

Absolutely where you want to be!

At Capilano College our mission is to enable student success



We have something for everyone

Driving along Highway 1, it's difficult to miss the fact that the Sunshine Coast is rapidly changing. The onetime haven for those seeking a slower pace of life has become a more energetic environment with residents of all ages and from diverse backgrounds choosing to live and work here. While the landscape of our region changes, people's needs in terms of post-secondary education have also changed. This shift is reflected in the programs being offered today at Capilano's Sunshine Coast campus.

Our program diversification is clearly evident in the stories found in this report. While we still offer traditional programming in such areas as health care and adult upgrading, newer programs in trades, scuba diving, and mountain biking are attracting students of all ages from across the country. The new Civic Leadership program augments our successful Eldercollege programs and will further engage older members of our community. The ESL Settlement Assistance program is helping us meet the needs of new Canadians, while our literacy programs remain a priority and provide volunteer opportunities for those wanting to help.

Capilano remains committed to providing our communities with access to programming that is specifically tailored to meet the needs of all citizens. Whether it's in business training, literacy, tourism, fine and applied arts, liberal arts or responding to the growing population of lifelong learners, we have something to offer to everyone.

Jean Bennett
Dean, Sunshine Coast Campus

Clerk crafts new career in building maintenance

When **Linda Schopp** read a newspaper article last fall about Capilano's new Residential Building Maintenance Worker certificate program at the Sunshine Coast campus, she knew it was for her.

After 16 years as a municipal seniors' centre clerk, "I was ready for a change," says the New Westminster resident. "I'm pretty handy, and as I checked off everything the program offered I thought, 'this is exactly what I'm looking for.'"

The certified apprenticeship training program, which began in January, provides a solid foundation in carpentry, drywall, electrical, flooring, painting, plumbing, refrigeration mechanics, roofing and building inspection.

After completing the three-level 24-week curriculum and 4,500 hours of apprenticeship work, Linda and her classmates will have "tons of opportunities," she says.

"We'll be qualified to repair and maintain houses, apartments, schools, retirement homes, resorts, you name it, plus we get credit if we decide to specialize in one particular trade later on.

"Meanwhile," she laughs, "my own house needs lots of work, so I won't have much spare time."

For more information on the RBMW program, visit www.capcollege.bc.ca/programs/residential-building, or call **604.885.9310**.



Linda Schopp is seeing life from a different point of view in the Residential Building Maintenance Worker program.

Help comes CALLing from community member

After 25 years working as a police officer in his original home town of London, England, and another 25 years as an insurance claims adjuster in Canada, **Lauri Pearce** felt he still had a lot to offer.

So, the 84-year-old Sechelt resident volunteered with Capilano's Community Access to Literacy and Learning (CALL) program two years ago at the Sunshine Coast campus and became an English reading and writing tutor to 22-year-old **Cameron Drake**. Cameron, who has Down's syndrome, wanted some help with his literacy skills, says Laurie.

For the past two years Cameron and Lauri have met for 1½ hours each week. Cameron says that he has really enjoyed the sessions, adding that his speech skills have greatly improved.

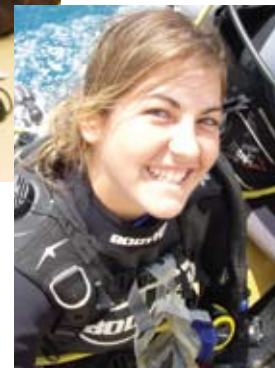
"I feel more comfortable speaking in front of people now," Cameron explains. "Before working with Lauri, it was hard for me to do. Now I understand the feelings behind the words, too."

The CALL program offers one-on-one instruction to adults to help them improve their reading, writing, math and computer skills. Program volunteers, such as Lauri, receive tutor training from Capilano, which also provides resources for child care, learning materials, books and transportation, if necessary.

For more information on the CALL program, call **604.885.9310**.



Student Cameron Drake (left) receives help in his studies from volunteer tutor, Laurie Pearce.



PSDI program grad, Ashley Graham, is a scuba instructor in Airlie Beach, Australia and will be returning home to train for the Canadian Coast Guard.

Diving instructor program a ticket to paradise

If getting paid for travelling the world, exploring coral reefs, swimming with dolphins, experiencing new cultures and working with adventurous people sounds appealing, then **Jim Rossi** has the program for you.

"You can be doing all that in less than a year – even if you've never dived before," says the program manager of Capilano's Professional Scuba Dive Instructor certificate program at the Sunshine Coast campus.

"We have graduates working as instructors with dive companies, luxury hotels, cruise lines and other diving-related tourism operations in British Columbia, Costa Rica, Australia, Egypt and tropical resorts all over the world."

The eight-month full-time program includes six tourism management courses, 100 hours of underwater instruction and 19 dive certifications, including Open Water Scuba Instructor, Master Scuba Diver Trainer Preparation and Specialty Instructor credentials from PADI, the world's largest diver training organization. It concludes with a three-week practicum in Playa del Carmen, Mexico.

