

Our Town



Not so long ago, the recreational boating industry had students being trained to enter the industry after a two-year program at Georgian College, as well as apprentices at a number of colleges throughout Ontario.

In 1990, there were approximately 250 students in these various programs – today that number has dwindled to about 70. As well, the Georgian College course is now a one year program. The college hopes to attract 60 students to this course for the fall of 2006.

In the middle of April, the OMOA learned that Georgian only had 32 students enrolled in the program. The OMOA has hired a recent college graduate by the name of Megan Jewer to help us arrange interviews at high schools across the province with a view to encouraging students to join the marina program at Georgian.

The staffs at Georgian and the OMOA are working diligently to fill these spots in time for the fall semester.

For every graduating student, there is at least four or five jobs to choose from. The demand for trained people is certain to increase in the near future. OMOA members are encouraged to recommend the course to students looking for an exciting industry in which to establish a long, successful and fulfilling career.

The OMOA has created a long-range planning committee to address the skills shortage issues in our industry. The committee is made up of OMOA dealers, marinas, manufacturers and suppliers to the recreational boating industry, as well as staff from Georgian College.

A skills shortage survey has been sent to all OMOA members to help gain insight and a better understanding of this issue.