

For immediate release

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Comox Valley students shine at Skills Canada regional event

Comox Valley, B.C. – Students from Comox Valley and surrounding districts showcased their talents in the skilled trades and technologies at the Skills Canada Competition held at G.P. Vanier Secondary School on March 2. The event featured students from several SD 71 schools ranging from Grades 6-12 and there was a buzz in the air as the competitions returned to being held in-person, after the past two years of virtual activities.

There were 250 competitors in 16 different events, from 19 schools in four school districts (SD 71 – Comox Valley, SD47 – Powell River, SD72 – Campbell River, SD69 – Parksville-Qualicum).

This event provides an opportunity for competitors to show off their skills and encourages participants to pursue careers in good-paying, in-demand fields.

The Skills Canada Competition lets young people from across our schools shine,” said Steve Claassen, trades & ADST coordinator for SD 71. “From welding, carpentry – to website design, computer animation and electronics & robotics – this event showcases talent, connects youth with employers, and promotes careers in the skilled trades and technologies.”

The competitions celebrate and reward students for excellence in their mastery of skilled trade and technology skills, and to create an interactive and engaging environment for the young people who attend the competitions as spectators.

Skills Canada offers experiential learning opportunities including skilled trade and technology competitions for hundreds of thousands of young Canadians through regional, provincial/territorial, national and international events, as well as skilled trade awareness programs.

Winners in each competition area were awarded gold, silver or bronze medals.

Senior event gold medal winners from SD 71 this year were Caleb Elsasser (Vanier) in the automotive event and Austin Harris (Highland) in the electronics event. Both senior event winners are going to the Skills Canada Provincials.

Other gold medalist from SD 71 were Timothy Sterk, Olie Phillips, Griffin Moquin and Ewen Chowdury of Highland Secondary in the Jr. Skills - VEX IQ Robotics competition. As well, Blaze Trickett and Quinn Sanderson-Stickley from Ecole Puntledge Park took home gold in Lego Mindstorm Gearbots competition.

The Skills Canada British Columbia “Provincials 2022” will be held in various host sites around the province. The Skills Canada National competition will be held in Vancouver, May 25 – 28, 2022 at the Vancouver Convention Centre. WorldSkills 2022 will be held in Shanghai, October 12 – 17, 2022.

The remaining medalists from SD 71 schools can be seen in the Backgrounder.

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Learn More:

Skills Canada BC <https://skillscanada.bc.ca/>

A backgrounder follows. Attached pictures are courtesy of SD 71.

Contact:

Craig Sorochan
Communications Manager
Comox Valley Schools
Phone: 250-334-5500

BACKGROUNDER

Event Registration Choice:	School		Medal
Automotive (x1)	Highland Secondary	Caleb Elsasser	Gold
Cabinetmaking (x1)	Georges P Vanier Secondary	Kali Brown	Silver
Carpentry (x1)	Mark R. Isfeld Senior Secondary	Dalton Weaver	Silver
Digital Art (x1)	Highland Secondary	Hope Savard	Bronze
Electronics (x1)	Highland Secondary	Austin Harris	Gold
Electronics (x1)	Georges P Vanier Secondary	Katie Brown	Silver
Jr. Skills - Gravity Car (x3)	Aspen Park Elementary	Josh Read	Bronze
Jr. Skills - Spaghetti (x4)	Highland Secondary	Nate Weaver	Silver
Jr. Skills - Spaghetti (x4)	Highland Secondary	Mikayla Roddam	Silver
Jr. Skills - VEX IQ Robotics (x4)	Highland Secondary	Daniel Shea	Bronze
Jr. Skills - VEX IQ Robotics (x4)	Highland Secondary	Cal Kemya	Bronze
Jr. Skills - VEX IQ Robotics (x4)	Highland Secondary	Coltin Young	Bronze
Jr. Skills - VEX IQ Robotics (x4)	Mark R. Isfeld Senior Secondary	Shane Meyers	Bronze
Jr. Skills - VEX IQ Robotics (x4)	Highland Secondary	Timothy Sterk	Gold
Jr. Skills - VEX IQ Robotics (x4)	Highland Secondary	Olie Phillips	Gold

Jr. Skills - VEX IQ Robotics (x4)	Highland Secondary	Griffin Moquin	Gold
Jr. Skills - VEX IQ Robotics (x4)	Highland Secondary	Ewen Chowdury	Gold
Jr. Skills - VEX IQ Robotics (x4)	Highland Secondary	Matous Karas	Silver
Jr. Skills - VEX IQ Robotics (x4)	Highland Secondary	Logan Hildebrandt	Silver
Jr. Skills - VEX IQ Robotics (x4)	Highland Secondary	Benoit Vaillant	Silver
Jr. Skills - VEX IQ Robotics (x4)	Highland Secondary	Callum Whyte	Silver
Lego Mindstorm – Gearbots (x4)	École Puntledge Park Elementary	Quinn Sanderson-Stickey	Gold
Lego Mindstorm – Gearbots (x4)	École Puntledge Park Elementary	Blaze Trickett	Gold
Lego Mindstorm – Gearbots (x4)	Cumberland Community School	Blake Peterson	Silver
Lego Mindstorm – Gearbots (x4)	Cumberland Community School	Jonah Lywak	Silver
Lego Mindstorm – Gearbots (x4)	Cumberland Community School	Jasper Sykes	Silver
Lego Mindstorm – Gearbots (x4)	Huband Elementary	Callum Oxford	Silver
Lego Mindstorm – Gearbots (x4)	Huband Elementary	Max Bouchard	Silver
Welding (x1)	Highland Secondary	Morgan Gadd	Bronze
Welding (x1)	Georges P Vanier Secondary	Kyle Noll	Silver