


FACES OF THE TRADE

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CELEBRATING SKILL

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 Ontario Sheet Metal Contractors Association

WINTER 2025 CROSSFLOW

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO SHEET METAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION



INDUSTRY EVENT

See You in Sorrento!

Exploring Italy's Amalfi Coast: Where Ancient Legends, Coastal Beauty, and Southern Hospitality Meet

By STEPHEN COOK, Lorandus –
A One10 Company

My visit to Sorrento felt like it was lifted from the pages of a Mediterranean novel – sun-drenched cliffs, lemon groves perfuming the air, and a coastline that seemed to shimmer with its own personality. It was late spring, well before the crush of

the summer season, and yet the town felt wonderfully alive. Perched high above the Bay of Naples, Sorrento has long charmed visitors with its vibrant local culture, dramatic landscapes, and a history interwoven with myth, maritime power, and timeless Italian craftsmanship.

In April 2026, members and guests of OSM will experience this magical region firsthand. Sorrento, with effortless access

to the Amalfi Coast, Capri, Pompeii, and Naples, beautifully reflects the values of this group – resilience, innovation, and an appreciation for the craftsmanship that has shaped cultures and cities for centuries. Whether you're visiting Italy for the first time or returning to a beloved favourite, the Sorrentine Peninsula will not disappoint.

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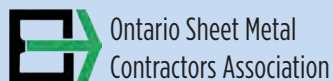
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SORRENTO: A CLIFFTOP HAVEN WITH A LEGENDARY PAST

Set along Italy's dramatic southwestern coastline, Sorrento sits like a balcony overlooking the sea. Its position has made it desirable – and strategic – for over 2000 years. Even its name is tied to the ancient Greek *sirens*, whose hypnotic songs were said to lure sailors onto the rocks below. Thankfully, today's visitors are drawn instead by its beauty, warm culture, and laid-back charm.

Brightly painted houses cascade down the cliffs, narrow lanes weave through centuries-old architecture, and the scent of lemons – especially the region's famed

sfasato amalfitano – floats in the air.

Insider Tip: The historic centre of Sorrento is only steps from most hotels. Wander via San Cesareo for handcrafted leather, limoncello tastings, and some of the best gelato you'll ever find.

Sorrento began as a Greek settlement, flourished under the Romans, and later grew into a medieval maritime hub. Roman nobles once built their cliffside

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villas here for the same reason we visit today: sweeping views, mild climate, and that irresistible coastal calm.

Today, Sorrento balances its deep history with a stylish and sophisticated modern appeal. Sidewalk cafés spill into cobblestone squares, trattorias open their doors to the aroma of fresh seafood, and the marina below pulses with

ferries bound for Capri and Naples.

FROM SORRENTO TO THE AMALFI COAST: A DREAMSCAPE OF VILLAGES AND VISTAS

Just beyond Sorrento lies one of the world's most breathtaking drives – the Amalfi Coast, a UNESCO World Heritage site and an engineering marvel unto

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RECOGNITION

Wally McIntosh Scholarship Award Winners Recognized

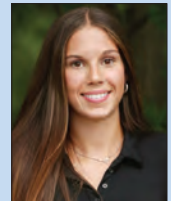
The Ontario Sheet Metal Contractors Association (OSM) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2025 Wally McIntosh Memorial Scholarship Awards. Named in honour of the late OSM president, who placed tremendous value on education and left a lasting legacy within the association, this scholarship recognizes outstanding young scholars. McIntosh would undoubtedly be proud of this year's accomplished recipients.

In 2025, OSM awarded four \$2,500 scholarships to children of employees of OSM member firms who are graduating from high school and continuing their education at a college or university.

Each year, the selection committee faces the difficult task of choosing among many exceptional applicants. Candidates are evaluated based on academic achievement, extracurricular involvement, community service, leadership qualities, and employment experience. After careful consideration, the judges selected Abbygayle Durlat, Elissa Erin Dioguardi, Sophia Borsellino, and Sydney Dobbin as this year's scholarship recipients.

Abbygayle

Durlat, daughter of Benjamin and Shelly Durlat of E.S. Fox Limited, is attending the University of British Columbia, where she is pursuing a major in Kinesiology with a minor in Psychology.



