



SHOP TALK

A Trades Training Opportunities
Newsletter from BCIT

January, 1989

From the Editor's Desk:

As you may be aware, Career Preparation applicants are not required to write a pre-entry test prior to being accepted into an Entry Level Trades Training program at BCIT. They must, however, undergo functional testing in basic math and reading skills upon entering the program.

If students other than Career Preparation graduates write the pre-entry test as a prerequisite, and do not reach a specified grade equivalent, upgrading is recommended and acceptance delayed until the test is passed. Although not common, some Career Preparation students' test results do not meet the test criteria. These cases usually involve the reading portions of the test and occur most commonly among students with English as a second language. In most cases these students find it difficult to keep up with the amount of reading required in our programs and, in some cases, will withdraw. To witness a student begin a program with high aspirations only to withdraw due to weak reading skills causes concerns which I am sure are shared by both the high schools and BCIT.

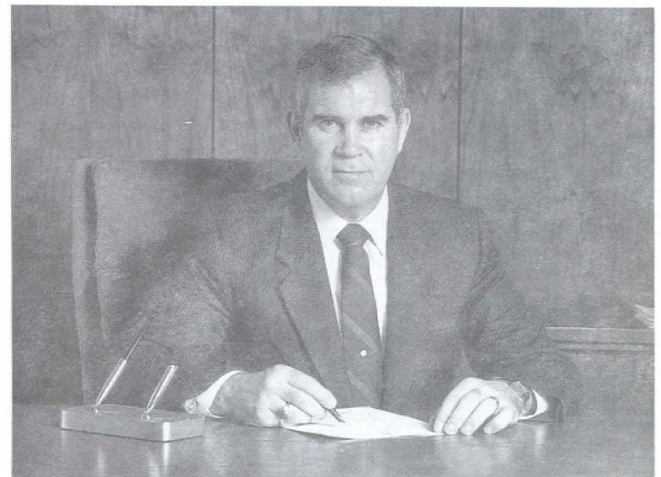
A possible solution to this problem is to pre-test, early in their Grade 12 year, those students who intend to apply for an Entry Level Trades Training program, especially where there are concerns about reading skills. The test results could then be used by the school to help these students upgrade their reading skills.

Off-campus testing is quite common, especially for those not meeting the entrance requirements. We currently have a service set up to handle off-campus testing which could be made available to high schools. This process could also serve students who are not in the Career Preparation program and who do not have the high school courses required as prerequisites. The tests would be marked by BCIT faculty and acceptance of student applications based on these results.

If you feel this may assist your students in being better prepared for the academic demands of post-secondary training, please contact Rod MacNeill or Janice Baldry at 432-8524.

Six New School Districts Sign Articulation Agreements

Following the recent signing of new articulation agreements with six British Columbia school districts, we welcome the opportunity to serve the trades training needs of Career Preparation students in **Abbotsford, Central Okanagan, Fort Nelson, Howe Sound, Qualicum and Trail.**



BCIT President, Roy Murray, signed new Articulation Agreements recently with six British Columbia school districts. This brings the total number of school districts participating in Articulation Agreements to 24.



Jack Scarfe, Associate Dean Building Design and Construction Trades (retired) stands in front of the "Third World House" recently constructed on the BCIT campus as a demonstration project. An article on this unique structure will be included in the next edition of Shop Talk.

BCIT Application Deadline Extended to February 28

Recent revisions to the Articulation Agreements between BCIT and the 24 participating school districts have given students more time to apply for Entry Level Trades Training programs at BCIT. Previous to this revision, the application deadline for Career Preparation students wishing to take Entry Level Trades Training was October 31 of the year previous to their Fall start date. For example, students wishing to begin training in September or October of 1989 would be required to apply by October 31, 1988. The change enables students to postpone applying until February 28, 1989.

The application deadline was changed in response to concerns that the logistics involved in obtaining application forms, having students complete them, and returning them during a traditionally busy time in the school year, made the October 31 deadline difficult to meet. It was also acknowledged that a variety of things happen during a graduating student's last year which have an impact on their career decisions. It was felt that the additional four months could well result in a firmer commitment by the student to continue his or her schooling once this decision was made.

