
INVEST COB O U R G

MANAGER BLOG



Building Futures: Youth Engagement Intersecting with Cobourg's Economic Development Initiatives

Over the past three months, our Economic Development team has been proud to deliver a series of youth-focused programs that showcase the incredible opportunities available right here in Cobourg. From skilled trades to STEM learning and youth summer employment, these initiatives are helping young people explore career paths, build hands-on experience, and connect with local employers.

Skilled Trades Bootcamp

In July, we hosted our second annual one-day Skilled Trades Bootcamp that introduced participants to three high-demand trades disciplines: stone masonry, HVAC, and carpentry. Youth had the chance to try real tasks in each trade, guided by experienced professionals. The bootcamp included a networking lunch with local businesses that regularly hire in these fields. The message was clear: Cobourg is a thriving place to build fulfilling careers in the skilled trades. Again, the bootcamp not only sparked interest but also created meaningful connections between youth and employers.



Youth STEM Camps

The summer saw a redesigned Youth STEM Camp, which was offered for two weeks. Participants engineered and tested bridges for strength, designed and launched rockets, and toured local manufacturing facilities to see science and engineering in action. These camps were more than just fun—they were a window into understanding how STEM skills translate into real-world applications. By blending hands-on challenges with industry exposure, we helped youth see the relevance of their learning and the exciting possibilities ahead.



Celebrating Summer Jobs

To wrap up the summer, our economic development team hosted a Summer Jobs Celebration that brought together youth and the employers who hired them. This event highlighted the diverse range of student employment experiences—from trades and accounting to engineering and community services. It was a moment to recognize the value of youth contributions to our local economy and the commitment of businesses that invest in the next generation. The celebration reinforced the importance of early work experiences in shaping career paths, building confidence and contributing to Cobourg’s workforce.

Looking Ahead

These programs are part of Cobourg Economic Development’s ongoing commitment to youth engagement and workforce development. By creating spaces where young people can explore, learn, and connect. We’re not just preparing them for the future—we’re building a stronger, more connected Cobourg economy.

We’re grateful to all the partners, employers, and participants who made these initiatives a success. They include:

- **Support Ontario Youth**
- **Northumberland Manufacturers Association**
- **McLean Chimney Co. Ltd.**
- **Stalwood Homes**
- **Cobourg Rotary Club**
- **Graphic Packaging International**
- **Canada Candy Company**
- **Part-time CFO Services**
- **Lakeland Multi-Trade**
- **Northumberland Fare Share Food Bank**
- **Cameco Corporation**
- **Philip Lawrence, MP Constituency Office**

Subscribe to the Cobourg Economic Development and View from V13 newsletters for opportunities to get involved, and let’s continue to support Cobourg’s youth as they discover their potential and engage with Cobourg Economic Development’s team and partners.