Abbygayle Durlat

Elissa Erin Dioguardi,

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Message from the Executive Director

As fall approached, arbitration continued and by mid-October a final resolution was reached on the three outstanding matters, bringing an end to the protracted negotiation process. Our attention then turned to updating the wage schedules to reflect the arbitrator's decision and award, with both the Conference and OSM agreeing to target the end of November to have those schedules ready for publication.

While work continued diligently on the updates, OSM completed and issued *Bulletin #17-25* on November 14 – ahead of schedule – which included the Sheet Metal, Sheet Metal & Decking, and the new Test & Balance Appendices for the province highlighting the monetary increases were subject to retroactivity.

The outcome of negotiations and arbitration ultimately resulted in what could be viewed as a down-the-middle deal, with OSM's negotiating committee remaining focused throughout and prioritizing the avoidance of a potentially costly strike.

In late July, the Canadian Sheet Metal Apprentice Competition was held in Toronto and in early October, the Ontario Competition was held in Windsor. Special thanks to the Ontario Sheet Metal Workers Training Centre, whose efforts make these competitions a success. I was also pleased to present the Wally McIntosh Apprentice Award to Jamie Weir at the training centre in Oakville. More on the competitions and the Wally McIntosh Award are included in this issue of the *Crossflow*.

The Conference held its annual convention and elections while attending the Ontario Apprentice Competition. Those elections resulted in LU47 (Ottawa) Business Manager, Brent James being elected as the new Conference President replacing Dan Krupa of LU397 (Thunder Bay). Mr. James hopes to bring change by beginning to pave the way for better relations between labour and management which have deteriorated in recent years.

The Ontario Skills Development Fund (SDF) continues to bolster the Skilled Trades to equip individuals with the skills required to succeed in today's workforce. The fund aims to address critical labour shortages by providing resources for apprenticeships, hands-on trade training, and programs that prepare workers for in-demand trades such as construction, manufacturing, electrical, plumbing, and sheet metal work. By investing in skills development in these areas, the SDF strengthens Ontario's workforce, improves employability, and supports economic growth across key sectors. The ability for the union to address insufficient manpower was a key concern raised during negotiations.

In terms of connecting with our membership, I recently had the opportunity to tour the Cunningham Sheet Metal (Windsor) Ltd. facility. Founded in 1908, the company has established itself as a custom fabricator and installer with expertise in specialty materials. Cunningham Sheet Metal is well positioned for the future through investments in the latest laser technology. Its diversified capabilities and expertise not only allow it to serve the Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional (ICI) sheet metal sectors, but also enable a broader range of customized work in other areas of metal-working.

In early September registration opened for the 2026 Transcend Rhine River

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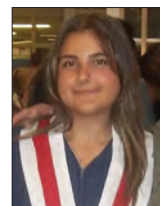
Wally McIntosh Scholarship Award Winners Recognized

daughter of Danny Dioguardi and Cindy Egan of Triway Sheet Metal Co. Ltd., is attending the University of Ottawa and pursuing an Honours Bachelor of Health Sciences. Her goal is to become a physical therapist.



Elissa Erin Dioguardi

Sophia Borsellino, daughter of Ray Borsellino of E.S. Fox Ltd., is currently attending Brock University, where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Health Sciences. She plans to continue her education at the master's level and become a chiropractor.



Sophia Borsellino

Sydney Dobbins, daughter of Shane Dobbins and Anne Clark of Adamson & Dobbins Limited, is attending the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, where she is studying Medicine. Sydney intends to pursue a career as a physician.



Sydney Dobbins

OSM encourages its members to continue sharing and promoting this scholarship within their companies to support future leaders and scholars in our industry.

For more information, please visit the [OSM website](#).

APPRENTICE AWARD



OSM Executive Director Tony Morganelli (left) presents Jamie Weir (centre) with the 2025 Wally McIntosh Apprentice Award along with Jamey Clarey of Summit Mechanical.

Jamie Weir

Winner of Wally McIntosh Apprentice Award

Jamie Weir didn't originally have his sights set on the ICI sheet metal trade. In fact, he may have found it almost by accident over a family dinner.

After taking time to figure out his true calling, the 33-year-old initially pursued residential HVAC but never felt completely fulfilled. In 2019, encouraged by his younger brother Greg, who had already ventured down a path in the sheet metal trade, Weir made the leap to the commercial side of the industry.

