

# Welland masters of metal



Photo by John Edwards

Eastdale Secondary Students Zac Culp and Adam Done do some welding on a piece of metal at the Skills Canada Welding Competition at Niagara College on Friday. About 27 students from across the region participated in the competition.

## Local students participate in welding skills competition

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Senior Staff Reporter

There's more to being a good welder than just being able to cut metal.

According to Eastdale Secondary School Students Adam Doan and Zac Culp a good welder has to have patience, a steady hand and work with

precision.

The two Wellanders were two of about 27 students from across Niagara looking to improve these skills as they competed in the Skills Canada Welding Event at Niagara College.

The students were given the entire day to complete several welding projects including work with a blow torch, mig welding and arch welding.

Doan says for the arch welding project they had to form two pieces of metal into a T and then into a corner and that was the most difficult part for him.

"I was never that good at arch welding," he said.

Doan has been studying welding for about four years and says he enjoys "having all that power at your finger-

tips."

One of the biggest challenges at the competitions was getting used to the equipment.

"The equipment is a more advanced," he said. "A lot of the equipment at Eastdale is ancient."

To combat this he had to take more time and be more precise when he was cutting.

Culp has been welding for more than five years and started at home in his garage.

"I like working with metal and the people in the field are really nice," he said.

Like his classmate, Culp found the competition easy with the exception of the arch welding portion. He does a variety of welding jobs for his family

and friends and enjoys the sense of accomplishment when he's completed one.

"When I'm making a project and it's done, I feel proud because I can say I made this," he said.

Culp is planning to become a welder once he has graduated from Eastdale.

"I'd like to open my own business," he said.

As for Doan, he'd like to have a career as a welder, but isn't quite sure yet.

This competition is one of many Skills Canada events taking place across the region this month. The events test the different technology skills students have learned in high school.