



# ITA Youth

SPRING 2008

Industry Training Authority Youth Programs Newsletter

Landscape Horticulturist apprentice  
**Robyn Law**  
is growing her future



## Look inside!

- An interview with industry
- YES 2 IT handprints
- ACE IT students build green
- New resources ready to deliver



**ita**

industry training authority

[www.itabc.ca](http://www.itabc.ca)





# Working outside the box

Robyn Law filled out her job application at Woodnorth Gardening and Lawn Care in Tsawwassen with the same hopes as many grade 11 students - to get a job where she could work outdoors. But after only a few months tilling the soil, Robyn made two unexpected discoveries.

The first was a program called SSA (Secondary School Apprenticeship) where she could earn both a wage and school credits. The second was the inspiration she needed to choose her career. Robyn so excelled in the program that she decided to pursue an apprenticeship to become a certified Landscape Horticulturist.

"The work was fun, I learned a lot and I found out that I could retain a lot of the information," Robyn explained. "As I became better at what I was doing, I realized that I could make a successful career out of what I loved to do."

The South Delta Alternate School student completed her twelfth grade by attending school three days a week and apprenticing the other two days.

"It was a totally great package for me," Robyn said.

Robyn is the ninth student who has benefited from work experience with Woodnorth employer Brent Mooney. "Since the launch of SSA I have taken a student every year," Mooney explained.

Mooney added that while the students may need a little extra instruction and some time to develop a relationship of trust, the return on the employer's investment is strong. "As much as I have given to the students, they have given more back to me," he said. "Plus, I have had four solid employees stay with me after they completed the program."

Robyn is one of the students who continued her work with Woodnorth after graduation in June 2007. She is now responsible for an all-girl crew and began her level one technical training at Kwantlen College in February 2008. She also qualified for the \$1000 SSA scholarship given to SSA students who continue to pursue their trade for five months after completing the program.

"My long-term plans are to work with a lot of different people to expand my knowledge, including learning about different horticultural zones throughout North America," Robyn said. "Then I want to build my reputation in my community and start my own business."

"I'm outside all the time and I love it, even in the rain," Robyn explained. "I love the teamwork. But above all I learn something new every day. And there is always something new to learn - you are never finished learning - and that excites me the most."

Landscape Horticulturist apprentice, Robyn Law and her employer, Brent Mooney.



Robyn Law

"...I realized that I could make a successful career out of what I loved to do."

ASKED YOU



## Is it true that I can start to learn my trade while in secondary school and receive school credit, too?

**Yes.** You can earn school credits towards your diploma by completing one or both high school apprenticeship industry training programs. Here are your two choices:

- The Secondary School Apprenticeship (SSA) program is the work-based training component of an industry training program
- Accelerated Credit Enrollment in Industry Training (ACE IT) provides the in-school technical training component of an industry training program

# ACE IT students build green

Building a more energy efficient home was not only good for BC's environment but students in the ACE IT Residential Construction program also benefited from a unique opportunity to learn green building technologies.

"The ACE IT students got an experience that very few apprentices receive," David Kalaski, Career Programs Coordinator, said about the students' opportunity to learn the green building technologies. "Eric Gerrits of Homescape Building, the sponsor business, is very knowledgeable and invested a tremendous amount of time with the students."



"The young people soaked up information like sponges," Gerrits said. "The time spent on the Home for Learning site was very rewarding. They were a great group of kids."

Eight School District 67 ACE IT students, along with nine direct applicants to Okanagan College, participated in the Home for Learning program in the South Okanagan, a partnership between School District 67, Okanagan College, Trac Development and Homescape Building and Design.

Following eight weeks with an Okanagan College instructor learning the basics of carpentry in the high school classroom and wood shop, the students spent twenty-two weeks at the Rock Gardens Estates work site building a home from foundation to lock-up.

Two students have continued their apprenticeship with Homescape - Loren Hamm and Cody Grenier. Grenier, a Summerland Secondary graduate started the ACE IT program after a recommendation by his work experience teacher, Trevor Knowlton.



"Carpentry has always been an interest for me," Grenier said. "My Grandpa is a carpenter and we used to work together on projects as I was growing up. He is very proud, and I am really enjoying it. I love to work outdoors and with my hands."

Grenier is scheduled for his level two technical training at Okanagan College in September and intends to become a certified Carpenter by 2010.

"The Home for Learning project is an excellent example of how a school district, college, builder and developer, along with sponsor businesses, can collaborate to encourage young people to consider a career in the trades," Kalaski said.

"We are very fortunate to have another partner step up for the 2008 ACE IT Residential Construction program," he added. "The builder, Carsten Neilson, owner of Carsten Construction, is a graduate of Summerland Secondary and is now willing to help other students succeed in the trades as he has done."

