



# Trade & Tech Digest



## 2nd Annual Model Wind Turbine Competition

Skills Canada Manitoba (SCM), the Certified Technicians and Technologist Association of Manitoba (CTTAM) and Red River College (RRC) recently collaborated to establish a competition focused on wind energy. Approximately 50 grades 7 to 9 students from across Manitoba were given an opportunity to use their knowledge, skills, leadership, teamwork and ingenuity to design and build a working model wind turbine in a one-day competition held November 3, 2008 at Red River College during National Technology Week.

The students designed and constructed a model

turbine which needed to be solidly constructed and be able to generate electric power. The turbines were then judged on design and construction by a panel of expert judges from Red River College. The turbine voltage-generating capacity was then measured electronically and competitively in a progressive play down.



A special thank you to the judges from Red River College, Rick Halas, James Stewart, Hojat Norouzi and Vern Nelson.

Awards were presented to Steinbach Junior High School for Highest Voltage, Garden Valley Collegiate for Best Design and to Acadia Junior High School for Best Construction.

Congratulations to all!

Skills Manitoba would also like to acknowledge Larry Drebniski, Dale Watts and Terry Gifford for their hard work and enthusiasm!

Thank you!

### Skills Canada Manitoba

Volume III, Issue 1

### Skills Manitoba Staff

Maria Pacella  
Executive Director

Krista Trapp  
Office & Administrative Manager

Lori Royal  
Program Manager

Charm Shamji  
In-School Program Liaison  
Officer

Heather Quinn  
Administrative Assistant

### Inside this issue:

Skills Manitoba can be gateway	2
Cardboard Boat Race	3
Young Women's Conferences	4
Vale Inco: In the Business of Possibilities	4
WTC provides access to secondary students	5

## Skills Manitoba can be a gateway to exciting and rewarding career opportunities

As the world moves in uncharted directions in 2009, many parents such as yourselves are asking what the best options for your children are as they progress through their schooling. Career opportunities and in fact the basic notion of what is out there in terms of possibilities changes with each month. As technology advances the scope of any one particular career may change or simply vanish, only to be replaced with careers that are more technical than before. The employment landscape itself is constantly being redefined and is challenging for even those most seasoned professional to remain current with. In addition, essential skills are now sought after by employers and have become the deciding factor in many employment opportunities.

Skills Manitoba Canada is an organization that allows students and employers to meet well before a student ever fills out that job application. Many of the judges in the competitions are industry representatives who are able to provide immediate and reflective feedback to not only the students but also to the educational institutions that organize the competitions in conjunction with Skills. When attending the competitions students are able to interact with representatives of major companies and institutions. These representatives are able to provide recommendations to students on how to improve their skill set as well as tips on how to be successful in that first job interview. Through involvement with Skills

Manitoba Canada a number of students have gone on to great careers. These students, through the skills events, were able to make contacts with professionals in their fields who were able to assist in setting up work placements, internships and formal job interviews. Many of the competitors have received full time employment from their contacts at skills. Even when employment is not obtained, the lessons learned through skills can have a life time effect. Students are able to learn about themselves, about others. They are able to learn how to strive under stressful deadlines, how to prioritize and how to complete a complex multitasked project in a limited amount of time.

Although the competitions and events of skills are obviously not a substitute for a quality education they can be a showcase were students are able to literally show what they have to potential employers. With out Skills Manitoba Canada many students would not have found the success that they had in the time period that they achieved it in. Skilled trades and Technology along with the Skills Canada Manitoba Competitions have proven that they can give students an advantage in obtaining a career that they love.

*Submitted by:  
Damon Roth B.G.S., CAE  
Chairperson, Technology  
School of Trades and Technology  
Assiniboine Community College*

### 2008-2009 In-School Program

Skills Canada Manitoba hired a full time In-School Program Liaison Officer in the fall of 2008 due to the increasing demand for the presentation.

In the 'Information Age' choosing a career is becoming increasingly difficult for so many young people. This informative, interactive presentation brings career opportunities in the skilled trades and technologies to the forefront for many young people.

Specifically, the 45 minute presentation introduces students in Grades 8 – 12 to:

- Various occupational profiles in Winnipeg and Manitoba
- The job outlook in Manitoba
- Information on Apprenticeship as a secondary and post-secondary option

- Options for post-secondary schooling in trades and technology
- Employability Skills

The presentation is designed to increase students' awareness of career opportunities in the skilled trades and technologies by presenting up-to-date, relevant information and encouraging students to investigate all of their post-secondary options.

Presentations have been well received with many of the students indicating that they would be exploring the options presented to them. To date this school year, our Liaison Officer has presented to over 2000 students in Manitoba. If you are interested in booking a presentation or would like more information, please contact the Skills office.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cardboard Boat Races a Big Success!

