

Belleisle Regional High School in Springfield, New Brunswick is a small, rural, middle-high school. Approximately 2/3 of our 260 students will take part in at least one class that gets them into the shop during their tenure at this school. Many students take three or more shop classes. Our school has a large shop that in one room is comprised of a wood shop, metals shop, automotive shop with three bays and the tools and space necessary to do electrical work.

One drawback to having a small population and offering so much diversity in trades training is that the funding to keep all the tools and equipment running is quite high. When the opportunity came to apply for the Stanly Dewalt tool grant we were delighted to apply. We were even more surprised and delighted to be one of the recipients!

The generous allotment of new hand and power tools has freed us to concentrate our modest budget on other shop essentials such as sandpaper, blades and other consumables, and this will continue for the next several years as the tools we received are all new!

We were able to share the bounty of our win with 11 other schools in the province. Our school received 31 cordless electric drills, and we donated the overstock (while still retaining a good number of them) with other shop teachers across the province.

As for our school, the students are now able to use new, accurate power tools. There is little to no wait time to share tools, and the tools storage room looks neater and more complete with the tools in their individual bags and boxes. I cannot thank you enough to helping our shop program, and through it, the lives of our students, a great many of whom go on to study trades further.

The generosity of industry and the community shows our students that their education is valued by more than just the government, and that their lives and choices are crucial to building a better economy, and thereby a better society for all New Brunswickers.

Clare Tahershamsi

