

DSBN holds house building competition

CRAIG SEBERT
Staff reporter

On March 1, students from all over Niagara got to put on hard hats and build houses for a day.

As part of the 40 challenges set up by the District School Board of Niagara, Skills Canada organized a

house building competition in downtown St. Catharines in the Market Square early Wednesday morning.

"It's great," said Colin Robinson, one of the judges at the event.

"It is really good to see students take an interest in home building."

The students started at

just after 9 a.m., put on their hard hats and safety glasses and got to work. They had until 3 p.m. to construct a 10 foot tall miniature house with a door, stairs, electrical circuit, and basic plumbing.

"It was not an easy challenge," said Paul Brunet, one of the coordinators of the event.

"The students really had to focus and construct a plan to accomplish this.

Each team was comprised of two people, who talked to their teachers just prior to starting, to make a plan and then carry it out.

"It was tough, but it was fun," said Ben Wall of Eden Secondary School.

In the end, the finalists that will go on to compete in the regionals in Toronto are Sarah Davis and Cody Kelly of South Lincoln, Aaron Bradley and Trevor Van Ryn of Grimsby Secondary and Chris Pitul and Joe Stracuzzi of A.N Meyer.

"They really worked hard on what they did and they accomplished much in only a few short hours," said Robinson, who judged each team based on teamwork skills, safety, work habits and the final product.

"It was a pretty tough challenge," he said.

"Determining the finalists was not an easy thing."

The regional competition is set for later this month.



Matt Weins of Eden



Ben Wall of Eden



Josh Ader of St. Catharines collegiate



Ashley Bellfielle of Laura Secord