Apprenticeship Videos Available Through the Provincial Educational Media Centre (PEMC)

The May, 1988 edition of **SHOP TALK** included a questionnaire to assess the need by Career Preparation/Industrial Education instructors and high school counsellors for additional resources in helping students explore apprenticeship as a career option. As the response from this survey indicated that additional resources would be useful in enhancing what is currently being done, BCIT contacted Greg Biggs, Acting Director of Apprenticeship, Certification and Standards Branch, for advice. He suggested that apprenticeship videos could be made available to PEMC (Provincial Educational Media Center) for duplication and distribution. The request for this has just been approved and the following series of videotapes should be available for purchase in the near future:

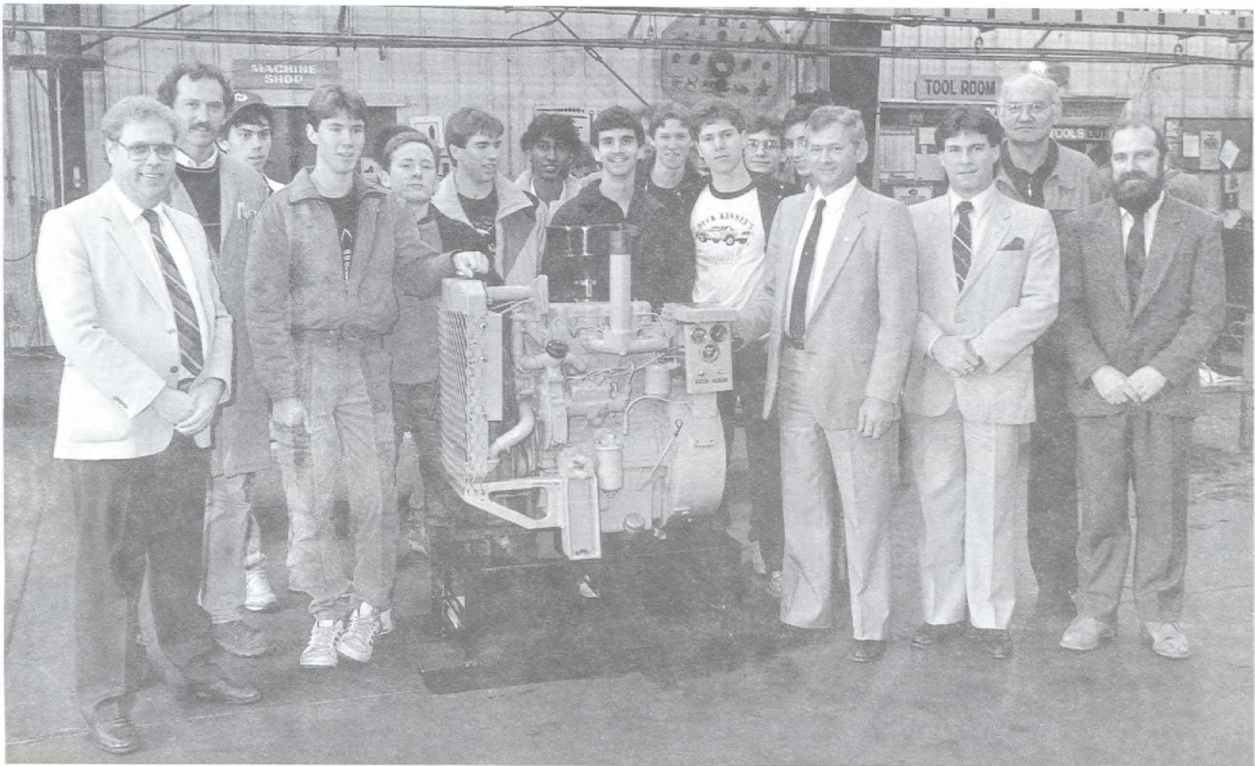
Apprenticeship: Choosing (5 min.)

Apprenticeship: Preparing (15 min.)

Apprenticeship: Working (12 min.)

Apprenticeship: Succeeding (14 min.)

All videos give an interesting overview of what apprenticeship is all about and should prove to be a useful addition to any school's career guidance materials. Additional information on availability and price can be obtained through PEMC at 271-2700.



BCIT DONATES DIESEL ENGINE TO TERRY FOX SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

During a tour of trades areas on December 1, Terry Fox Senior Secondary School students from Port Coquitlam were presented with a 3-cylinder engine from staff in the Heavy Duty area. Pictured with the Terry Fox students, from left to right, are: Ed Wilk, Heavy Duty instructor, Ron Evans, associate dean, Mechanical Industries Training, George Buckley, principal, Terry Fox School, Len McNeely, acting dean, School of Trades Training, Ralph Evans, Terry Fox School, Mike Cannell, associate dean, Construction and Metal Industry Training.

