



# SHOP TALK

A Trades Training Opportunities  
Newsletter from BCIT

Winter, 1990

## From the Editor's Desk:

Even though predicting the future is at best a shaky proposition, certain trends have emerged which seem likely to continue to the end of the century. Many of these are visible at a national level but they may also have a direct impact on your students.

Think back to 1983 and the employment situation in B.C. Compare it to what you see as you go about your daily business. It is rare these days to pass a fast food outlet or small commercial enterprise and not see a "Help Wanted" sign in the window. What we are seeing is the result of an improving economy, fewer young people to fill these positions, and the rapid growth of the service sector.

A seemingly unrelated trend draws together the continuing advance of technology, the existing shortage of skilled workers, and the average age of qualified tradespeople. This, combined with the trend described above, creates a situation whereby the high school graduate can enter the workforce directly without taking additional training. Judging by the ages of students graduating from entry level trades programs at BCIT it would appear that many high school students are taking time-out to work before returning for post-secondary schooling.

Postponing post-secondary training does have some positive effects. In referring to studies of university students, the four years they spend pursuing degrees is a time when life and career choices are in a state of flux. This process is looked upon as an important part of these young persons' development. For those young people inclined to seek a career in a trades related occupation, however, this period of career exploration and personal development seems to occur while they are working in unskilled positions. We find that students who do not enter our programs directly from high school seem more confident and dedicated to their career choice. However, from the opposite point of view, the longer these students wait to pursue a skill the longer they are vulnerable to the impact of technology on low skill jobs.

In summary, as educators, we have an obligation to help students decide what to do following graduation. Ultimately students will make their own decisions, but they should be given as much information as possible to make an informed choice.

### Pitt Meadows Student Get Warm Reception at BCIT

During a tour of BCIT's Entry Level Trades Training programs last spring, students from Pitt Meadows Secondary School took part in a fire fighting demonstration. The practical portion of this Common Core competency (A-5: Extinguish Small Fires) was provided by BCIT under the watchful eye of the Burnaby Fire Department. To prove competency, each student had to extinguish the burning mixture using the types of fire extinguishers found in most industrial settings.



*Pitt Meadows student extinguishes burning mixture as classmates and Burnaby firefighters look on.*

### New Entrance Award Will Help High School Students

It was recently announced that up to sixty entrance awards, equivalent to a full year's tuition, will be presented to students starting BCIT trade and technology programs directly from B.C. secondary schools. Recipients



will be students who have combined high achievement with active participation in school and/or community activities. Because an equitable percentage of these awards will be earmarked for trades programs, "high achievement" will not necessarily be defined according to performance in the academic subjects. To be considered, students must have applied for admission to BCIT by March 15 and have submitted a President's Entrance Award application by April 16.

BCIT's plans to give the presentation of the awards a high profile will give Career Preparation instructors an excellent opportunity to highlight their course, and Career Preparation in general! To make sure your students get the opportunity to take advantage of these generous awards, copies of the application forms are being sent to the industrial education department heads at each school.

In addition to the President's Entrance Award, there are other awards directed at trades students. The CN Scholarship for Women (\$600) is designed to encourage women to get involved in non-traditional occupations. For further information call Cathy Schweers at 432-8438. A similar award for women, through the Simons Foundation, will present its first award in 1991. Bursaries with a total annual value of \$2,000 are similarly available to students (male or female) in the aviation programs at BCIT.

### Diesel Engine Students "Clean-up" For Shinerama

In support of Shinerama, the BCIT Student Association's Cystic Fibrosis fund raising event, Diesel Engine students did a one day engine steam-cleaning blitz. By the end of the day this group of students had raised \$420. The final result of this year's event was a contribution by the Student Association of \$22,600 for medical research. Standing, left to right, are Dave Souder, S.A. president, Diesel Engine student Eric Jones, Steve Smith, Chris Snitch, Linwood Stosdard, Mark Marentette and, kneeling, Justin Kemp and Business Society chairperson John MacDonald.



Standing in front of a restored 1931 Ford Model 'A' Pickup, students of BCIT's Diesel Program pose with representatives from the Student Association. The diesel students raised \$420 towards BCIT's annual Cystic Fibrosis fund raising campaign, Shinerama.

