

# Construction Day promotes various student options

By Doug Furtney,  
The Standard Guide Advocate

The Ontario Civil Construction Careers Institute (OCCCI), in partnership with the Youth Apprenticeship Program, offered its third annual Construction Day on Thursday, April 27th, with over 100 high school students attending, including a large group from North Lambton Secondary School.

The event was hosted by Birnam Excavating on Nauvoo Road in Warwick Township and VanBree Inland Aggregates Gravel Pit on Townsend Line, east of Arkona.

Construction Day was presented in collaboration with the Sarnia Heavy Construction Association (SHCA) and the Ontario Construction Careers Alliance (OCCA), a non-profit organization established to promote careers in heavy construction to youth across Ontario.

The event showcased the need for men and women trained in heavy construction, including health and safety representatives, heavy equipment operators, construction craft workers, surface blasters, road workers and a variety of engineers and technicians.

The students had a chance to see and talk with members from the SHCA about their jobs and gain insight in order to make future career decisions.

"Buildforce has predicted a shortfall of over 86,000 skilled workers in construction by 2026 that are needed to replace retirees in Ontario," says Jessica Steffler of OCCA. "By giving youth a chance to see what these important jobs are really like, we hope to inspire them to consider the heavy construction industry for their career path."

The students were split into two equal groups. One

group toured four stations at Van Bree Inland Aggregates Gravel Pit and the other group toured four different stations at Birnam Excavating.

The groups met for

lunch together at Birnam and listened to a safety talk by Brenda Broad of Cope Construction in Sarnia.

Birnam's Mark Van Bree quizzed the group and gave prizes to the first per-

son who answered the questions correctly. After lunch, the groups switched construction sites and continued examining different heavy construction careers.

Some of the other com-

panies involved in the event were Sarnia Concrete, Mackenzie & Henderson, Coldstream Concrete, Nortrax, Iplex, and Ray Dobbin Engineering.



Thirteen North Lambton students participated in the 3rd annual Construction Day on Thursday, April 27th. Birnam Excavating and VanBree Inland Aggregates Gravel Pit construction sites in Warwick Township hosted the event. Pictured (standing, l-r): NLSS teacher Mr. Prangley, Jesse Searson, Johnathan Veroude, Ryan Soetemans, Jack Hartley, Kent Bakker and Julia Houghton (Great Lakes SS). Back row: Randy Perriam, Cameron Richards, Colin Dew, Garrett Garside and Veronica Marchuk. Photo by Doug Furtney, The Standard Guide Advocate

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