of the best programming and experiential learning opportunities available in Ontario to promote the skilled trades and technologies.

Our programs, competitions, and educator resources enable you to reach your students and incorporate curriculum into exciting, hands-on and innovative activities.

Since 1989 Skills Ontario has been proudly promoting careers in the skilled trades and technologies to hundreds of thousands of youth across Ontario! Here’s what you’ll enjoy:

Elementary Schools:
Access to, and participation in:
• In-School Presentations
• Cardboard Boat Races and Video Challenges
• Career Awareness Workshops at the Skills Ontario Competition
• Elementary Challenges at the Skills Ontario Competition
• The Career Exploration Showcase at the Skills Ontario Competition
• The Elementary Young Women’s Conference at the Skills Ontario Competition
• Career Awareness Workshops for Aboriginal youth
• Far North Trades and Tech Days
• Skills Work!* Booklets
• Skills Work!* Skilled Trades WorkBook (Colouring Activity Book)

Secondary Schools:
Access to, and participation in:
• In-School Presentations
• Cardboard Boat Races and Video Challenges
• Skills Ontario Competition
• Qualifying Competitions for the Skills Ontario Competition
• The Career Exploration Showcase at the Skills Ontario Competition
• The Secondary Young Women’s Conference at the Skills Ontario Competition
• Career Exploration Events for Young Women
• Mentoring Events for Aboriginal youth
• The Aboriginal Student Conference at the Skills Ontario Competition
• Career Awareness Workshops for Aboriginal youth
• Skills Work!* Booklets

Colleges:
• Participation in the Skills Ontario Competition

Band Offices and Friendship Centres
Access to, and participation in:
• Mentoring Events for Aboriginal Youth
• The Aboriginal Student Conference at the Skills Ontario Competition
• Career Awareness Workshops for Aboriginal youth
• Far North Trades and Tech Days
• Young Women’s Conferences at the Skills Ontario Competition
• Career Exploration Events for Young Women
• Career Exploration Showcase at the Skills Ontario Competition
• Cardboard Boat Races and Video Challenges
• Skills Work!* Booklets

Please note that some additional fees may apply for certain programs. For affiliation forms or more information, go to http://www.skillsontario.com/affiliation or email info@skillsontario.com.
In-School Presentations
What’s Out There in the Skilled Trades and Technologies – Elementary and Secondary Editions

With eleven satellite offices all over Ontario, our Liaison Officers travel the province to encourage students to make informed decisions about their future. Since 1998, we have been delivering our presentation, entitled “Skills Work!® What’s Out There in the Skilled Trades and Technologies?” to educate students on the hundreds of career opportunities available in the construction, motive power, service, industrial and technology sectors. This interactive, 45-60 minute multimedia presentation is updated annually and is available in both English and French, as well as a workshop format geared toward Aboriginal audiences.

During the presentation, students and teachers have the opportunity to:
• Discover the benefits of careers in the skilled trades and technologies
• Take a visual tour of the skilled trades and technologies that interest them: with topics such as median salary, description of the role, what qualities, education and training a worker should have; students are encouraged to look for a career that fits their desired lifestyle, personality and interests
• Learn about the steps to apprenticeship, as well as other pathways to a career in the skilled trades
• Find out how to acquire skills and experience
• Understand the importance of employability skills in the workplace and how these skills can easily make or break a job opportunity
• Access further resources and determine how to get started on a path that is right for them

This program reaches over 125,000 elementary and secondary students per year in schools, Friendship Centres and Band Offices. In the last decade, we have reached over 1 million youth in Ontario through this program.

Supported by the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities and many community colleges, organizations and community partners, Skills Ontario’s presentation program is the perfect complement for all career exploration or development courses.

There is no additional cost to access this program for affiliated schools and organizations. To request your booking, fill out the presentation request form at http://www.skillsontario.com/book-presentation.
Our Resources
Providing information and awareness of career pathways for youth

Skills Work!® Booklets
The Skills Work!” Booklet is a go-to resource for students, educators and parents who want to learn more about careers in the skilled trades and technologies. This comprehensive guide book offers practical advice and useful information on pursuing a career in the skilled trades and technologies. More than 60 occupations are outlined with full descriptions, educational and experience requirements, average pay, job responsibilities and profiles of young people on the job. First-time affiliated schools receive a one-time complimentary class set and additional booklets can be ordered. For pricing information, please contact info@skillsontario.com.

