

Building rough carpentry skills

by Stella Shepard



Some of the participants and instructors in the Introduction to Rough Carpentry Training program.

An 18-week program called **Introduction to Rough Carpentry** has started in Souris. The program is offered through **Harmony Training Center**. “We started this program because we recognized the need for people in Souris and surrounding areas to get more exposure to a trade in demand,” says **Pam MacDonald**, owner of Harmony Training Center.

“We are training people to prepare them for entry-level jobs in the carpentry trade,” says Pam. “Once the participants secure employment and if all works out well with the employer, they can enter the **Apprenticeship Training** program. With ambition and direction, they could earn their **Red Seal certification in carpentry**. This program is in place to open the doors for participants to develop long-term careers in the trade.”

Rough carpentry skills

“Rough carpentry is the skill of cutting and rough framing in building construction,” says Pam. “The training program allows the participants to learn the essential skills necessary for entry-level carpentry jobs.”

Participants are already busy developing their carpentry skills in the workshop, building sawhorses, their own toolboxes, and other small projects.

Demand for workers

“There is a need for more rough carpentry workers,” says Pam. “I asked 13 construction employers if they would hire someone with rough carpentry skills and good work ethics. They all said yes.”

“I plan to invite construction professionals to the shop to review the participants’ work. We will connect participants with employers in order to find jobs after they complete the training.”

The participants

There are nine participants, four of whom are females. Two carpentry instructors have been hired, and they have access to a carpentry consultant when needed.

For more information, contact **Pam MacDonald** at 687-2458.



Students learn about the business world

by Heidi Riley

For 18 weeks, a group of students from **Bluefield High School** spent hours after school on a project that earned them no extra marks or extra money.

This is one of 10 groups across PEI participating in the **Company Program**, an initiative from **Junior Achievement (JA)** which teaches students about running a business through real-life experience.

Participants are given jobs that could be found in any company, including **President, Finance, Human Resources, Production, IT Services, and Marketing and Sales**. They take their businesses all the way from start-up to closing.

Getting the company started

The Bluefield students formed a company called **Bath & Body 4 Gods & Goddesses**, making lip gloss and bath products. Through trial and error, they discovered which recipes were successful and what products sold best. They sold their products at business mixers, at school, and at the North River Flea Market.

To raise the money needed to buy supplies, they persuaded 39 shareholders to contribute \$10 each. Those shares are currently worth \$12.95 to shareholders.

Powerful lessons learned

Grade 12 student **Kate MacMillan** was the President of the company. “Being in charge was scary at first. If things aren’t going fast enough, I tend to step in and do the job myself. I’m working on getting better at delegating. It should be a team effort. If one person does everything, others will feel left out.”

Andrew Woodside, VP of Finance, says the opportunity to work on this venture has made him more likely to get into business in the future. “It’s a great opportunity to get business experience and to get involved.”

Rhyanne Beatty Vice President of IT Services, participated in JA for the third year. She developed a website for the company. “I learned how to work as a team because however much time we put in as individuals, working as a team is more rewarding.”

For more information about the company, visit www.bb4gg.web.officelive.com

For more information about **Junior Achievement**, call 892-6066 or visit www.japei.org

www.employmentjourney.com



Bluefield High School students with the Junior Achievement Company Program formed a company that had the highest sales of the 10 companies active on PEI this year.

Evan Beatty was the Advertising Manager. He designed the logos and the posters which were placed around the school. He enjoyed the experience, and is interested in pursuing graphic arts in the future.

Irene MacAulay, Vice President of Production, participated in JA for the second year. “I really like it. It’s fun to be involved in a project that is not worth marks. There is less stress and no risks.”

About JA

Ellen Jones, Volunteer Advisor, has been involved with JA for six years. She has delivered programs for elementary and Junior High students. “I went to Bluefield 10 years ago, and it’s great to be back again. I got involved with JA because I am a new business owner too. It is a good opportunity to help out these participants and share the same successes and struggles that I face in my business.” Ellen owns the **Hugh-Jones Centre** for People and Animals, and works with horses and high-risk youth.

“Every year, about 4,500 PEI students are involved in Junior Achievement,” says **Philip Reid**, Company Program Manager.

“It’s a great way for young people to better prepare for the future. We are always looking for volunteers willing to share their time and business experience for our in-school programs for grades 3 to 8 across PEI. Training is provided, and it’s just a four-hour commitment.”



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