



National / Provincial / Territorial Competition Schedule for 2005

Province/Territory	ED	Location	Dates
2005 Canadian Skills Competition	Brian Pardell	Northlands Agricom, Edmonton, AB	June 3 (opening ceremonies) June 4-5 (competition) June 6 (closing ceremonies)
Alberta	Brian Pardell	Northlands Agricom, Edmonton	June 1-2, 2005
British Columbia	Rob Chioccarello	Abbotsford	April 26, 2005
Manitoba	Debbie Leiter		April 14, 2005
New Brunswick	Patricia Duffy	Various Locations	To be confirmed
Newfoundland & Labrador	Tom Donovan		May 6, 2005
Northwest Territories/Nunavut	Guy Barnable	Yellowknife	April 21, 2005
Nova Scotia	Michelle Bussey	Akerley Campus of the Nova Scotia Community College	April 15, 2005
Ontario	Gail Smyth	RIM Park, Waterloo	May 2-4, 2005
Prince Edward Island	Art Gennis	PEI Provincial Home Show Charlottetown Civic Centre	March 12, 2005
Québec	Robert Houle		N/A
Saskatchewan	Conrad Pura	Moose Jaw	April 7-9, 2005
Yukon	Susanne Hingley		To be confirmed

Skills Canada – Welding Competitions Update

by John Kroisenbrunner, Team Canada Welding Expert

Provinces/Territories:

Each of the 12 provincial and territorial Skills Canada organizations will be hosting competitions to determine their representative for the 11th Canadian Skills Competition being held in Edmonton, Alberta from June 3 to 6, 2005. Gold medal winners, from both the Secondary and Post-Secondary levels, from the provincial and territorial competitions will advance to the nationals.

For a complete list of the provincial and territorial competitions in your area, visit www.skillscanada.com or call Skills/Compétences Canada at 1-877-754-5226.

11th Canadian Skills Competition:

This exciting 2-day event will take place at the *Northlands Agricom in Edmonton, AB, June 3 - 6, 2005*. Participants from across the country will compete for the Gold medal in approximately 40 contest areas.

The secondary level welding competition projects encompass oxy-fuel cutting, fitting, tacking and welding on mild steel with SMAW, GMAW in several positions. The post-secondary level also encompasses GTAW and FCAW. These competitors also are required to perform GTAW on stainless steel in various positions. The welding competition extends for a total of 12 hours over two days. Isometric drawings of the projects will be posted adjacent to the Welding Scope on the Skills Canada website after May 2, 2005.

For more information regarding the Welding Scope at the Canadian Skills Competition, visit <http://www.skillscanada.com/en/corporate/events/Welding11CSCEng.php>.

38th WorldSkills Competition:

The world's best young tradespeople will compete for Gold medals at the 4-day competition to be held in *Helsinki, Finland, May 26 – 29, 2005.*

Every two years, 40 member countries send competitors to compete in 39 different skills contests and several demonstration events. In the welding contest there are typically 22 (Seoul, 2001) to 24 (St. Gallen, 2003) competitors. Each country also sends an Expert along with the competitor; however, they are not permitted to communicate with each other once the competition has begun.

All project drawings for the welding competition are released to the WorldSkills member countries three months prior to the event. This enables all trainers and candidates to practice on the expected projects. However, as a matter of ensuring the contest projects are a true test of competitors' skills, the Experts make minor changes to the design and evaluations immediately prior to the competition.

The Canadian candidate for the upcoming WorldSkills Competition is Mr. Curtis Ritchie from Silver Valley, Alberta, the Gold Medal winner at the 2004 Canadian Skills Competition held in Winnipeg.

Curtis is training rigorously and following the training plan laid out for him by John Kroisenbrunner, the Team Canada Welding Expert, who is responsible for the design and execution of this plan. Curtis is being trained by his apprenticeship welding teacher, Mr. Brad Ewing of the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Alberta. Many hours are being spent practicing and perfecting the required skills for the level of competition expected at the WorldSkills event. Both Curtis and Brad deserve accolades for volunteering their private time, showing their enthusiasm and proving their dedication!



Left to right: John Kroisenbrunner, Brad Ewing, Curtis Ritchie

The dedication and support of sponsors to the training plan is also a key element in Curtis' preparation for the intense WorldSkills event.

Miller Electric and Hobart Brothers of Canada have graciously offered to bring both Curtis and Brad to their facilities in Woodstock, Ontario for an intense 4-day training session with John Kroisenbrunner, Steve Hewitt of BOC Canada Ltd. and Blair Israel of Miller Electric. Their support is greatly appreciated.

In addition to the training schedule, Curtis will also take part in the U.S. Open Weld Trials held simultaneously with the AWS Welding Show in Dallas, Texas, April 25 – 28, 2005.

Although excluded from winning any medals, his projects will nevertheless be judged and evaluated to the same standards as the WorldSkills event. Australia, Ireland and Holland are also expected to be participants in this competition.

For more information about the 38th WorldSkills Competition, visit www.worldskills.org or contact John Kroisenbrunner at jkroisenbrunner@hotmail.com.