Thank you to the Ontario College of Trades for supporting the publication of this booklet.

Skills Work!® Online Resource
www.skillsontario.com/skillwork
The “Skills Work!” online resource revises and renews our popular Skills Work!” Booklet, by making the information available online, more accessible and more dynamic, with the inclusion of videos and resource links, including links to each Ontario college website.

Just like the Skills Work!” Booklet, the online version features information for students, teachers, and parents about careers in the skilled trades and technologies across the communication, industrial and manufacturing, service, construction, motive power and transportation, and technology sectors. Just like the booklet, the Skills Work!” website also features resources for further information and an FAQ section for students and parents.

Visit www.skillsontario.com/skillwork to start exploring opportunities in the skilled trades and technologies. Thank you to our Platinum Sponsor, Humber College, for their generous support in creating this website.

Skills Work!® Skilled Trades Workbook
This colouring and activity book is a new and unique avenue to reach young learners who may be too young to participate in our other programs and competitions. We hope this workbook starts young learners on a path of exploration for their future, inspiring them to try new things and learn new skills – and have some fun along the way! For more information on how to order the Skills Work!” Skilled Trades Workbook, please email info@skillsontario.com.

Women in Trades: Myths and Realities
This electronic booklet contains information for women considering careers in the skilled trades and technologies. Exploring six common myths, this publication is also beneficial to help educators, industry and government to understand what they can do to support women as they travel along their career paths.

Created in partnership with Women in Nuclear Canada, the publication is available as a free download at: http://www.skillsontario.com/resources#women

Skills Work!® Skills Play – The Apprenticeship Game
Want to learn more about the paths to learning a skilled trade? Skills Work!” Skills Play – The Apprenticeship Game helps you do just that. For ages 12 and over, players roll the die and race up the pipe to be the first to reach the Red Seal. But there’s a catch: if you reach the Red Seal label before properly answering enough skills-related trivia to collect six tool cards, you’re headed back to the “clog” in the pipe to try again. This dynamic board game provides youth and adults with an informative, energetic and interactive medium to learn what it means to seek out careers in the skilled trades. Play online at http://www.skillsontario.com/skillsworkskillsplay.
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An apprenticeship is the first step to a rewarding career in the skilled trades and a great way to earn while you learn!
Cardboard Boat Races and Video Challenge

For over 20 years, Skills Ontario has been hosting Cardboard Boat Races across Ontario, testing students’ ability to build a floating structure that will outperform all others in speed and weight challenges.

Both elementary and secondary schools participate on separate days at locations across Ontario. 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.

Meanwhile, teams of two record their boat-building peers’ progress from the construction stage to the races in the pool, as they work to capture the best video of the action. The student videographers then edit and produce a promotional video at their schools. Once submitted, each production is judged, the winners are selected and teams are provided with a scoring breakdown.

Note: This program is a benefit of affiliation. For more information on affiliation and this program, and to locate a copy of the guidelines and schedule, visit our website www.skillsontario.com or email competitions@skillsontario.com.
Competitions

The Skills Ontario Competition celebrates its inaugural year in the GTA at the Toronto Congress Centre, May 1-3, 2017!

Skills Ontario Competition
Canada’s Largest Skilled Trades and Technology Competition!
May 1-3, 2017 Toronto Congress Centre

The Skills Ontario Competition is the largest skilled trades and technology competition in Canada. More than 2,000 student competitors from across Ontario compete in one of 68 unique contest areas to demonstrate that they are the best in their field. From Animation to Horticulture, Welding to Baking, over 20,000 spectators come out to witness the future of the skilled trades and technologies in action!

The Skills Ontario Competition offers a unique opportunity for top students to demonstrate their skills and enthusiasm for their career choices, turning the heads of educators, family, friends and prospective employers. It’s also a great opportunity for undecided students to explore the contest areas and see what’s out there in the skilled trades and technologies.

