

## OYAP Profile: Teresa Hughes – Carpenters’ Local 27



Three enjoyable courses in construction technology at Heart Lake Secondary School led Teresa Hughes to believe she could be successful in carpentry. The 18 year old student has taken advantage of a special program offered by the Peel District School Board in conjunction with the Carpenters’ Local 27 Training Centre in Woodbridge. Students in this program are able to complete Level 1 of a registered carpentry apprenticeship at the Training Centre. Following this, there is an opportunity for paid on-site work and continuation of apprenticeship training with the union.

Teresa has thoroughly enjoyed her time with Local 27. “I like building things,” she said, “and I learn better by doing than by just sitting and listening. I feel like I’m learning new things everyday here”.

Joe Ranieri, Placement Coordinator at Local 27 commented on how well Teresa has done in the training. “She has an excellent attitude and is eager to learn. She’s here on time every morning at 7:30 ready to go. She’s making great progress. We welcome students like Teresa in our program.”

The eight weeks it takes to complete Level 1 combine classroom learning with time spent in the shop area of the state-of-the-art carpentry facility. Shop time involves exposure to a wide variety of construction-related skills and challenges. Teresa has found the work interesting but demanding. “On top of the hands-on work, we get a couple of hours of homework each night and regular tests to study for,” she said.

She looks forward to paid work on a construction site this summer and the opportunity to apply some of the skills she has learned at the Training Centre. “This is a great chance for me to start on a career path, and I plan to take advantage of it,” she said.