



Contributed photo

Jason Valdron of Madran with the silver medal he won in web design at the 2009 WorldSkills Competition in Calgary, Alberta.

ESN grad shines to silver at World Skills Competition

Jason Valdron competed in Web design at prestigious annual international event

BY PETER ASSAFF
NORTHERN LIGHT STAFF

When it comes to designing websites, Jason Valdron has shown he is one of the best in the world.

The 18-year-old son of Rodney and Pauline Valdron of Madran won a silver medal for Team Canada at the 2009 WorldSkills Competition in Calgary, Alta. earlier this month.

"It was quite a thrill," said the 2009 graduate of Ecole Secondaire Népissiguit, reached at the University of Laval in Quebec City, where he is beginning his first year of computer science studies.

The WorldSkills competition is held ev-

ery two years. The 2009 event was just the third time the event was held in Canada, and took place from Sept. 1 to 7, with four intense days of competition from Sept. 2 to 5, at Calgary's Stampede Park.

More than 900 competitors, between 18 and 22 years of age, from more than 45 countries, went head to head in 45 different skill categories. Hailed as the pinnacle of global skills, trades, and technologies, the event features competitions ranging from robotics to web design, welding to cooking, auto-body repair to landscape gardening.

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Valdron had chance to meet the PM

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The WorldSkills Competition attracts industry leaders, educators, government officials and educational experts from around the world.

Competing in the web design category, Mr. Valdron had 22 hours, spread out over four days,

to build a website.

"That was really mentally exhausting," he said. "There were 25 people in my category...and the competition was six hours a day, except the last day which was four."

Mr. Valdron, who earned his spot on Team Canada after placing first at the nationals in 2008,

said the website had to be based on certain specifications.

"We had a test project which was a Skills Canada employment portal," he explained. "We had four modules, one for design, one for the computer codes, one for animations and one for publicity."

Valdron said he believes his coding was what set him apart.

"My coding was excellent," he said. "On the second day, we had a day full of coding and that was marked at the end of the day. I talked to a couple of competitors and none of them were actually able to finish all of the codes on that day, and I was able to do everything."

As it turns out, Mr. Valdron narrowly missed out on winning a gold at the competition, finishing with a score of 530 out of a possible 600 points, or 88.4 percent. The winner, Vogler Fabian of Switzerland, finished with a score of 534 or 89 per cent.

In addition to getting a chance to meet students from all over the world, Valdron had the opportunity to rub shoulders with television personality Mike Holmes, the star of Home and Garden Television's Holmes on Homes; and Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who spoke at the event's opening ceremonies.

"I got to shaken hands with the Prime Minister," he said "We (the competitors) all lived in the same place so we talked a lot with the other countries. We were able to see a lot of different cultures and different people."

The competitors also visited Banff, Alta. and attended a Canadian Football League game between the Calgary Stampeders and the Edmonton Eskimos.

Mr. Valdron was one of two New Brunswickers chosen to compete for Team Canada, the other being Isabelle Collin of Dieppe who won silver in esthetics.

OBITUARIES



Eric Hussey

Eric Hussey, 76, of Big River, passed away suddenly on Saturday (September 12, 2009) at his residence.

Born in Bathurst, he was the son of the late Vincent and Mary (Curtis) Hussey.

He worked at the former Consolidated Bathurst Paper Mill and as a T.V. repair man.

He was pre-deceased by his wife, Bernice (Babin) Hussey.

He is survived by Three daughters, Debbie Hussey (Gerald Lockart) and Donna Aubie (Danny), both of Bathurst



Léah Albert

Mrs. Léah Albert, 87, formerly of West Bathurst, passed away on Thursday (September 17, 2009) at the Foyer Notre Dame de Lourdes, Bathurst.

Born in Bathurst, she was the daughter of the late Arthur and Marie Hélène (Thibodeau) Haché.

She is survived by her seven children, Urbin Hachey (Viola) of Bathurst, Donald Hachey (Anna) of Dunlop, Marie Adams of Bathurst, Jean-Pierre Hachey (Ernestine) of Bathurst, Denis Hachey (Benoit Perron) of Bathurst, Arthur Hachey