The Skills Ontario Competition Closing Ceremony will take place on May 3, 2017. In 2016, 15 job offers were offered to medalists at the Closing Ceremony – speaking to the recognized quality of Skills Ontario Competition Competitors!

The Skills Ontario Competition also offers students many additional activities and resources:

- Career Exploration Showcase – Through hands-on activities, colleges, unions and industry partners provide a hands-on experience to show students what’s available to them.
- Elementary Career Awareness Workshops – On the first day of the competition, elementary students get to try their hand at a skilled trade by participating in hands-on workshops.
- Young Women’s Conferences – Through a variety of activities, speakers and mentorships, our Young Women’s Conferences encourage and inspire young women consider the skilled trades and technologies as a first-choice career option.
- Aboriginal Student Conference – Through a variety of activities, speakers and mentorships, the Aboriginal Student Conference encourages and inspires Aboriginal youth to consider the skilled trades and technologies as a first-choice career option.

Sponsors and Volunteers

As a not-for-profit organization, Skills Ontario relies on the generous support of an army of volunteers. Over 1000 people from industry, education and the community invest countless volunteer hours setting up and tearing down the 600,000 sq. feet of competition and exhibitor space. Our dedicated volunteers judge the competitions, secure suppliers, chair the contests and counsel the competitors who have advanced to “Team Ontario” at the Skills Canada National Competition.

Local and provincial partners in industry, government, labour and education donate their time and resources, including over $9M worth of tools, equipment and supplies to the two-day competition. If you would like to be involved, please email us at competitions@skillsontario.com

We look forward to seeing you as the Skills Ontario Competition celebrates its inaugural year in the GTA at the Toronto Congress Centre, May 1-3, 2017! See you there!

Qualifying Competitions
April 1, 2017

Qualifying Competitions were introduced in 2005 to ensure all the students across Ontario in the most popular contests had the opportunity to compete amongst their peers with the top performers at the Qualifying level moving onto the Provincial Championships – the Skills Ontario Competition.

In order to compete at the Skills Ontario Competition in any of the following high-demand contests, secondary-level students are first required to earn their eligibility by taking part in a qualifying competition:

- 2D Computer Character Animation (Team of 2)
• Carpentry-Individual
• Culinary Arts
• Small Powered Equipment
• TV Video Production (Team of 2)
• Welding

The top three school boards in each contest from each qualifying competition location are eligible to advance to the Skills Ontario Competition.

The qualifying competitions are currently held at eight partnering Ontario colleges:
• Canadore College
• Cambrian College
• Confederation College
• Fanshawe College
• Georgian College
• Humber College
• Niagara College
• St. Lawrence College

Qualifying Technical Committees, including representatives from each participating college and the Skills Ontario Competition Technical Committee Chair, work together to create the guidelines, projects and judging criteria for these competitions. To maintain consistency, the same contest projects and judging criteria are used at all eight locations.

For more information, contact competitions@skillsontario.com

Career Exploration Showcase At the Skills Ontario Competition

May 1-3, 2017

A highlight of the Skills Ontario Competition, the Career Exploration Showcase provides a unique and exciting opportunity for students and visitors from across Ontario to explore the world of post-secondary skilled trades and technology education and educational resources. Through hands-on activities, each one of the exhibits is designed to help students gain an understanding of the skilled trades and technologies. Students leave with a broader outlook on the opportunities that are available to them in these career fields.

Over 86 exhibitors participate each year in the Career Exploration Showcase, and are required to facilitate interactive skilled trades or technology based activities for students and the visiting public. With the exciting move to a larger venue, we ask that schools register to take part in this incredible event. There is no cost to attend, and no limit on the number of students able to attend. Please see www.skillsontario.com/showcase for more details on how to register.

Elementary Technology Challenges

May 1, 2017

Each year, eager elementary students from all over Ontario participate in our Elementary Technology Challenges at the Skills Ontario Competition. Open to students in grades 4 through 8, students take part in challenges in their areas of interest – such as animation, health and safety, construction and robotics. They are judged in their design, problem-solving, time management, teamwork and leadership skills. Students are also invited to tour the competition and visit the Career Exploration Showcase. For more information, contact competitions@skillsontario.com

Skills Canada National Competition

May 31 – June 3, 2017 in Winnipeg

Each year Ontario’s most talented students compete at the Skills Ontario Competition for the opportunity to represent our province at the Skills Canada National Competition. Gold-medal-winning competitors earn the privilege to showcase their abilities on a national stage and make Ontario proud.