### Heavy Duty Student Wins Top Award

A 27-year old North Vancouver resident has been named 1989's top student in the Heavy Duty Mechanics program. Martin William den Dekker, an entry level heavy duty mechanics student, won a \$250 cash award from the Canadian Association of Equipment Distributors (CAED), B.C. group as the year's top student. The CAED award is presented annually to the heavy duty mechanics student who is considered by faculty to be the most advanced and to have made the greatest progress during the academic year. Martin maintained an average of 95 per cent on written examinations during his course and an average of 91 per cent on practical work. Before coming to BCIT, Martin worked as a chokerman and mechanic's helper at Whittaker Logging Company in Britannia Beach. Martin received his award at a luncheon ceremony on November 24. The award was presented by Lucille Johnstone, CAED national president.



Canadian Association of Equipment Distributors (CAED) national president, Lucille Johnstone presented BCIT Heavy Duty Mechanic student Martin William den Dekker with a \$250 cash award on November 24. Pictured from left to right are: Don Eklof, chief instructor, Heavy Equipment Group, Lucille Johnstone, Ed Wilk, Heavy Duty instructor, John Watson, president, BCIT, Martin den Dekker, award winning student, Ron Evans, associate dean, Mechanical Industries Training, Guff Muench, B.C. Group president, CAED, John Hopper, national executive vice president, CAED.

### Motorcycle Graduate Thanks BCIT For CPR Training

The following letter from a grateful student was received by the School of Trades Training last summer:

I am typing this letter so that you may impress upon your students the importance of having CPR training as part of the course. If you remember, I did a little complaining about having to take CPR because I never thought I would need it.

Well I have changed my thoughts about this; you see I saved a customer's life today because I had this training. A man had just picked up a lawn mower and had collapsed outside. We have a staff of twelve and I was the only one to have any type of training. I immediately started CPR after determining he had no pulse and could not hear me speaking to him. I did the CPR without consciously thinking about it. Luckily I brought him around in a couple of minutes.



It may not be so critical to have this training in a city the size of Vancouver, but in a small town the size of Annapolis Royal, it's critical, especially when it took 20 minutes for the town's ambulance to respond.

So the next time you hear a student complain like I did please let him/her read this letter; it may save another life. Further to this I am going to suggest the idea to the Nova Scotia Dept. of Education that they seriously consider adopting B.C.'s lead in having all vocational students take this training.

Your's truly  
George F. Johnston

## Auto Collision Repair Accepts First Class of Students

BCIT's new Auto Collision Repair and Refinishing program welcomed its first group of students on January 8, 1990.

This program has been totally revised since it was offered at BCIT's former campus in Maple Ridge. It is now a cooperative education program, providing a mix of training experiences both on campus and in industry. While gaining experience working in an auto collision repair shop students gain the added benefit of being paid for their work. Also, in terms of the placement of graduates, cooperative programs have proven very effective in getting students jobs.

The new program is divided into three terms. During Term I students spend 18 weeks at BCIT and the remaining 13 weeks working in the trade. In Term II students return to BCIT for 16 weeks before going back into industry for another 13 weeks. In the final term, students have the opportunity to specialize. For the last 13 weeks students concentrate on either the Advanced Repair or Advanced Finishing Option prior to graduation and employment.

Under the Articulation Agreement between BCIT and the school districts, Career Preparation students will have the added advantage of being assured a September '90 start date if they apply before February 28. Although credit for courses taken in high school may be offered, this will require closer examination once Career Preparation students begin to enter the program.

Further information regarding this innovative program can be obtained by calling the instructor, Gordon Smith, at 434-5734, local 5034.

## Plans Laid for High School Trades Challenge

On January 11 the High School Trades Challenge Planning Committee met at BCIT. The objective was to identify possible projects for the April 6 competition. It was recommended by Bob Drummond and Maynard Embree that a variety of suggested projects be forwarded to each of the participating high schools and that, by consensus, options be selected. Each option would then be further developed by BCIT to include detailed instructions, drawings, evaluation criteria, etc. and forwarded to each participating school. The high school

instructors would then have about six weeks to prepare their teams.

