

Hamilton Youth Exposed to Skilled Trades at the Dundas Quarry

June 06, 2013

Dundas, Ontario , Ontario

With the growing concern of skilled labour shortage, approximately 80 students from Hamilton area high schools were invited to come to the Lafarge Dundas Quarry for a tour focused on exposing youth to the variety of skilled trades within the Heavy Construction Industry. The students came from St. John de Brebeuf Catholic High School, Saltfleet District Public High School and Westdale Public Secondary School. This second annual "High School Construction Day" event was put on by the Hamilton and District Heavy Construction Association, in collaboration with the Ontario Civil Construction Careers Institute and the Hamilton Separate and Public District High School's Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program.

On May 21st, 2013, two busloads of senior high school students were taken to an active King Paving and Materials road works jobsite, followed by a tour of the Lafarge Dundas Quarry where they were able to experience a real "blast" and see the aggregate process from the active face to the finished product, including the quality control procedures in the state-of-art lab on-site. Additionally, students really had an opportunity to "get a feel" for what it's like to be a heavy-equipment operator by trying out one of two simulators that Nortrax set up at the Dundas Quarry garage! The tour was successful in opening up the student's eyes in terms of new career opportunities that they might not have otherwise considered.