In June 2016, 68 competitors from high schools and colleges across Ontario, and another 45 advisors and parents, made up the largest Team Ontario ever. In keeping with the excellence demonstrated at the Skills Ontario Competition, Team Ontario brought back 12 Gold, 13 Silver, and 9 Bronze medals, for a total of 34 medals, out of a total 44 contests.

Rewarding top competitors

Monetary awards are granted to young people who have demonstrated their passion for and commitment to the skilled trades and technologies by ranking in the top of their contest area at the Skills Ontario Competition.

These awards financially assist competitors in pursuing their careers in the skilled trades and technologies. At the 2016 Skills Ontario Competition, over $65,000 in monetary awards were given out to competitors!

Our thanks to the 2016 Skills Ontario Competition Monetary Awards Contributors:

- American Technical Publisher
- ECAO/IBEW
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- OACETT
- Ron Downey
- Women in Nuclear
- ArcelorMittal Dofasco
- Gary Cronkwright
- Magna International
- OCTE
- Toronto Congress Centre
- TMMC Andy Verhoeve Award
- Colleges Ontario
- Gene Haas Foundation
- Miller
- Ontario College of Trades
- TSSA
- Anglo-Franco Communications

In 2016, job offers from Magna International were awarded to medalists in the Automation Control, Industrial Mechanic, and Mechatronics contests, and Hy-Mark offered apprenticeships to the post-secondary gold medalists in the Plumbing and Sheet Metal contests at the Closing Ceremony. We believe this opportunity speaks to the recognized quality of the young people who compete at the Skills Ontario Competition and that there is no better way to reward the most talented students in Ontario.
Proud Sponsor and Supporter of Skills Ontario

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TSSA is proud to be a Gold Sponsor of the 2016 Ontario Technological Skills Competition and would like to thank the Consumers Advisory Council through their Safety Education Fund for making this sponsorship possible.

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Young Women’s Initiatives
Skills Ontario has found the best method to encourage young women to consider a future in the trades is to introduce them to mentors who have already chosen this rewarding path.

Skills Ontario recruits trades and technology professionals to act as mentors and offers an annual professional development workshop, known as Mentor Build, to equip them to be effective speakers. The following programs make up Young Women’s Initiatives at Skills Ontario. For more information about our Young Women’s Initiatives, please visit www.skillsontario.com/young-womens-initiatives or email info@skillsontario.com.

Think Skills... Think Future! Young Women’s Conference
May 1-2, 2017
Toronto Congress Centre

Since 1999, Skills Ontario has hosted the award winning “Think Skills... Think Future!” Young Women’s Conferences in conjunction with the Skills Ontario Competition. These conferences offer females in senior elementary and secondary the opportunity to be inspired by female mentors and experience the Career Exploration Showcase at the Skills Ontario Competition, Canada’s largest Canada’s largest skilled trade and technology competition.

More than 1500 female students gather together in a welcoming environment where they explore career opportunities in the skilled trades and technologies. Highlights of the conference include hearing from keynote speakers, participating in hands-on activities, and exploring the Career Exploration Showcase. This event is suitable for all young women in grades 7 through 12 who are exploring career options for their future!

Mentor Build:
November 24, 2016
A Professional Development Workshop for Tradeswomen
Frank Hasenfratz Centre for Excellence in Manufacturing, Linamar Corporation, Guelph

Each year, more than 250 tradeswomen representing a variety of skilled careers in the motive power, construction, industrial, service, and technology sectors volunteer their time to act as mentors to female students attending our young women’s programs. Mentor Build is our opportunity to give back to these mentors and train them on engaging a student audience and using their story to create positive influence in young lives. Mentor Build is both a career-coaching workshop for these dedicated volunteers, and a great networking opportunity.

Hosted in partnership with the Linamar Corporation at the Frank Hasenfratz Centre for Excellence in Manufacturing in Guelph, this professional development session invites tradeswomen to bring their passion for their work and real-life experiences to the table, to the benefit of all the young women in Skills Ontario related programs.

