

Cole Fulton

by Stu Rhodes

Apprenticeship (SSA) work placement with the Department of National Defence during the summer of 2011, after which he started the technical training “foundation” program for sheet metal and aircraft structural at Camosun. Just a few weeks in, Cole broke his arm in a sporting accident, forcing him to withdraw from the program. However, this did not deter him. After he recovered he spent the following summer back with his employer working in the trade and re-enrolled in the next technical training session, which started last August.

Cole loves the hands-on aspect of the trade he is learning. “Math was one of my favourite subjects and it comes in handy to help with all the calculations we have to do. I took two blocks of drafting too, and that really helps to take projects from layout to fabrication,” he said.

Cole’s career counselor at Claremont Secondary, Garry Arsenault, says: “Cole is a very strong academic student with incredible attention to detail. He wants to get it right and he’d rather measure twice and cut once than make a mistake.”

Cole’s father, Jim Fulton, is also a qualified tradesperson and whole-heartedly supports Cole’s desire to pursue education and employment in the sheet metal trade. “Getting a trade ticket allows you to make really good money, find secure employment, and basically go anywhere you want,” he notes.

Cole is easily able to describe the satisfaction and pride he gets from taking a sheet of raw metal and converting it

Not only is Cole Fulton currently at the top of his sheet metal class at Camosun College, he could be considered a candidate for a “courage to come back” award. Cole participated in a Secondary School

to a functional product: “You take a sheet of metal and suddenly it’s formed into something.”

Talking to Cole and seeing the projects he has completed, two things became immediately evident: he is a very modest young man

and possesses

exceptional skill. His Camosun instructor, Brian Coey, agrees, saying how impressed he is that Cole is one of just a couple of high school students in a class of adults and is still at the top of the class.

Cole says he thinks this is an amazing opportunity for high school students and strongly recommends it to others. “It’s a great idea! You get lots of credits and you get experience. It’s given me a great jumpstart on life!”

When Cole finishes his program in a couple of months, he hopes to get hired back on with DND to continue his apprenticeship, but he also realizes his qualifications will make him eligible for employment in a number of related fields including aircraft manufacturing.

Now that sounds really exciting!

For more information on how to get involved as a student apprentice, or as an employer sponsor in this, or any other career program in

Saanich School District, contact Garry Arsenault, 250-658-6679;

Roger Pires, 250-655-2715; Wendy Walker, 250-514-0259; or Stu Rhodes, 250-415-9211.

Visit <http://www.youtube.com/user/saanichcareers> to view the promotional video Jump Start Your Career.