17<sup>th</sup> Wing Fitness and Recreation Centre was host to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cardboard Boat Races on November 19, 2008. The event, held in recognition of National Technology Week was a huge success with 18 teams participating. Armed with 2 sheets of cardboard, duct tape, string and a few other odds and ends, Grade 10, 11 and 12 students used their skill and ingenuity to transform these materials into a vessel for the water.

Awards were presented to Westdale Junior High for Best Design, sponsored by Red River College, Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School for the Weight Challenge sponsored by Winnipeg Technical College, Charles Sinclair School for Best Time sponsored by the Apprenticeship Branch and to Charles Sinclair School for Best in Class sponsored by Skills Manitoba. This year we also introduced a new award to round out the competition which we named the 1<sup>st</sup> to Sink. This award was presented to Kildonan East

Collegiate. We would like to thank the many advisors and instructors who did such a great job preparing the students as well as bringing them to the event.

We would also like to extend a big thank you to our judges from Red River College who gave so generously of their time and expertise; David Doll, Rick Patapow and Mike Watson.

We are already looking forward to next year's event!



## Young Women's Conferences

The Young Women's Conference is a one day symposium that introduces young women to a variety of careers that exist in the skilled trades and technology sectors. The conference will highlight different vocations, introduce young female participants to women mentors working in the trades and technology fields and provide information on employment opportunities and career planning. This conference is intended to provide female role models to young women and assist them in planning their career futures.

### 2008/09 Conferences

November 25, 2008

Thompson, MB

R.D. Parker Collegiate

March 25, 2009

The Pas, MB

University College of the North

March 10, 2009

Brandon, MB

Assiniboine Community College

April 9, 2009

Winnipeg, MB

Red River College



## Vale Inco: In the Business of Possibilities

Metals processed from Canadian mines are used for hybrid vehicles, satellites, cell phones, food storage facilities, medical equipment, robotics and more. In Manitoba, Vale Inco's operations in Thompson produce 99.9 per cent pure electrolytic nickel products that are used in a wide variety of plating applications, such as in airplane engines, and are at the leading edge of technological advancement.

Careers at Vale Inco empower young people to grow professionally and exceed their own dreams for success. Vale Inco is committed to developing its employees, while placing value on diversity and individual achievement. Young people can be part of this important and progressive industry as an electrician, chemical engineer, mechanic, process operator, geologist, civil engineer, or a whole host of trades, professions and technical support roles.

To find out more, visit [www.acareerinmining.ca/careers.html](http://www.acareerinmining.ca/careers.html). The site will explain the different careers and opportunities in mining in Canada. Click on the 'Find an Employer' heading on the left-hand side, and then look for the Vale Inco Limited link.

Vale Inco also supports a variety of programs intended to encourage young people to get their foot in the door of the mining industry. For example, the company facilitates work placements through a First Year Apprenticeship Training program that enables high school students to earn their Level 1 apprenticeship status at the same time as they earn high school credits and an income.

Vale Inco partnered with Skills Manitoba and R.D. Parker Collegiate to host a Northern Young Women's Conference which is aimed at attracting young women to the trades and technologies fields. And the company continues to help empower young people to build a future in the mining industry. To learn more about Vale Inco, visit [www.valeinco.com](http://www.valeinco.com). If you have specific questions about Vale Inco in Manitoba, email [Thompsoninfo@valeinco.com](mailto:Thompsoninfo@valeinco.com).

## Winnipeg Technical College Partnership Provides Secondary Students with Access to College Programs

As Winnipeg Technical College (WTC) approaches its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it continues to meet its unique mission of providing quality career focused, skills based, technical education to both secondary and post-secondary learners to enhance their role as productive and responsible members of society. Through a unique partnership with the Pembina Trails School Division, the College integrates secondary learners into its programs alongside post-secondary students. This provides secondary students with entry-level skills to enter the workforce directly after graduating from high school. It also provides graduates with the increased opportunity of a 'head start' on their careers in Health Care and Human Services, Information and Business Technology, and Skilled Trades.

The partnership allows the Pembina Trails School Division to address the vocational and technical training needs of approximately 350 of their students per year. This is achieved for the same level of funding that would support only three vocational programs within their own school division. Instead, the partnership provides these students with access to more than 20 of the College's programs. Recently, a new program was developed specifically for high school students. "TIPs" as it is named, is an acronym for Technology Introduction Programs which provides an opportunity to experience three different courses within the skilled trades and technology areas as early as grade 10. As an introduction program, the one semester, half-day offering, allows students to walk away with a new skill set and an awareness of three separate career paths.

Although some choose to pursue further post-secondary education, graduates seeking employment related to their training at the College enjoy an employment rate of over 88%.

For further information please contact, Rae-Lynn Rempel, at 989-6511 or visit the College website at [www.wtc.mb.ca](http://www.wtc.mb.ca).

**For more information on Skills Manitoba,  
please visit our website at [www.skillsmanitoba.ca](http://www.skillsmanitoba.ca)**