Outreach Opportunities
Skills Ontario also facilitates workshops, presentations or other activities at events aimed to promote trades to young women organized by other groups, such as colleges and school boards. If you have an event coming up targeting young women to consider a future in trades and technologies, contact us to see how Skills Ontario can help!
Aboriginal Initiatives

The Aboriginal Initiatives program tailors the “What’s Out There in the Skilled Trades and Technologies?” presentation to a hands-on workshop with culturally relevant information.

This workshop is designed to educate students on the hundreds of career opportunities available in the construction, motive power, service, industrial and technology sectors. This interactive, 45-60 minute multimedia hands-on workshop is updated annually.

Workshops regarding career opportunities in the skilled trades and technologies are available to audiences of people of Aboriginal descent in their communities, cultural gathering places, and in schools. Skills Ontario’s Aboriginal Workshop brings the topic of skilled trades and technologies to the forefront and encourages young Aboriginal people to consider and test out their hands-on abilities.

Mentoring Events are held in several communities each school year. Aboriginal Initiatives Mentoring Events are an opportunity for Aboriginal audiences to explore careers in the skilled trades and technologies. The focus of the event is to allow attendees to meet Aboriginal skilled tradespeople face-to-face, to hear their stories and ask them questions about their experience.

Aboriginal Student Conference at the Skills Ontario Competition

May 2, 2017
Toronto Congress Centre

Beginning in 2016, Skills Ontario hosts a community gathering specifically for Aboriginal students at the Skills Ontario Competition. This event helps youth understand the rewarding career options in the skilled trades and technologies, while celebrating a shared cultural heritage and the success of Aboriginal youth across Ontario.

This conference offers Aboriginal youth in grades 7-12 the opportunity to be inspired by mentors who have already chosen a career path in the skilled trades and technologies, and while exploring the Career Exploration Showcase at the Skills Ontario Competition, Canada’s largest skilled trades and technology competition.
Skills Work!® Summer Camps
Exploring Careers in Skilled Trades and Technologies
One Hands-on Activity at a Time

The Skills Work!® Summer Camp is a week-long day program for kids entering grades seven, eight, and nine. Campers explore skilled trades through industry-led workshops in the industrial, construction, motive power, service and technology sectors. Through a variety of hands-on activities and interactive games participants also develop important life and workplace skills such as communication, problem-solving and teamwork.

The camps are facilitated in communities across Ontario, with some locations offering specialized programming (for example, Indigenous focused, all-girls and all-boys and Francophone camps). Past locations have included Thunder Bay, Guelph, Kitchener, Waterloo, Toronto, Sudbury, Belleville, Tiverton, Stoney Creek, London, Sault Ste. Marie, Manitoulin Island, Windsor and Whitby. This initiative is facilitated in partnership with colleges, industries and community volunteers who are committed to giving the campers an outstanding hands-on experience. For more information and online registration, please visit the Skills Ontario website at www.skillsontario.com/camp or email info@skillsontario.com.
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PROTECTING OUR WORLD
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The titles of Certified Engineering Technologist (C.E.T.) & Certified Technician (C.Tech.) are conferred to qualified, experienced professionals who meet specific standards.

Learn more about OACETT
Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians & Technologists
416-631-9621 | oacett.org | info@oacett.org
Awards

Skills Ontario is pleased to offer a number of opportunities for recognition of outstanding leadership, excellence in, and advancement of the skilled trades and technologies.

Glenn Beatty Award

Glenn Beatty was a participant in the CAD, CAM, CNC contests and gold medal winner in the 1997 Skills Ontario Competition and then progressed to the Canadian Skills Competition held in Red Deer, Alberta for another gold medal performance that same year. Following his outstanding performance at the skills competition, at both the provincial and national level, Glenn was hired by ATS Automation Tooling Systems in Cambridge, Ontario.

Grateful for the opportunity given to him and the impact that it had on his life, Glenn returned to Skills Ontario in 1998 as a volunteer. In January of 1999 we lost Glenn in a motor vehicle accident, representing a tremendous loss to the organization, the community, and to all those who knew him.

As a tribute to Glenn, Skills Ontario presents the Glenn Beatty Award annually to a volunteer who embodies the dedication and passion for Skills Ontario that Glenn had.