"I like the hands-on work and the fact that all your work is exposed, so you can take pride in everything you've done," Weir said. "You're constantly thinking about the math aspect of everything you do, if it's figuring out angles or trying to determine how everything fits together."

Weir immediately knew he was in the right place once he started his journey at the Ontario Sheet Metal Trades Training School in Oakville, ON.

"I was genuinely interested in the material and wanted to learn everything I could to take back to my day-to-day work," he said. "That's when I realized how much I really enjoyed the sheet met-

al trade."

Throughout his seven-year career, the most valuable lesson Weir has learned is the importance of asking questions. Because the industry is never "cut and dry," challenges often arise when fitting or installing ductwork that require problem-solving and a fresh perspective. For Weir, every obstacle in the field becomes a learning opportunity.

Beyond his role with Summit Mechanical in Peterborough, ON, Weir has showcased his talent in apprentice competitions across local, provincial, and national stages. It wasn't an opportunity he initially sought out, but a little encouragement from Ontario Sheet Metal Trades Training School Instructor Joe Hawley convinced him to take the leap.

"I had no interest in participating in any competitions at first, but Joe really encouraged me to take part, and I'm so glad I did," he said. "It was a great experience meeting people you might never connect with otherwise and getting to showcase your skills. You can really take pride in what you accomplish."

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See you in Sorrento!

itself. Roads cling to jagged cliffs, winding through vibrant villages like Positano, Amalfi, and Ravello.

Insider Tip: Sit on the right side of the coach for the most spectacular coastal views along the famous Amalfi Drive.

Each village along this coastline has its own personality.

- **Positano** is a vertical pastel rainbow, with boutiques and cafés tumbling down to the sea.
- **Amalfi**, once a powerful maritime republic, welcomes visi-



tors with its cathedral, piazza, and seaside charm.

- **Ravello**, perched even higher, rewards travellers with panoramic gardens immortalized by Wagner and Gore Vidal.

This stretch of Italy is not simply seem — it is *felt*. Every turn delivers a postcard moment.

POMPEII & MOUNT VESUVIUS: ECHOES OF AN ANCIENT WORLD

No visit to Sorrento is complete without stepping back in time to one of the world's most extraordi-

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Jamie Weir

Winner of Wally McIntosh
Apprentice Award

After winning the Local 30 Union competition, Weir went on to place second at both the Ontario competition in Peterborough in 2023 and the Canadian competition in Moncton, NB, in May 2024. These achievements not only highlighted his technical skills, they also strengthened his confidence.



Weir was “really excited” when he learned he had won the Wally McIntosh Apprentice Award. With a final mark of 98 per cent, the recognition felt especially rewarding.

“When I was in school, I didn’t even realize there was an award for excelling,” he said. “I would have put the effort in either way, but it’s great to be recognized for it.”

Although he enjoys his current work in the field and tinkering with cars in his spare time, Weir is committed to continuing to grow in the sheet metal trade.

“There are so many opportunities and so many avenues you can take in this sector,” he said. “It’s not just installing duct. You can build systems in the shop, or you can do architectural work.”

Who knows, maybe one day the next generation of sheet metal workers may just find Jamie Weir at the front of their classroom. It’s a path he would gladly consider.

With his drive, curiosity, and passion for the craft, Weir shows that the best careers aren’t always the ones you set your sights on, but instead the ones you grow into and the ones that inspire you to keep learning every day.



CELEBRATING SKILL

Precision, Pride, and Performance: Apprentices Shine at 2025 Ontario Sheet Metal Competition

The 52nd Annual Ontario Sheet Metal Workers Apprenticeship Competition took place from September 30 to October 2 in Windsor, ON. Sponsored by the Ontario Sheet Metal Workers’ & Roofers’ Conference in cooperation with the Ontario Sheet Metal Contractors Association, the competition welcomed 16 apprentices from across Ontario who participated in three core components: theory, drafting, and a hands-on practical challenge.

This year’s project was the Legacy 351 streetcar, recognized as Ontario’s first electric vehicle of its kind.