In all, six of the February 2007 ACE IT students have continued working both in the trade and in the community. "That is a direct benefit for both the students and our community," Kalaski said.



Carpenter apprentice Cody Grenier works at a Homescape work site.

## What is a Green Build?

The Home for Learning boasts both the federal R2000 and provincial Built Green BC standards of energy efficiency and environmental friendliness. According to Eric and Vicki Gerrits, owners of sponsor builder Homescape Building and Design, the R2000 program involves a plan evaluation and the Hot 2000 program to determine the areas of energy loss. The Built Green BC uses a points system that touches on both energy efficiency and environmental considerations. Both programs use a "blower door" test to evaluate the energy loss. To give just one example of the value of green building practices, Vicki Gerrits said that a standard home may have an EnerGuide rating of about 74; the Home for Learning's rating is expected to be over an impressive 85.





YES 2 IT

# A lasting legacy

Located at the north end of the Central Okanagan School District 23, Oyama is a small agricultural community that is home to Oyama Traditional School. Last spring, Oyama's grade seven students participated in a YES 2 IT learning opportunity that connected the youth with a variety of trades and resulted in a fully functioning greenhouse – a lasting legacy for the school and the community.

With the help of three tradespeople and Everlast Greenhouses and Solariums owner Wayne Heinen, the students spent three half-days at the school to build the greenhouse and cedar benches.

"For many years into the future, the Oyama's Roots and Shoots club will use the YES 2 IT greenhouse for the seeding and plant-starts that will grow throughout the community," Heinen explained.



"I was really impressed with the students," Heinen said. "We showed the kids what to do, and they did it. The pre-classroom lessons around the trades were an important element. As soon as they got to work, they made the connection between the project and the trades as a career."

"I believe in what the YES 2 IT project is all about," Heinen added. "To capture the kids' attention at this critical middle age is a key to the future of our trades."



The class was divided into three groups for rotation through hands-on experiences with an electrician, glazier and carpenter. On the last day, students had some experience with cement finishing. They poured a concrete pad in front of the greenhouse and each student left a handprint as a memento of their YES 2 IT legacy.



## Seeds of success:



Used pre-activity classroom preparation adapted from the 'Sparking Interest' resource

Toured a new subdivision that allowed students to visit homes under varying stages of construction

Included three tradespersons and a sponsor business



Conducted safety orientations with each tradesperson

Included parents who organized and participated in a final celebration barbecue for students and tradespersons

With thanks to SD 23 Career Programs Facilitators Brenda Graziano and Kelly McRae for the story submission.



# An interview with industry

**Anne Kadwell, CEO**



Anne Kadwell has her diploma from the Niagara Park School of Horticulture and she is a certified Landscape Horticulturist. HortEducation BC provides service to the horticulture industry by coordinating the skill needs of employers, workers and trainees in horticulture with training and education programs and services delivered by training providers.

## Why does horticulture attract young people?

Horticulture is a respected occupation that gives youth many pathway options, including becoming a certified tradesperson. Young people have a heightened interest in environmental issues and a career in horticulture provides many different ways to express their passion.

## What is the greatest misconception about horticulture?

It is a career well beyond cutting lawns and pulling weeds. A career in horticulture includes a wide variety of occupations, such as an arborist, designing gardens or vineyards and nurturing orchards. Simply put, horticulture focuses on growing healthy plants and trees and beautifying our surroundings.

## What kind of lifestyle comes with this career?

Working outdoors, in the sunshine and rain. Fresh air. Hands in the soil. A Landscape Horticulturist is a mentally and physically healthy career. The trade often involves working with the public. Hours are typically longer in the summer and shorter in the winter.

A starting apprentice makes about \$35,000 yearly and a newly certified horticulturist makes approximately \$45,000. It is a creative career with several niche opportunities, so the growth potential is tremendous.

## What is the future of horticultural trades in BC?

Look around at the green spaces in BC, the lush growth in the gardens of homes and businesses throughout the province. There are currently over 2600 employers, with many opportunities for apprenticeships. According to instructors at Kwantlen College, there are about three potential employers for every student. I could say that it is a "trendy" career - but it is also time-honoured and, like the work itself, a sustainable and rewarding career.

## What training and education is required to become a Landscape Horticulturist tradesperson?

Certification requires a four-year apprenticeship program that includes a combination of work site training and technical training. There are six education institutions in BC recognized by the Industry Training Authority of BC that offer different levels of the horticulture program. Check out the links from our HortEducation BC Web site under schools and courses.

## What is HortEducation BC doing to attract young people towards this career choice?

One focus for 2008 and beyond is to increase horticultural ACE IT programs in high schools across the province.