Graduates can also apply their credits toward Capilano's Outdoor Recreation Management or Tourism Management Co-op diplomas.

"It's an exciting, rewarding career," says Jim, a 23-year diving veteran. "I love it."

For more information on the PSDI program, visit www.capcollege.bc.ca/programs/scuba, or call **604.885.9310**.



Brad Hall, a student in the Mountain Bike Operations program, tends to trails in Sprockids Skills Park.

Mountain bike park gets makeover

It's a marriage made on the off-road trails within the rainforest of the Sunshine Coast.

Students in Capilano's Mountain Bike Operations program are partnering with the Sprockids to build a new mountain bike skills park in Gibsons. It will be located on the site of the youth group's original park built in 2000.

Created in 1990 by Gibsons Elementary School teacher, **Doug Detwiler**, the Sprockids program has been adopted by clubs and schools across Canada and in more than 15 other countries. It provides young people with a constructive and enjoyable introduction to cycling, while helping them manage frustrations and build self-esteem.

"Sprockids will gain a cutting-edge skills park with lots of new technical features for their members to use," says program coordinator, **Caroline Dépatie**. "And our students are gaining the ability to apply the technical skills they learn in class and the opportunity to leave a legacy to the cycling community."

"Plus," she adds, "it's great practise for their future careers with mountain resorts, government and non-profit groups and private mountain-bike businesses."

For more information on the Mountain Bike Operations certificate program, visit www.capcollege.bc.ca/programs/mountain-bike, or call **604.885.9310**.

ESL tutoring helps new Canadians feel at home

New Canadians settling on the Sunshine Coast can improve their English while learning about their new home through the volunteer English as a Second Language Settlement Assistance program at Capilano.

Participants set learning goals in the program, such as passing their driver's test, says **Sandy Middleton**, regional literacy coordinator for the Sunshine Coast campus.

Then, one-on-one with their tutors or in small groups, they practise their language skills in real-life situations, such as banking, shopping, playing games and socializing. They also take field trips and have guest speakers during the weekly Tuesday morning and Friday afternoon sessions.

"We started two years ago and now have a core group of volunteers and about 12 students ranging in age from 22 to 65, from places including Mexico, Thailand, Italy, Russia, Hungary and Sri Lanka," says Sandy. "It's very much a community and everyone has made friends."

Newcomers can feel particularly isolated in rural communities that don't have the ethnic support networks found in cities. The tutoring program provides a source of encouragement and education in a welcoming atmosphere. French-speaking students from Quebec are also part of the group, sharing their experiences of learning English.

For more information on the ESL Settlement Assistance program, call **604.885.9310**.



Members of the ESL tutoring program find support and friendship in their meetings.

New program trains older citizens for public leadership

Capilano's Sunshine Coast campus has started a new program to train older residents who want to play a more active role in shaping their community.

The Civic Leadership for Seniors program, funded by the Union of B.C. Municipalities in partnership with Capilano and the Sunshine Coast Regional District, brings people aged 55 and over together with local experts to learn about community organizations, institutions, issues and processes.

"We're lucky to have many talented older people on the Sunshine Coast with a wealth of knowledge on regional issues such as growth, development and environmental sustainability," says campus dean, **Jean Bennett**. "This

program aims to help them share their experience in volunteer leadership roles, including public office."

The eight-day program features classroom presentations, panels, site visits and discussions with community leaders. It's coordinated by **Betty Baxter**, who has years of leadership and organizational training experience, and directed by a committee of retired and semi-retired government and non-profit leaders.

"This program taps into the leadership potential of one of our most valuable resources – our retired and semi-retired citizens," says Jean.

For more information on the Civic Leadership for Seniors program, call **604.885.9310**.

Meeting health care education needs on the Sunshine Coast



Cap instructors, Kathy Taylor and Patrick de Sousa, ensure that there is quality health care education on the Sunshine Coast.

"The HSRC program appeals to a wide variety of people," says Patrick, who along with Kathy also teaches at Capilano's North Vancouver campus. "Many of our grads have continued their education to become nurses."

The HSRC program ladders into the new part-time Access to Practical Nursing program that starts at the Sunshine Coast campus this September. The 18-month course will be offered two days a week, allowing students to continue their employment while working towards their designation. Applicants must have completed a home support/resident care attendant program to be eligible. Graduates who pass the licensing exam then have the option of carrying on to complete a registered nursing program offered at other institutions in British Columbia.

Only 24 applicants will be accepted into the program. For more information, visit www.capcollege.bc.ca/programs/practical-nursing, or call **604.885.9310**.

With a combined 30 year commitment to health care education, Capilano faculty members, **Patrick de Sousa** and **Kathy Taylor**, have witnessed firsthand the growing demand for health care practitioners in British Columbia.

Together, the two are working to create a model of health care education for the Sunshine Coast that meets the changing needs of its residents. Through their guidance, students are graduating from Capilano's Home Support/Resident Care Attendant program and finding jobs where they live.



Program committee chair, Lyle Wharton, and program instructor, Betty Baxter, are key players in the new Civic Leadership for Seniors program on the Sunshine Coast.