



Chilean immigrant Steven Le Magueresse is an apprentice at Arnie's Collision Centre working full-time for shop owner Arnie Lefebvre in Norval. The Centennial College student has advanced to the national championships of an auto body repair competition for apprentices in Edmonton this weekend.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

From Chile to Thornhill to Norval apprentice technician reaches finals of national competition

By **EAMONN MAHER**
Staff Writer

The average age of an employee in the auto collision repair industry is 56, so it's no surprise that young technicians are in high demand.

That's why Steven Le Magueresse came to Canada by himself from Chile at age 19, looking to learn the trade and perhaps move back home to his hometown of Santiago at some point to open his own shop.

"In Chile, they don't have the training available for people to learn how to do this," said Le Magueresse.

Enrolled in the three-and-a-half-year auto body repairer program at Centennial College's School of Transportation, the now 22-year-old Le Magueresse travels from his home in Thornhill to Norval to serve the first term of his apprenticeship at Arnie's Collision Centre.

Le Magueresse recently entered an apprentice collision repair competition at Centennial College and won it, qualifying him for the province-wide challenge in Kitchener last week. He placed first in that event too, earning the nod from the

judging panel over a competitor who is one level higher than Le Magueresse in his training.

This weekend, Le Magueresse is headed for Edmonton to take part in the national apprentice championships that puts students in various trades to the test.

"When we did our competition at (Centennial) College, it wasn't as hard as the one for Ontario, so I'm expecting the competition at the nationals to be way harder when they bring the technology in and it could be a big surprise," he added.

"I'm going to the college to get some training on their computer systems because I'm not really familiar with that yet."

Le Magueresse was referred to Arnie's Collision Centre by an instructor at Centennial College and began working there a year ago on Wednesdays and Saturdays before getting bumped up to six days a week.

"It's very difficult to find young guys who stay with it because it doesn't pay well to start," said Arnie Lefebvre.

"But Steven's keen. He's here early every day. If he goes back to Chile and opens his own shop, I think I'll go work for him."

APPLEBY
SYSTEMS GEORGETOWN INC.

WEEKEND FORECAST...

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NEWSPAPER RETRACTION FOR THE BEST BUY MAY 4 CORPORATE FLYER On page 8 of the May 4 flyer, the LG 42" LCD HDTV (42CS570) (WebCode: 10198601) was advertised with an incorrect specification. Please be advised that this TV is LCD and NOT LED, as previously advertised.
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NEWSPAPER RETRACTION FOR THE FUTURE SHOP MAY 4 CORPORATE FLYER On the May 4 flyer, page 5, this package offer: "Go Pro Hero 2 Wearable HD Camera/Camcorder, Battery BacPac and LCD BacPac" (WebCodes: 10183302 / 10174352 / 10165296) was incorrectly advertised. Please be advised that the Go Pro camera only comes with either the Battery BacPac, OR, LCD BacPac - NOT both. Each package is priced at \$369.99 Save \$50.
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