



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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The Apprentice – the local reality

Becoming an apprentice means more than a stint on reality TV – an apprenticeship is a head start to a career in the skilled trades. Thanks to a unique partnership between the District School Board of Niagara and Phelps Homes, 20 students from Beamsville District Secondary School and South Lincoln High School are getting that head start as they sign on as apprentices through the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program.

The partnership between the DSBN and Phelps Homes, which began this Fall, provides a unique learning opportunity for students to spend an entire semester on-site, learning from skilled tradespeople while building a semi-detached home in Beamsville. It matches local needs for skilled workers in the construction industry with the interests of students. The program aims to re-engage students through co-op and apprenticeship opportunities in the construction industry. These workplace placements will also be supported with newly developed eLearning courses in construction technology. In addition to earning four credits towards their high school diploma, two in Construction Technology and two in Co-operative Education, students also have the opportunity to take on an apprenticeship through the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program.

The Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program provides high school students with a valuable head start on their career as a skilled trade professional. Students can become registered apprentices, learning skills towards their certification in one of 140 different skilled trades and technologies. At the same time, these students are earning credits towards their high school diploma.

On Thursday, October 26 at 10:00 am, the students will be taking their first step towards their career in construction. Line Bretton, the Training Consultant with the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities will be visiting the construction site in Beamsville to officially sign these students up for their apprenticeships. The site is located at Lot 20 Beverly Crescent in Beamsville (directly behind the Royal Orchard Estates sales office off of Bartlett just north of Highway 8).

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