



THE NEXT GENERATION OF TRADES

PHOTOGRAPHY SARAH TACOMA

As the demand for skilled tradespeople continues to rise, an apprenticeship can lead to a fulfilling career with a bright future. Kudos to local companies that sponsor, train and mentor this new generation.

JOSH PAYLOR
RED SEAL CARPENTER
Candue Homes

What drew you towards a career as a general carpenter?

From a young age, I was involved in the “construction world” as I grew up in a family that was heavily involved in the trade. I enjoyed rolling up my sleeves and getting my hands dirty, building or tinkering with any type of project. From that point, I knew I wanted to partake in the trade, mainly the carpentry aspect as a career.

What do you enjoy most about your job experience so far?

My job experience so far has allowed me to advance my carpentry skills because of the challenges I face daily. I enjoy coming to work every day tasked with a new opportunity and fulfilling it. It is very rewarding to view a tangible accomplishment knowing that I helped make a homeowner’s dream come true.

Any advice for other people interested in pursuing a trade?

My advice for those who are interested in pursuing a trade is to never give up even if the going gets tough because at the end of the day we are building a world for others.

MELISSA BURGER

INDUSTRIAL MILLWRIGHT APPRENTICE
Bruce Power

What interested you in an apprenticeship as an industrial millwright?

I’ve always enjoyed working with my hands and problem solving. Growing up on a farm, I often spent time out in the shop with my dad (who is also a millwright) watching and helping him fix various pieces of equipment. I initially took the Welding Techniques program at Georgian College, and although I enjoyed being employed as a welder, I was always looking to expand my knowledge and skill set. An opportunity arose for an Industrial Millwright apprenticeship with Bruce Power and I was fortunate to be chosen for the position.

What do you enjoy most about your work experience so far?

I enjoy the hands on learning. I am very privileged to be working with and learning from extremely knowledgeable and highly skilled journeypersons here at Bruce Power. There’s always new challenges.

Any advice for other people looking to pursue a trade?

Choosing a career in the trades will be one of the most rewarding choices a person can make. There will always be a need for tradespeople and the possibilities could be endless in where that career can take you, if you’re willing to put in the effort.

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MATT HOOPER
 PLUMBING APPRENTICE
 Sandy Hamilton Plumbing
 & Heating Inc.

What drew you towards an apprenticeship in plumbing? I just started with Sandy Hamilton this year. I had originally started in the trades working for a HVAC company that was geared towards hydronic heating, which started the transition into plumbing. I recently relocated and was excited to become a part of Sandy's team and work towards completing my apprenticeship.

What do you enjoy most about your job experience so far? One aspect of the job that I enjoy is helping people who are having plumbing issues. The appreciation they show when we fix the problem is rewarding. I also really enjoy getting to see some of the beautiful homes our area has to offer.

Any advice for other people interested in pursuing a trade? It's never too late to get started. I didn't get a job in the trade until I was 23. With the high demand for skilled labourers on the rise, there are many job opportunities available.

TRAVIS MARSHALL
 RESIDENTIAL SHEET METAL
 APPRENTICE
 Sandy Hamilton Plumbing
 & Heating Inc.

What drew you towards an apprenticeship? I have always had an interest in learning a trade and Sandy Hamilton gave me the opportunity to pursue the heating/HVAC trade and I haven't looked back since.

What do you enjoy most about your work experience so far? The most enjoyable aspect of my job would have to be all the knowledge you learn on a daily basis.

Any advice for others interested in pursuing a trade? It would be to just go for it! Trades are in high demand and there is always work in the industry.

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OYAP is a School to Work program that opens the door for students to explore and work in apprenticeship occupations starting in Grade 11 or Grade 12 through the Cooperative Education program.

The goals of OYAP are:

- To provide students with the opportunity to start training in a skilled trade while completing the requirements for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.
- To enable students to make the school to work transition by direct entry into apprenticeship training.
- To provide employers with the opportunity to train the skilled workers they require.
- To provide a viable solution to address the problem of skilled tradespeople shortages in general, and specifically the lack of young people joining the trades.

Contact **Dave Barrett** at Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program
 Bluewater District School Board and Bruce Grey Catholic District School Board
 351 1st Avenue North Chesley, Ontario NOG 1L0
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LUKE BUSCHBECK
 RED SEAL CARPENTER
 Valley Home Improvements

What drew you towards a career in carpentry? I worked for a carpenter while in high school and I discovered that I really liked to build things. When I found a job that became available, I took it and was able to work full time while earning my carpentry licence.

What do you enjoy most about your job experience so far? I really enjoy working outdoors, even though not all of our projects are outside. It is also great to see the progress of your work every day. It's great to see projects come together and having a part in that completion.

Any advice for other people interested in pursuing a trade? Do it! When you participate in an apprenticeship, you get an education while you are getting paid. And you don't come out of it with any debt. It's a win/win for anyone interested in a skilled trade.

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STEPHEN WARDS

PLUMBING APPRENTICE
Pratt Plumbing and Heating

What drew you towards an apprenticeship in plumbing? During high school I soon discovered that my hands-on learning skills outweighed my university level academics in class. Unsure of which avenue in the trades to try, my dad suggested plumbing. I completed a co-op in high school through the OYAP (Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program) with a local plumber and I realised that there is a demand in the area for plumbers in both new construction and service calls.

What do you enjoy most about your job experience so far? So far I enjoy the different varieties of work that plumbing and heating offer. Between the new construction projects, renovations, service calls, hydronic heating and water treatment, there is never a dull moment in the trade.

Any advice for other people interested in pursuing a trade? I'd advise them to do their research and gain insight into what is fully involved in the trade. I highly recommend the high school OYAP program because as a student it really helped guide me into a career without a commitment to costly post-secondary education.

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AUSTIN CALDWELL
 HORTICULTURAL TECHNICIAN
 APPRENTICE
 Hutten & Co. Land and Shore

What drew you towards an apprenticeship? It provides me the opportunity to further my knowledge in the horticulture industry, increase my personal growth and leadership skills while getting the hands-on training and the experience I need to advance in my career.

What do you enjoy most about your work experience so far? Working on diverse projects from start to finish and learning along the way. I enjoy that amazing feeling after completing a project and seeing the happiness it brings to the clients when their landscape is complete. All the support and resources I have received from all the great people at Hutten & Co. is spectacular!

What advice do you have for others interested in pursuing a trade? Don't hesitate to ask questions about training opportunities. You will gain information that will expand your mind on what's out there. Opportunities and meeting new peers and lifelong industry connections will open new doors in your career in the most positive way. It benefits yourself and the sponsors who have supported you.

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CHRIS MACKENZIE

REFRIGERATION AND AIR CONDITIONING
APPRENTICE
South-Port Mechanical/Geothermal Inc.

What drew you towards an apprenticeship as a refrigeration and air conditioning mechanic? I wanted to get out in the workforce and earn an income as soon as I could. Since I like to work with my hands I decided an apprenticeship would be right up my alley. The added bonus is that you get paid while completing a certification.

What do you enjoy most about your job experience so far? Here at South-Port Mechanical/Geothermal Inc., I get to work on new products, meet new people and learn on a daily basis. I'm not the sort of person to sit behind a desk, I like to keep busy so this career path has been great for me.

Any advice for other people interested in pursuing a trade? Trades are in very high demand in Ontario, and if you're analytical and good at problem solving, a trade will be right up your alley. Math skills are also important and so are communication skills, as you're often dealing with clients and suppliers to complete a job. Tradespeople are always going to be needed, no matter what sector you may choose. **OH**

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