

For immediate release

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Valley students shine in regional Skills Canada competition

COMOX VALLEY, B.C. – The North Island Regional competition for Skills Canada B.C.’s was held remotely with many Valley students participating March 8 to 12.

The event drew more than 450 competitors in Grades 6 to 12 from more than a dozen schools competing in 12 different events ranging from carpentry, culinary, electronics, and welding to media animation and TV/video production. Junior events for student competing in grades 6 to 8 included Gravity Cars, Spaghetti Bridge Design, Wind Turbine and VexIQ Robotics.

District students captured impressive finishes in many of the categories taking gold medal placement in 10 of the 12 events.

Steve Claassen, Comox Valley Schools Career Coordinator for Trades and ADST has been involved with Skills Canada for more than 20 years acknowledged that the calibre of skills among Valley students continues to be strong from year to year.

“I am always amazed to see the skill level of students at this competition and see these kids as our future designers, coders, fabricators and trouble-shooters,” explained Claassen. “Our valley is fortunate to have some very skilled students in Trades and Technology and in most years some of our student reach the nationals and comes back with medals.”

Results are as follows:

Georges P Vanier Secondary - Gold Medal winners

Carpentry	Charlie Guile
Welding	Sheridan Osterman

Mark R. Isfeld Senior Secondary - Gold Medal winners

Culinary Arts	Ella Oldaker
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Highland Secondary - Gold Medal winners

Electronics	Austin Harris
2D Animation	Jubiel Halasz & Owen Valmorbida
VexIQ Robotics	Benoit Vaillant
Sumo Robotics	Nicholas Horel

Aspen Park Elementary (ENTER Program) - Gold Medal winners

Gravity Car	Isaac Gibson
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Ecole Puntledge Park Elementary - Gold Medal winners

Spaghetti Bridge	Declan Sestak, Nate Boan & Shay Devineold
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Brooklynn Elementary - Gold Medal winners

Wind Turbine	Owen Duncan, Cole Dekker & Zia Morishi
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In a non COVID year, the gold medal regional winners advance to the provincials held at the Abbotsford Tradex in April. Provincial winners then have the opportunity to advance to the national Skills Canada competition. To ensure a safely run provincial event, most competitions will take place remotely at the competitors' respective school.

Skills Canada provides opportunities for thousands of students to participate in competitions, Try-a-Trade activities, or participate in the Women in Trades and Technology Conference. Skills Canada's goal is to showcase the skilled trades and technologies as first choice careers to the thousands of young people who participate in the competitions annually.

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For more information about Skills Canada BC , visit <https://skillscanada.bc.ca/>

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(Image Credit: Comox Valley Schools)



Mark Isfeld Culinary student Ella Oldaker (Gold Medal winner) finishing off before plating her Prawn Stir fry with Thai Green Curry and Brown Rice Pilaf for judges.



Carpentry Event students from Vanier, Highland and Isfeld watch as judges begin to measure their framing.



Nate Boan, Shay Devine, Declan Sestak from Ecole Puntledge Park with their gold winning spaghetti bridge which was the lightest bridge that could hold a 1kg weight.