Electronics Technician Program Included in Articulation Agreement

BCIT's Electronics Technician program is the most recent addition to the list of trades programs included under the Articulation Agreement.

As with the other entry level programs included in the agreement, Career Preparation electronics graduates will be entitled to certain benefits when applying for this program. If they apply before the February 28 deadline they will be assured a seat in the Fall class.

Because the Electronics technician program is not broken into individual competencies, a direct "competency for competency" credit system is not feasible. Instead, students are given the chance to write a test challenging Level A which, if successful, enables them to join the class in January rather than in September. It should also be noted that the entrance requirements for this program include Algebra 12 and Physics 11 or Electronics 12. However, a successful challenge of Level A automatically waives the Algebra and Physics prerequisites.

Inclusion of the Electronics Technician program under the Articulation Agreement will result in a period of adjustment while the details regarding a credit system are finalized. It is hoped that consultations with Career Preparation instructors will result in the challenging of Level A being a viable option to "credit" as it is defined in other ELTT programs.

In addition, there are plans in place to change the present electronics program from 10 months to as long as 16 months. After completing an 8 month "core"



program, students would complete a specialization in avionics, marine electronics, industrial electronics, or automated business machines. The purpose for the move from "generic" electronics to more specialized training is to meet the changing needs of the electronics industry. It is anticipated that these new programs will accept their first students for classes starting in September '89.

For more information regarding the Electronics Technician program, please contact Patrick Muldoon, chief instructor, at 434-5734 (local 5021/5023).



AUTOMOTIVE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES DONATION FROM HYUNDAI

The Automotive Department's inventory of training aids swelled visibly last year when Hyundai, Chrysler, Ford and GM dealerships all donated or loaned cars. Above, far right, Wade Farrell, service manager of Metrotown Hyundai, hands over a 1985 Stellar SL Sedan to Automotive chief instructor Terry Fletcher. Looking on at left are, from left to right: Ron Evans, associate dean, Mechanical Industry Training, Len McNeely, acting dean, School of Trades Training and Ray Morris, district parts and service manager, Hyundai Auto Canada Inc.

Computerized Testing Possible with TRAC Materials

It is now possible for Career Preparation instructors using the Provincial TRAC Learning Guides to take advantage of a computerized system that will randomly select questions from a test bank and print them in a format designed according to pre-determined guidelines. This system is composed of two parts: the **Test Bank** software package and the bank of the actual test questions. At present, banks of test questions are available for TRAC Common Core and TRAC Mechanical Occupational Core. The software was designed by a consultant, working for the North Vancouver School District, the Common Core test bank was developed at the College of New Caledonia, and the Mechanical Occupational test bank was completed at BCIT.

Using this system the instructor can determine the number of questions, the level of difficulty, the type of question (multiple choice, true/false, matching, or short answer) and select specific questions to appear on each test. These tests can then be printed and given to the student. Because the questions are generated randomly, each student could be given a different test if desired. The answer key for each test is also generated to

facilitate easy marking. Although on-line testing is not possible with this system, it is possible to make use of a scanner for marking students' answer sheets.

To be able to use this system the instructor must have access to an IBM XT or AT (or 100% compatible clone), with 512K, color or monochrome monitor, 10M hard drive and DOS 3.0 or better. From our experience at BCIT it is an extremely easy system to use and requires very little time before one can generate test materials. Using this system instructors have access to 3000 possible Common Core questions and 700 possibilities for the Mechanical Occupational Core.

The Test Bank software is available from the North Vancouver School District through Howard Cross at 987-8141. The cost for the first copy is \$1500 with copies 2 through 10 costing \$750 each and 11+ costing \$375 each. This software package has already been purchased by a number of school districts and may already be available to you. The Test Bank questions can be obtained through the Ministry of Advanced Education and Job Training.



LOOK WHO'S HERE?

Rod MacNeill, Coordinator of Entry Level Trades Training is joined by Career Preparation students currently taking Entry Level Trades Training at BCIT. The expressions of unbridled enthusiasm on the faces of these young tradesmen demonstrates how thrilled they were about being dragged away from their school work to pose for a group picture!

Heavy Duty students, earlier believed to be missing the opportunity to pose for the group picture, are later "captured" in the shop busily trying to put a D9 Caterpillar tractor into service.