Congratulation to Russ Jessop, the recipient of the 2016 Glenn Beatty Award!

Skills Ontario Leadership Award

This award was created in 2016 to recognize and honour an individual whose outstanding contribution to Skills Ontario fosters passion for the skilled trades and technologies, and whose mentorship of the young people we serve, opens doors for the next generation of skilled trades and technology professionals.

Skills Ontario is proud to present Mario Blouin, a long-time supporter of Skills Ontario, a teacher at Ecole secondaire catholique de Hearst in Hearst, Ontario, and a member of the Robotics Contest Technical Committee, with the inaugural Skills Ontario Leadership Award.

Mario has influenced the lives of many young people from Northern Ontario to compete at the secondary level in precision machining, welding, small powered equipment and robotics. His students frequently medal at both the provincial and national competitions and, in 2015, his robotics team advanced to the WorldSkills Competition in Brazil. Congratulations, Mario!

The Dick Hopkins Award

Dick Hopkins was a technology educator at Napanee and Sydenham High Schools and Queen’s University Faculty of Education. He exemplified the energy and enthusiasm of a great technology educator who inspired a generation of teachers and students. He vigorously promoted the skilled trades as career choices for his students.

Sadly, Dick passed away suddenly in October 2002. In honour of our friend and colleague, the Ontario Council for Technology Education (OCTE) and Skills Ontario have initiated an annual award of excellence for an outstanding technology educator in Dick’s name. This award is presented annually in recognition of Dick’s active participation and promotion of skills competitions and events.

The 2016 recipient of the Dick Hopkins Award is Kevin Shea, a passionate technology teacher from the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board.

To nominate a worthy contributor for this award, visit us at www.skillsontario.com or email info@skillsontario.com. Nominations are considered between September 9th, 2016 and March 17th, 2017.

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Awards

At the Skills Ontario Competition Closing Ceremony:

The Skills Work® School Board Award of Distinction

The Skills Work® School Board Award of Distinction is presented to the School Board that shows dedication to the promotion of skilled trades and technology careers.

To determine which school board receives this award, we look to their students: at the Skills Ontario Competition, each secondary-school competitor in the top ten ranking, who scores over 60%, earns points for their school board. The award is presented to the school board with the highest score.

Congratulations to the 2016 School Board Award of Distinction Recipient: Toronto Catholic School Board

College Award of Distinction

With the College Award of Distinction, Skills Ontario acknowledges a college that has demonstrated commitment to this initiative, made significant investments to the skilled trades and technologies and strived for excellence in the classroom, shop and competition site.

To determine which college will receive the yearly award, we take the results from student performances at the Skills Ontario Competition and look to the college’s volunteerism and involvement in Skills Ontario events such as the Career Exploration Showcase, Young Women’s Initiatives, and Skills Work® Summer Camps.

Congratulations to the 2016 College Award of Distinction Recipient: Conestoga College

Award of Excellence

Colleges Ontario and the Ontario Council for Technology Education (OCTE) would like to congratulate competitors on their achievements at the Skills Ontario Competition each and every year. Over the course of the competition day, a number of competitors achieve their personal bests. To celebrate their dedication, their passion and their perseverance, the Award of Excellence is granted to the highest individual score at each annual competition, in both the secondary and post-secondary levels.

In recognition of this outstanding achievement, the competitor’s school board is presented with a gold medal at the Closing Ceremony of the Skills Ontario Competition. The competitor’s school is also honoured with complementary affiliation with Skills Ontario for the year.

Congratulations to the 2016 post-secondary winner, Ryan Zantinge of Fanshawe College.

Klaus Woerner Skilled Trades Hall of Fame

Skills Ontario is pleased to honour the late Klaus Woerner, founder and CEO of ATS Automation Tooling Systems. This Skilled Trades Hall of Fame Award recognizes an individual who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of skilled trades and technologies. Since 2007, this award has been presented in memory of Klaus Woerner, a trailblazer for the skilled trades.

