



Photo by RON KUZYK

In front, from left, Halton Catholic School Board Director of Education Lou Piovesan, Sundial Homes representatives Nitsan Wienberg, Shelley Hamer and Ken McCowan, White Oaks Secondary School principal John Stieva and Halton District School Board Director of Education Dusty Papke join Halton students at a construction site that was part of the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program.

OYAP looks to curb lack of skilled trades

By JASON MISNER
Special to The Champion

They look and act every bit the part of professional construction workers. They wear hard hats, tool belts, sunglasses and match hammer stroke for hammer stroke with others who are busy creating homes on huge plots of land north of Upper Middle Road under bright, blue skies.

These students from different schools throughout Halton aren't just carrying tools, but also an enthusiasm while earning real-world experience they hope will land them a good job.

Twenty grade 11 and 12 students, males and females representing both school boards, have enrolled in the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP).

They will spend half of this semester — which runs September to January — building a 2,000-square-foot, single house with their teachers. For the other half, the students will specialize in a sub-trade, which may include framing, electrical, plumbing, heating, ventilating and air conditioning

(HVAC), dry walling, siding, roofing or finish carpentry.

The house will sell in the \$300,000 range when finished.

Sundial Homes of Toronto has signed on as the new OYAP partner.

Previously, the program has been around for six years under a partnership with Mattamy Homes.

Students get four credits for completing the course.

The new partnership was officially launched September 20 at the site, where the OYAP students are constructing the home. The house is located at a lot on the corner of Blue Spruce Avenue and Sutton Drive, north of Upper Middle Road, an area brimming with new-home starts.

The property's construction will start off with 10 students working on building the first floor — the foundation has already been poured — while the other 10 will be working on a sub-trade, followed by a rotation.

• see APPRENTICESHIP on page 9

Brian and Aileen would like to welcome Randy Mitchell.

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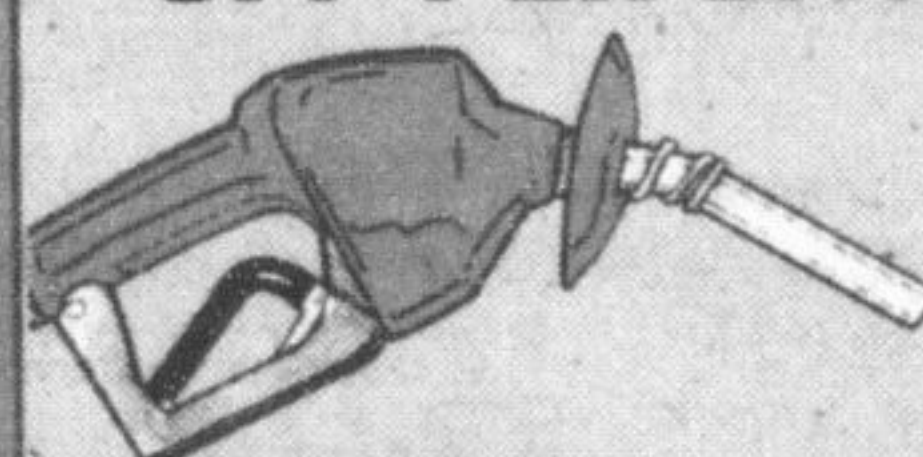
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