“A lot of people don’t understand what sheet metal workers do, and we’re getting our name out there to hopefully find opportunities in the community where we can showcase our work and encourage people to come out, see what

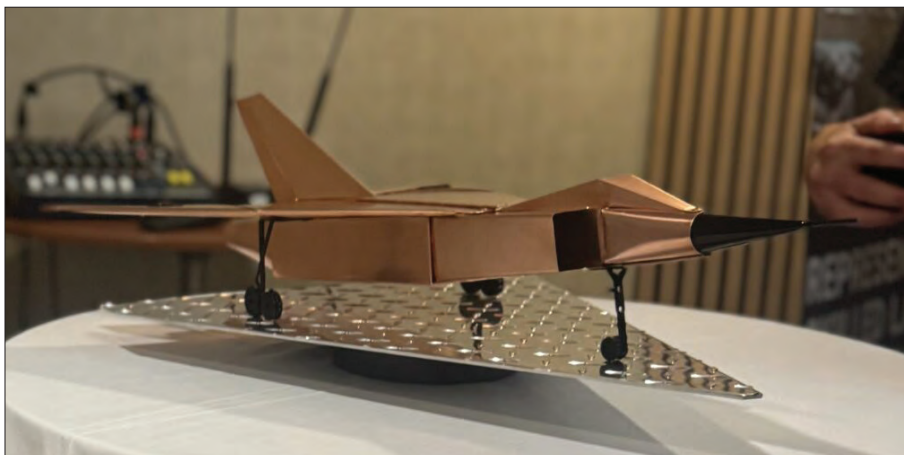


we’re doing, and ask questions,” said Scott Wood, Provincial Training Director at the Ontario Sheet Metal Workers Training Centre in Oakville. “Not many trades offer a showcase like this. We’re really happy and very proud of what we do.”

Wood also noted the complexity behind the finished work. “There is so much involved in these small projects, much of which you don’t see because it’s hidden inside with seams and locks. The process has to be followed step by

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INDUSTRY EVENT



Apprentices Showcase Skills at the 49th Annual Canadian Apprentice Competition

The 49th Annual Canadian Sheet Metal Workers & Roofers Apprenticeship Competition took place July 24 to 26, 2025, in Toronto, ON. Sponsored by the Canadian Council of Sheet Metal Workers & Roofers and hosted by SMART Local 285, the event brought together 13 apprentices from across the country to compete for top honours in the trade. The competition was held outdoors at Metro Hall, providing an engaging and public showcase of the skill and craftsmanship of Canada's next generation of sheet metal workers.

According to Scott Wood, Provincial Training Director at the Ontario Sheet Metal Workers Training Centre in Oakville, "We try to get individuals from all the provinces to come out to these events to showcase their skills and talents."

This year's project, the iconic Avro Arrow, was specifically designed to highlight the precision, creativity, and technical expertise inherent in the trade. "We design these projects to showcase and show off what we can do," Wood added.

The competition not only tests apprentices' technical abilities but also provides a valuable platform for learning, networking, and celebrating the craftsmanship of the sheet metal and roofing trades.

Congratulations to this year's award winners:

- Fourth place (and Congeniality Award Winner): **Jacob Grant**, Local 409 – Nova Scotia, *A J Murphy Mechanical*.
- Third place: **Travis Brinovec**, Local 30 – Ontario, *AFC Heating*.
- Second place: **Aaron Andrushuk**, Local 397 – Ontario, *North West Industries*.
- First place: **Josh D. Keaveney**, Local 30 – Ontario, *Flynn Canada*.

OSM and the Canadian Council encourage members and industry supporters to continue promoting apprenticeship programs and competitions like this, which play a vital role in developing the skills and leadership of tomorrow's sheet metal professionals.

The 50th Annual Canadian Apprenticeship Competition will be held in Edmonton, AB, in 2026.

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Apprentices Shine at 2025 Ontario Sheet Metal Competition



step – if it isn't, the project simply doesn't come together."

The annual apprenticeship competition provides a valuable platform for apprentice sheet metal workers to demonstrate their skills and technical expertise. Participants are challenged through tasks requiring precise cutting, bending, and assembly, and are evaluated on craftsmanship, attention to detail, and adherence to safety standards.

Beyond the competitive aspect, the event fosters learning, collaboration, and networking among apprentices from across the province. It plays an important role in developing the next generation of skilled tradespeople and strengthening the overall excellence of the sheet metal industry.