On the day of the competition one option would be selected for the students to work on. It was suggested that high school instructors may wish to set up a competition within their own shops as a means of selecting a team to represent them. This may have the additional benefit of being an excellent instructional tool!

The growing list of businesses and associations offering their support is a good indication of the competition's anticipated success! The May edition of ShopTalk will provide complete coverage of this exciting event.



*Members of the High School Trades Challenge Planning Committee worked out a plan of action at their meeting on January 11. Pictured from left, front to rear: Janice Baldry, School Trades Training, Rob MacGregor, Automotive Dept., Bob Drummond, Coquitlam School District, Kurt Traugott, Carpentry, Kevin Neusteader, Steel Fabrication. Right, front to rear: Rod MacNeill, School Trades Training, Maynard Embree, Maple Ridge School District, Patrick Muldoon, Electronics, Carl Catt, Joinery, Ted Marchant, Machine Shop, Eric Sukkel, Welding.*



## Women Explore Careers in the Trades

On January 10, 1990 sixteen women began a ten week part-time evening course. Designed to help them decide if a career as a tradesperson is in their future, these women will participate in group discussions and experience different trades environments. The exciting thing about this program is that it is taught by women who are themselves experienced tradespeople. Anne St. Eloi, who coordinates the program, is a qualified pipefitter who works as a maintenance supervisor for a local school district. Judy Doll is a qualified carpenter who teaches Industrial Education in White Rock. Judy will teach the carpentry portion of the course. The mechanical part of the program will be taught by Alice McPherson, a motorcycle mechanic, who is employed as the Fleet and Equipment Coordinator for the B.C. Safety Council. The tradesperson delivering the electrical portion of the course is Iris Brazeau. Iris worked as a business equipment technician and is now in the BCIT avionics program.



## School of Trades Video Looks at Careers in Trades

BCIT's Audiovisual Production Department recently completed a short video for the School of Trades Training. Rather than simply outlining what trades programs are available, this video looks at careers in the trades. During the eight minute presentation apprentices, graduates of BCIT trades programs, and employers discuss issues like the impact of technology, the benefits of apprenticeship, being a woman in a non-traditional occupation, and the demand for skilled workers. The video revolves around the discussions of three young people as they consider their career options. Entertaining as well as informative, the video will be a valuable teaching/counselling tool for high school personnel. This video will be available through the School of Trades Training early in February.

### Doing Something Interesting?

Much is happening in Career Preparation and Industrial Education programs around the province. However, many of your colleagues may be unaware of what you are doing. If you have a project, item of interest, picture, or article that you wish to share, send it to:

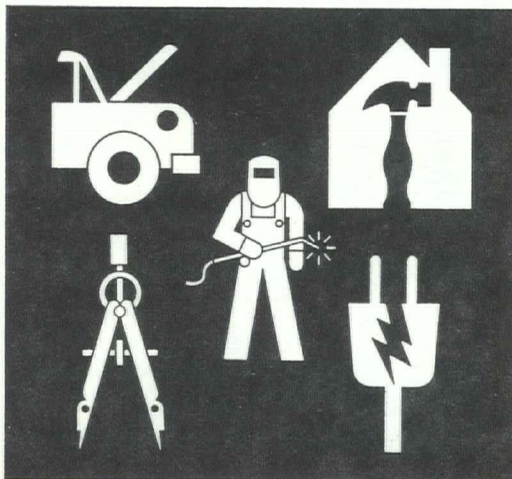
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We will endeavour to put it in the next issue of ShopTalk.

**REMEMBER!**  
**FEBRUARY 28TH**  
**IS THE**  
**APPLICATION DEADLINE**  
**FOR**  
**CAREER**  
**PREPARATION**  
**STUDENTS**  
**WANTING**  
**PREFERENTIAL PLACEMENT**  
**TO**  
**ENTRY LEVEL**  
**TRADES PROGRAMS**

*SHOPTALK* is published by the School of Trades Training in the fall, winter and summer. All comments and/or queries should be directed to Rod MacNeill, School of Trades Training, 3700 Willingdon Avenue, Burnaby, B.C. V5G 3H2 (432-8524).

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# HIGH SCHOOL TRADES CHALLENGE