

Master Mechanic – Malton



John Viola, the Service Advisor at Master Mechanic on Etude Drive in Malton, believes in giving every student an equal opportunity to be successful. “A two week probation period for everyone, we call it,” he said. “We start them out on cleanup duty – they get very familiar with a broom and shovel at the beginning of their co-op placement here.”

The idea is partially to impress upon the student the strict cleanliness and safety standards enforced by Master Mechanic. But also, it gives John and the auto service technicians in the shop a chance to size up the student and his or her work ethic and attitude. This is a key factor

“The students who are successful here, and we’ve had a number of them, are the ones who are willing to start with the basics and learn,” John said. “The ones who come in thinking they know it all and wanting to rebuild engines during their first week on the job are generally the ones who do not last.”

The track record at Master Mechanic has been excellent. The shop, under the direction of Service Manager Mauro Briccardi has offered work placements to students for over 14 years. Co-operative Education staff at Lincoln M. Alexander Secondary School are most appreciative of the opportunities provided to their students. “Master Mechanic has been one of our best employers,” said Ron Porter, a co-operative education teacher at Lincoln. “The shop has registered a number of our students as apprentices under the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program. And a couple of them have stayed on as paid apprentices after their placements were over.”

Students are expected to work hard at Master Mechanic, but all enjoy a clean, safe working environment in which to learn and develop their skills. And they also experience John Viola’s good nature and excellent sense of humour. “I want everyone to leave my shop with a smile on their face,” he said.