

For immediate release

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33 Comox Valley Schools' students complete apprenticeships with local business

COMOX VALLEY, B.C. – Comox Valley Schools is proud to announce that 33 students enrolled in the Youth Work in Trades (YWT) program have been awarded \$1,000 cheques for completing their apprenticeships. The bonus funding, sponsored by SkilledTradesBC and the Government of British Columbia, aims to incentivize and encourage students to pursue careers in the skilled trades, addressing the growing worker shortage in various industries.

District Careers Coordinator for Trades, Steve Claassen emphasizes the strong community connection between the school district and local businesses, providing students in the valley with remarkable opportunities to explore careers in trades. "It sets them on a path right after school with the necessary support," said Claassen.

The Ministry of Education and SkilledTradesBC currently provide this financial support to students who successfully complete 900 hours in the YWT program towards a Level 1 apprenticeship. The initiative seeks to equip students with the necessary resources and motivation to excel in the program.

Murray Shold, program coordinator of the district's Youth Work in Trades program, is very passionate about supporting trades students in the valley and ensuring they are set up for success while in the program. "Without the backing of our local businesses, none of this would be possible for our students," said Murray Shold, SD 71's Youth Work in Trades program coordinator. "This year marks the highest number of cheques distributed at once."

Many students in Comox Valley Schools initiate their trades journey by participating in shop classes or joining the SkilledTradesBC Trades Sampler programs. The district careers department facilitates work placements for students in local businesses and industries to gain practical experience. In their Grade 12 year, approximately 40-50 students typically enroll in a Trades Foundation Program at a Post-Secondary Institution like North Island College.

These programs encompass a wide range of trades, including Automotive Service Tech, Auto Collision, Culinary, Carpentry, Electrical, Hairdressing, Heavy Mechanical, Plumbing, Welding & Fabrication, and more. The Ministry of Education, SkilledTradesBC, and Comox Valley Schools sponsor the tuition fees for these programs. Some of the top skilled students opt for the direct apprenticeship route as Grade 12's, transitioning directly to industry after completing the district Trades Sampler programs in Grade 11 and securing employment as part of the program with local industry partners.

The Youth Work in Trades program, available to students in grades 10, 11 and 12, allows them to embark on the apprenticeship journey while still in school. YWT students earn as they learn and graduate from the program with 16 high-school credits and 480 work-based training hours, contributing towards their trade credential.

Comox Valley Schools is very grateful for the support of the local business community for enabling students to participate in these valuable work experience opportunities.

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Media Contact

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Pictures courtesy of Comox Valley Schools.



Ethan Vossen and Murray Shold. Ethan completed his Auto Service Technician program at North Island College and was then hired at Courtenay Auto.

Comox Valley Schools
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www.comoxvalleyschools.ca



Left to Right) Dylan Parkin-Westhaver, Murray Shold and Austin Orritt receive their cheque from Murray atop Knappet Projects downtown Courtenay of 5th street build. Dylan went straight to work from high school while Austin completed the district trades sampler and the North Island College Carpentry Foundation program.



Murray Shold with Will Jepson at Randall's Autobody. Will did the Transportation Trades Sampler at G.P. Vanier and went straight to industry as an apprentice.

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BACKGROUNDER

Youth Work in Trades participating business for Spring 2023

- Berwick Retirement Communities
- Drewry Electrical Ltd.
- Knappett Projects Inc.
- Glenn's Small Carparts and Repairs
- Progressive Systems
- Eli and Sons Plumbing and Heating
- Osprey Electric
- Blackfin pub
- Dale's Plumbing
- Courtenay Country Market & Cafe
- Knappett Industries
- 21 Degrees Mechanical Ltd.
- D N Auto Corp
- Browns Social House
- Coastal Pacific Mechanical
- Randal's Autobody
- Atlas Manufacturing Ltd.
- Berks Intertruck
- Pacific Air Mechanical
- Comox Valley Toyota
- Mt. Washington Alpine Resort
- John's Your Independent Grocer Comox
- Courtenay Automotive Repair Centre
- Houle Electric
- L & K Services
- Quality Foods