

Youth puts new life into education after volunteering

by Stella Shepard

Corina Anderson of St. Peters Bay has a passion for learning. In 2008, after attending university, she became a volunteer firefighter with **St. Peters Fire Department**. She is currently the only female firefighter at that department.

The experience of being a first-responder with the fire department motivated Corina to focus on a **Paramedicine** career.

In order to meet the entrance requirements for the college Paramedicine program, she enrolled in the **Charlottetown Adult Education** program to upgrade math. In 2009, she went to the **Morell Adult Education** program to upgrade biology and English credits.

Q For more information about **Adult and Community Education**, contact the central office at **566-9628** or call toll free at **1-800-446-5265**.

Corina's story

"I was advised to enroll in an adult education program to better my chances of being accepted into the Paramedicine program," she says. "Even though I had graduated from high school, I was still nervous, worried and overwhelmed about going to school with adults.

"The further I got into the school year, the more comfortable I became. I realized the adults are just like high school students and deal with similar issues while learning. I would advise anyone to enroll in adult education. I found that everyone is treated equally. Also, the teachers and the other students care about learning and about each other.

"I always felt good about getting up and going to the program and I left happy at the end of the day. My experience was a lot easier than I had anticipated. As a result, I have more confidence in my ability to learn, and I have developed great friendships. I definitely know how to write a biology paper now," she says with a smile.

Did you know...

A **Small Business Manager Certificate Program** starts this fall at the Holland College Adult & Community Education location in Souris. For more information, contact **Tim McRoberts** at **566-9612** or e-mail tmcroberts@hollandcollege.com



Corina Anderson, age 21, received the Lion's Club award at the 2009 Morell Adult Education recognition night. "It was a good year and a great time," says Corina. Corina has been accepted into the Paramedicine program at Holland College.

World competition raises profile of trades and technology

by Heidi Riley

Power. Passion. Precision. Craftsmanship. Camaraderie. Competition!

These words describe the spirit of the **WorldSkills International Competition**.

More than 800 young trades and technology professionals from 51 countries met in Calgary this September. These professionals competed in 45 different skill areas.

PEI volunteers attend event

Volunteers from PEI added their expertise to the event in the fields of Automotive Technology, IT PC & Network Support, and CNC (Computer Numeric Control) Turning.

Sue LeFort, who spent 25 years in the machinist trade on PEI, was one of the volunteers at the event. She was the Shopmaster for the CNC Turning competition.

Sue is the new Manager of Apprenticeship at the Department of Innovation and Advanced Learning. "The thrill, excitement, and spirit of the WorldSkills Competition also applies to Apprenticeship," says Sue. "It captures for me what it feels like to be a Red Seal Machinist."

Volunteering for the World Skills Competition was a two-year commitment. It began with applying



Sue LeFort, Manager of Apprenticeship with the Department of Innovation and Advanced Learning, was a Shopmaster at the 2009 WorldSkills Competition. She is holding components similar to those used at the competition. The large component on the left is a duplicate of one that was used on the Canadarm on the International Space Station.

for the position, and then visiting the 2007 World Skills Competition in Japan and mentoring with the shopmasters there. To prepare for the competition, Sue brought together the machines, tools, software, and measuring instruments used by the competitors. She also helped to set up and oversee the CNC Turning competition.

Trades And Technology

A renewed appreciation for Apprenticeship

"My role as Apprenticeship Manager is to manage the provincial apprenticeship program," says Sue. "This includes meeting with the public, industry, and training institutions and representing PEI nationally as it pertains to Innovation and Advanced Learning in Apprenticeship. The exposure will hopefully encourage more skilled workers to consider the trades as a viable career option by giving them information about the many careers available in the field," says Sue.

"To be engaged in a trade is very fulfilling," says Sue. "Hands-on work leading to a physical product gives you a satisfying feeling of accomplishment on a daily basis. I am a firm believer in life-long learning."

Women in the trades

"I also want to encourage more women to consider non-traditional occupations," says Sue. "In Canada, women are really moving into the trades, but internationally there are very few women in trades positions. Women are uniquely suited to many trades where attention to detail and good motor skills are important.

"Mentoring is the benchmark of the trades," says Sue. "Red Seal tradespeople take a lot of pride in passing on their knowledge to the next generation."

Funding for the WorldSkills International Competition was provided in part by the Government of Canada's Youth Awareness program.

Q For more information about **WorldSkills International**, visit www.worldskills2009.com or www.skillscanadapei.com