HortEducation BC is launching a new horticulture resource for high schools that will become available to schools in the 2008/09 school year as part of the science curriculum.

In addition, we have developed a Web site with a lot of information and important links. I hope you check it out.

[www.horteducationbc.com](http://www.horteducationbc.com)

I want to be a certified tradesperson. **How do I get there?**

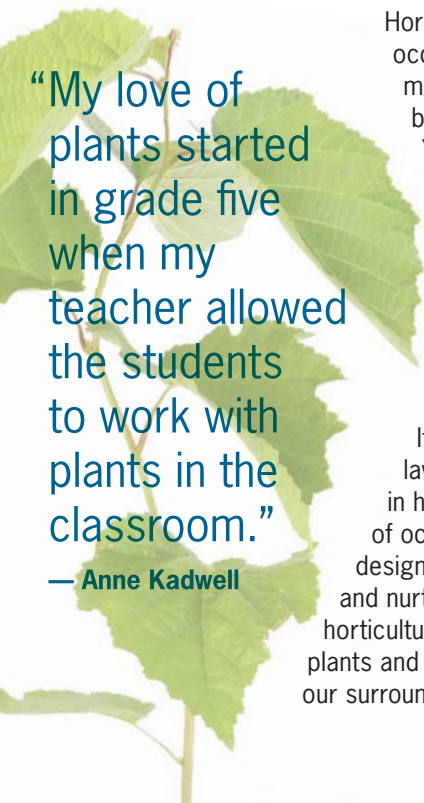
You learn your trade through a program called an **apprenticeship industry training program**.

*Certified Tradesperson:*

*85% work based training + 15% in-school technical training*

*= Apprenticeship industry training program*

ASKED  
YOU



"My love of plants started in grade five when my teacher allowed the students to work with plants in the classroom."

— Anne Kadwell



## ORDER YOUR RESOURCES TODAY!

### Parents

The **Sparking Interest** parent brochure highlights the key benefits of a career as a certified tradesperson.



### Planning 10 Educators

**You and the Trades** helps BC students explore certified trade occupations as part of the education and career exploration component of Planning 10 and includes a facilitator's guide.

### Potential youth apprentice employers

**Your Hiring Crunch Buster** provides information to employers on youth industry training programs and promotes hiring a youth apprentice.

### High school students

**TheSkilledLife.com – A Guide for High School Students for a Career in Trades** provides information on industry training programs for high school students.

## Ordering Information

It's simple to order. Send your request to [youth@itabc.ca](mailto:youth@itabc.ca).

## Contacts & Connections

### Jessi Zielke

Manager, Youth Initiatives  
Industry Training Authority  
[jzielke@itabc.ca](mailto:jzielke@itabc.ca)  
604.603.6993

### Rodger Hargreaves

Industry Training Coordinator  
Student Transitions Unit  
Ministry of Education  
[Rodger.hargreaves@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Rodger.hargreaves@gov.bc.ca)  
250.387.6430

**Got ideas?** ITA Youth is created twice yearly. Send your story ideas to writer Linda Mangnall at [lindamangall@telus.net](mailto:lindamangall@telus.net)



Printed On Recycled Paper

Please feel free to photocopy this newsletter

Please visit [www.itabc.ca](http://www.itabc.ca) for more information



## Skills Canada Teams Up with ITA to Offer In-School Trades Presentations

Skills Canada BC is now taking expressions of interest from schools interested in hosting *The Skilled Life: You and the Trades* presentation.

Suitable for Grade 9 and 10 audiences, it aims to better inform young people about career opportunities in trades, showcase opportunities to start a trade in high school, and positively influence post-secondary choices.

*You and the Trades* answers three fundamental questions:

1. What are the trades?
2. Why are they good education and career options?
3. How can I learn more and even get started on a trade in high school?



The presentation will be facilitated by a trained presenter, is multi-media and lasts for approximately one hour with discussion and questions throughout. The presentation integrates well with the ITA's Planning 10 resource booklet – *You and the Trades*.

For more information or to request a presentation at your school, please contact Skills Canada BC at:

Skills BC  
[bc@skillscanada.com](mailto:bc@skillscanada.com)  
604-432-4229



**YES 2 IT** (Youth Exploring Skills to Industry Training) helps to fund programs that provide young students, grades 6 to 9, with hands-on experiences with a variety of certified trades in partnership with industry and/or community tradespersons. Up to \$15,000 per school district is available.

For more information, contact: Youth @ [itabc.ca](mailto:itabc.ca).  
Download the application from [www.itabc.ca/forms.php#Youth\\_Forms](http://www.itabc.ca/forms.php#Youth_Forms).