Congratulations to our 2016 recipient, Colin deRaaf! Colin is the Director of Training at Christian Labour Association of Canada – Cambridge Member Centre. Colin’s contribution to the skilled trades has much to do with his belief that purposeful and creative work provide the greatest opportunity for individual excellence. Colin is a persistent champion of Skills Ontario and has been the face of CLAC in Ontario as the partner of Skills Ontario. Congratulations Colin!

Nominate someone today! Do you know of someone who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of skilled trades and technologies? Nominations are considered between September 12th, 2016 and March 17th, 2017. Per candidate, only two nominations are needed, and the winner will be announced at the Competition Breakfast at the Skills Ontario Competition on Tuesday, May 2nd, 2017. For more information, please visit our awards page: www.skillsontario.com/scholarships-and-awards.
Scholarships are available for Conestoga College’s Mechanical Technician - CNC program
www.conestogac.on.ca/fulltime/mechanical-technician-cnc

If you are graduating June 2017 you can apply for Linamar apprenticeship positions for machinist, millwright, and electrician in our facilities
www.linamar.com/careers

Good luck to the participants at the Skills Ontario Competition and National Competition!

The Skills Ontario Competition was the opportunity to further develop and hone my skills from the regional and school levels. Staying involved with the competition ensures that my support is added to the other 1000+ volunteers helping to set up, facilitate, and tear down the event every year. [...] I plan to continue supporting this event so that I can return the benefit it has already shown me.

– Shane Kennedy, past Skills Ontario Competition Competitor and current volunteer marshal

Skills Ontario has a large pool of alumni from past Skills Ontario Competitions (formerly the Ontario Technological Skills Competition), Cardboard Boat Races, Young Women’s Initiatives and more — many alumni continue their involvement with Skills Ontario as dedicated volunteers.

In 2017, Skills Ontario will host the inaugural Skills Ontario Alumni Dinner at the Skills Ontario Competition, Monday, May 1, 2017, at the Toronto Congress Centre.

To learn more about the Skills Ontario Alumni Dinner and volunteer opportunities with Skills Ontario, please email:
info@skillsontario.com
Skills Ontario Scholarships

We encourage educators from across the province to share information on this scholarship with their students.

Skills Ontario Board of Directors and Staff Scholarships

Each year, the Board of Directors and staff of Skills Ontario are pleased to award this scholarship to a student(s) pursuing post-secondary education in technology through a community college program in Ontario. We encourage educators from across the province to share information on this scholarship with their students. For full details on eligibility and online nomination forms visit www.skillsontario.com

Application forms and support material are due in August of each year.

St. Clair College Scholarship

At the 2016 Skills Ontario Competition, competitors received a financial boost from St. Clair College: the college presents $1,000 scholarships to grade 11 and 12 students who competed in the 2016 Skills Ontario Competition, whether they placed or not. The scholarships are applicable at St. Clair College. For more information, please contact Ann Hetherington, Director of Marketing at St. Clair College, by phone at 519-972-2775 or by email at ahetherington@stclaircollege.ca.

St. Clair College

Pin and Medal Design Contest

Take your creativity to the next level and show us your designs for the 2017 Skills Ontario Competition medals and pins! These contests are open to all students who attend a high school or college affiliated with Skills Ontario. Contest design specifications are posted in the Skills Ontario website in September. Entries are due by Friday, November 11, 2016.

Congratulations to the 2016 pin design winner, Emily McGregor of Mohawk College, and the 2016 medal design winner, Jared Howie, grade 11 student at R.S. McLaughlin CVI in Oshawa.

Don’t get hurt at work!

As a young worker, you’re at risk of injury and death at work if you don’t know your rights and responsibilities. Ask questions, request training if you need it, and know your rights as a worker in Ontario. Talk to your family about what you are doing at work.

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Skills Ontario is an apolitical organization that is focused solely on our mission statement:

“to champion and stimulate the development of world-class technological and employability skills in Ontario youth.”

As such, Skills Ontario obtains funding from various sources and the fact that it receives funding from these sources should not be taken as support or non-support for any particular organization’s political, social or religious beliefs.
Support the next generation of skilled trade and technology professionals!

Join us in championing skilled trade and technology careers as first-choice career options for youth in Ontario!

Become a supporter of Skills Ontario! Please email info@skillsontario.com for volunteer and sponsorship opportunities. www.skillsontario.com