

Andrew Tucker – Leavens Aviation May 2008



Andrew Tucker's interest in flying and aviation started at a young age. His own involvement in Air Cadets and the influence of a cousin who worked on planes as a structural repair technician helped generate and strengthen this interest.

When a co-operative education opportunity to work as an aircraft maintenance engineer technician at Leavens Aviation in Mississauga became available, the 17 year-old grade 12 student at Applewood Heights Secondary School didn't hesitate to take it. Leavens is an 80 year old Canadian company with a rich history in aviation and an excellent reputation for providing first rate service and parts for airplanes.

This work placement has exposed Andrew to a wide range of interesting activities and challenges, everything from cleaning parts to dismantling and rebuilding engines. All of his work needs to meet tough standards imposed by Transport Canada. Greg Mansell, Director of Maintenance and one of Andrew's supervisors at Leavens, has been delighted with his work. "He's one of the best students we've had here," he stated. "Andrew is very observant and a quick learner. He has good technical skills and great work habits. We're delighted to have him, and if paid work is available in the future, he'll always be welcome here."

Andrew's employers helped him to officially register as an apprentice under the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP), always a sign of a positive placement and recognition of potential future employment in the field. Immediate plans for Andrew involve attending a two year Aircraft Maintenance Engineering Technician program at the College of the North Atlantic in Newfoundland. After that, he hopes to obtain his pilot's license. Whether it's flying planes or repairing them, he foresees an exciting career in aviation.