



Hands on work experience proves invaluable to Conestoga College trades students!

The population in Waterloo Region is growing and it is no different across Ontario. More and more, skilled trades are in demand and as our understanding of construction science grows and evolves, the trades must be well-trained to meet the demands of the ever changing building code and environmental needs.

The Waterloo Region Home Builders' Association (WRHBA) recognizes the future starts now and is proud to support the students, faculty and staff at Conestoga College. WRHBA, in partnership with their members including Conestoga College, is now in week three of a four week renovation at the Ray of Hope building in Kitchener. Over sixty students stemming from Conestoga's Women in Skilled Trades and the Renovation Technician programs have stepped up and demonstrated that they can capably apply the skills and knowledge they have gained in the classroom to an actual renovation project.

Initiated in 2007, The School of Trades and Apprenticeship has helped over 15 community agencies with over \$650,000 in labour and donations.

"I am very proud of what has happened this year with the combined efforts of everyone involved" said Doug Lockston, Coordinator of the Renovation Technician Program, "each student has brought an incredible amount of enthusiasm and made a difficult job fun and we are also teaching our students about philanthropy. Having our students give back to the local community is a lesson that we believe is just as important and valuable as the skills that we are teaching them", commented Lockston.

"Conestoga's Center for Construction Trades Outreach Program has had yet another highly successful renovation with the Ray of Hope project", stated Jamie Adam of Pioneer Craftsmen Ltd. "The students learned, as all renovators know, that dealing with surprises and the unknown in a renovation can challenge the schedule and everyone's spirit. Dedication, perseverance and thinking outside the box have allowed key elements such as drywall finishing and the first coat of paint to be completed this week. In most large renovations there is a surprise or two – this time, it happened to be some additional work required to ensure the finished space conformed to current fire separation building code requirements. The on-site team considered the options, proposed a few solutions and ultimately defined and executed a suitable solution to ensure a safe and secure environment. The experience of WRHBA professionals paid off!"

Conestoga College students have completed their work term and along with having done a great job, they have learned some invaluable skills they can take with them to the work force in a few short months upon graduation. WRHBA member companies will now oversee some of the finishing items such as flooring before handing over a newly finished space for the Ray of Hope to continue their important community work.

Waterloo Region Home Builders' Association

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For further information on WRHBA please visit - www.wrhba.com - www.renomark.ca.

Since 1946, the Waterloo Region Home Builders' Association (WRHBA) has been "the voice of residential development and construction industry"—one of the most vital and enterprising industries in Canada. WRHBA represents over 220 member companies comprised of all disciplines involved in residential construction. WRHBA is built on a vision to be a leader in supporting our industry by fostering a vital membership through advocacy, resource sharing and education and in its commitment to improve new housing affordability and choice for new home purchasers and renovation consumers through positively impacting legislation, regulation and policy that affect the industry at all levels of government.

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