This year's winners included:

- Fifth place: **Mike Pardy**, Local 562 – Kitchener, *Nelco Mechanical Ltd.*
- Fourth place: **Justin Costa**, Local 285 – Toronto, *E-M Air Systems Inc.*
- Third place: **Nathan Marzilli**, Local 537 – Hamilton, *Flynn Canada*.
- Second place (and Congeniality Award Winner): **Johnathan Watson**, Local 30 – Toronto, *Modern Niagara*.
- First place: **Jeff Acton**, Local 269 – Kingston, *1000 Islands Mechanical*.

Congratulations to all the participants and award winners!

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Executive Director's Report

Cruise, designed to deliver an exclusive and memorable experience. Unfortunately, we were advised that delays in the global supply chain prevented the Transcend ship from being ready for our scheduled 2026 sailing.

While the change was disappointing, OSM quickly pivoted by introducing the Sorrento, Italy, option for the 2026 Convention – featured on the cover of this edition of the *Crossflow* – and postponing the Transcend Cruise to 2027 to ensure the ship's completion. To experience Sorrento and the Amalfi Coast, we encourage you to register and secure your spot.

While this year has been consumed by bargaining efforts, I continue to look forward to meeting more of the OSM members across the province.

As the year comes to a close, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to all of our members and stakeholders for a happy and healthy holiday season.

This time of year offers a valuable opportunity to reflect on the progress we've made together, the challenges we've navigated, and the collective commitment that continues to strengthen our association.

As we look ahead to the new year, we will remain focused on delivering meaningful value, fostering strong connections across our community, and building on the momentum we've created together. I am confident that, with your continued involvement, the year ahead will bring new opportunities for growth, innovation, and impact

– Tony Morganello,
OSM Executive Director

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nary archaeological sites: **Pompeii**. Frozen in 79 A.D. by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius, Pompeii offers a rare, intimate snapshot of Roman daily life – homes, streets, frescoes, baths, and even bakeries preserved in volcanic ash.

This is living history, vivid and humbling.

Insider Tip: Wear comfortable walking shoes – Pompeii's ancient roads are uneven. And bring your camera because every alley is a discovery.

CAPRI: THE ISLAND OF DREAMS

From Sorrento's marina, a short ferry ride whisks visitors to **Capri**, the island that has captured imaginations for centuries. Roman emperors built palaces here; writers, artists, and movie stars have followed ever since.

Explore the glamorous Piazzetta, wan-



der Villa San Michele, or take the funicular for breathtaking views. Don't miss the famous Blue Grotto, where sunlight turns the sea an otherworldly glowing blue.

Or simply enjoy a cappuccino while watching the world – very stylishly – go by. Capri never needs to advertise itself – it just is.

NAPLES: THE SOUL OF SOUTHERN ITALY

Just across the bay lies **Naples**, one of Europe's oldest cities and the birthplace of pizza. A day trip here offers a thrilling contrast to Sorrento's relaxed elegance. Naples is vibrant, energetic, chaotic in the best way – and packed with world-class history.

Marvel at Piazza del Plebiscito, stroll Spaccanapoli, or explore the National Archaeological Museum, home to many of Pompeii's most precious artifacts.

See You in Sorrento!

Insider Tip: Keep your eyes open for street food – fried pizza, arancini, and *sfogliatelle* pastries are irresistible.



YOUR HOME FOR THE WEEK: SORRENTO'S COASTAL RETREATS

Sorrento's hotels blend Mediterranean charm with warm Italian hospitality. Many properties offer sweeping sea views, lemon-treed terraces, and easy access to the historic centre.

What to expect?

- Delightful breakfasts featuring fresh fruit, pastries, and local specialties.
- Sunset views over the Bay of Naples.
- Easy walkability to shops, restaurants, and the marina.
- A perfect balance of relaxation, culture, and coastal adventure.

Insider Tip: Venture out early in the morning – the quiet streets and soft coastal light offer the perfect start to your day.

A JOURNEY THAT CONNECTS PAST AND PRESENT

Whether you're wandering the cliffside paths of Sorrento, discovering ancient Pompeii, or cruising toward Capri's dramatic coastline, you're stepping into a narrative that spans millennia. The stories of emperors, sailors, artisans, and explorers blend seamlessly with modern Italian life – creating an experience layered with beauty, depth, and unforgettable moments.

For OSM this journey to Sorrento in April 2026 brings together camaraderie, discovery, and the chance to unwind in one of Europe's most spectacular regions.

Italy has a way of capturing the heart... and Sorrento may just hold onto yours long after the journey home.

[LEARN MORE »](#)