

Samantha at Race Auto Service, Mississauga May 2008



“I love working here; it’s been great.” The first words out of Samantha (“Sam’s”) mouth confirm the impression created by her smile and her relaxed manner in the shop. She has found work she both enjoys and excels at during her co-operative education placement at Race Auto Service on Ridgeway Drive in Mississauga.

A grade 11 student at Clarkson Secondary School, Sam grew up in a family with a mechanically inclined father and grandfather, so she was not a complete stranger to auto repair. She also enjoyed several technological education courses at Clarkson. “But just about everything I know about auto service I learned here at Race,” she said.

Percy Ramnarace, Vice President of Race Auto Service, and Sam’s supervisor on the job has worked with many secondary school students and has been delighted with her progress. “Sam is a very quick learner and really retains what she learns. She also shows a lot of initiative at work,” he said. “She is the kind of student we really appreciate working with us.” Percy has registered Sam as an auto service technician apprentice under the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) and has offered her paid weekend and summer employment at Race so she can continue to pursue her apprenticeship after her placement ends. His small shop is committed to apprenticeship and Percy and his colleagues appreciate the chance to work with any student with the kind of attitude and aptitude demonstrated by Sam.

Sam has eagerly accepted the additional work and sees auto service as a long-term career choice. She plans to complete her secondary school diploma at Clarkson by January 2009. From there she hopes to continue working at Race Auto Service while she completes the in-school components of her apprenticeship at Mohawk College.