

Tosha Kettlewell



Tosha Kettlewell had a feeling she would become a plumber at an early age. With her father working full-time in the plumbing and heating business, she received some early exposure. The 17-year old grade 12 student at North Park Secondary School remembers going out on weekend work calls with her dad when she was in elementary school and enjoying it. “I’ve always been a hands-on person,” she said, “and I’ve always been interested in fixing things. Plumbing work is something I like doing.”

Her co-operative education placement with Trademark Plumbing and Heating Ltd., a Brampton-based contractor, has provided her with an opportunity to experience a wide variety of plumbing tasks and worksites. The firm does residential and commercial work across the GTA, including recent installation and repair work at Brampton Towers and the Harbour Square development in downtown Toronto. Her own tasks have ranged from cleaning drains to cutting pipes to preparing fittings. “We put Tosha to work right away,” said her supervisor, Joe Farias. “She’s well-organized and a good learner. We’re glad to have her with us.”

Tosha hopes to become registered as an apprentice under the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program. This will allow her to pursue a plumbing career after she graduates from North Park in June 2008, and one gets the impression that this determined, hard-working student will be successful in this pursuit. In her own words, “When I really want to do something, I can get it done.”