

# Ontario Wiring Comp

**MAY 15-17**

**EVENT IN**

**KITCHENER WILL**

**BRING TOGETHER**

**ONTARIO'S FINEST**

**APPRENTICES**

**AND SHOWCASE**

**ELECTRICAL**

**INDUSTRY**

At a time when the unionized electrical trade is stepping up its recruitment of young people to enter the industry, the IBEW and the Electrical Contractors Association of Ontario Joint Electrical Promotion Plan (ECAO/JEPP) are once again taking positive steps. JEPP, a partnership of the IBEW Construction Council of Ontario and the ECAO, will once again sponsor the Electrical Wiring Contest at the 11th Annual Ontario Technological Skills Competition. The competition will take place May 15-17, 2000, at the Kitchener Memorial Auditorium Complex in Kitchener, Ontario.

Skills Canada/Ontario, a non-profit coalition of educators, labour groups, employer and government groups that seeks to promote skilled trades and technological occupations, hosts the annual competition. Ontario students from elementary, secondary and post-secondary schools watch their peers compete in over forty technology- and trade-specific contests spanning construction, manufac-

turing, communications, transportation, services and leadership.

Robert Hill, executive chairman of IBEW Construction Council of Ontario, says that one of the challenges for unions in the electric industry is to find ways to inform young people about the



The 1999 Provincial Post Secondary Electrical Wiring Competition winning medalists with committee members, from left to right: Ed Nott, Local 353, Toronto training director; Norm Fraley, Silver Medalist, Local 636, Toronto; Mark Kuehl, Local 804, Kitchener, training director; Terry Moore, Bronze Medalist, Local 804 and Wayne Anderchek, Gold Medalist, Local 586, Ottawa.

# Competition Spotlights Skills

positive and exciting aspects of being an electrician. He explains, "The labour management partnership between the IBEW and ECAO allows us to work with students within the educational system. By participating in the Ontario Technological Skills Competition, we can talk to a number of students about the unionized electrical industry and we can recognize and commend the achievements of competing students and apprentices. The competition shows the need for skilled tradesmen and the prominence of technology in our lives. It is also a great recruiting tool. Parents and students see that electricians have a dynamic and profitable, professional career."

The IBEW/ECAO also sponsor an interactive display at the Careers Exploration Showcase. Students learn about interactive computer *get wired* software, fire alarms, conduit bending, three-way switching, low-voltage lighting, and wire joints or pig tails. Journeymen and apprentices teach students and visitors about many of the tasks performed by electricians, like wiring homes for electricity and installing the fire alarm systems in schools. By the time the students leave the electrical display, they have seen the variety and magnitude of an electrician's work. Some students even begin to think seriously about a career as a union electrician.

In 1999, the provincial post secondary electrical wiring competition consisted of a two-part exam: a forty-five minute written exam and a five-hour practical project. The project involved installing a panel, a 30-amp disconnect, a forward/reverse contactor, a drum controller, a 3-phase-4 wire twist-lock plug and utility boxes with 3- and 4- way switches, as well as an emergency stop station.

Of the thirty-five students who competed in the provincial and national post-secondary electrical wiring event, thirteen were IBEW apprentices: Jarlaw

Abramczuk, Local 115, Kingston; Jay McIntosh, Local 120, London; Dave Townes and John Richardson, Local 353, Toronto; Wayne Anderchek, Local 586, Ottawa; Jackie Marentette and Steve Truant, Local 773, Windsor; Terry Moore, Leo MacDonald and Todd Lorentz, Local 804, Kitchener; Craig Westnutt, Local 894, Oshawa; Randy Buckner, Local 1739, Barrie; and Norm Fraley, Local 636, Toronto.

All the IBEW apprentices showed their dedication and fine caliber of work. IBEW members were especially proud of Wayne Anderchek, who was a Provincial Gold Medal winner; Norm Fraley, a Provincial Silver Medal winner and Canadian Gold Medal winner and Terry Moore, a Provincial and Canadian Bronze Medal winner.

In addition to competing in the Ontario Technological Skills Competition, medal winners who are apprentices and under the age of 22 by 2001, are eligible to compete for a spot in the 36th World Skills Competitions, which will be held in Seoul, Korea, in 2001.

In November 1999, Robert Waite of Red Deer, Alberta, a 1997 winner, competed in the commercial wiring event at the 35th World Skills Competition, in Montreal. Local 568, Montreal, helped Waite while he stayed in Montreal for the competition. He won the Bronze in the event and went on to become a member of Local 424, Alberta. Other winners at the international commercial wiring event were Yuji Takahashie of Japan, who won the Silver Medal and Andre Luiz Ramos Freitas of Brazil, who won the Gold.

Every year, dozens of Ontario IBEW members and ECAO contractors help ensure the success of the Ontario Technological Skills Competition. Among the participating contractors are: A.R. Milne Electric, Sutherland & Schultz, United Electric, Gemor Electric, PNP Electric, Kearsley Electric and associates from the



**Apprentices working on the practical project for the Provincial Post Secondary Electrical Wiring Competition.**

electrical trade, Construction Safety Association of Ontario, Electrical Safety Authority, Torbram Electric Supply, Siemens, Greenlee Textron and Fastway Supply,

Volunteers, without whom it would be impossible to host the electrical wiring competition, are Robert Hill; Mark Kuehl, training director, Local 804, Kitchener; Ed Nott, training director, Local 353, Toronto; Barry Stevens and Len Zawalski from Local 353, Toronto; Chris King, Local 804, Kitchener; Gary Lehman, ECAO Representative and Angela Martin and Sue Boorman of the Joint Apprenticeship Council.

Those seeking further information about the Ontario Technological Skills Electrical Wiring Competition should contact Bob Hill, executive chairman, IBEW Construction Council of Ontario at [bobhill@ibewcco.org](mailto:bobhill@ibewcco.org). 