

Local talent takes gold

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A Vernon cabinet-maker has carved out the top spot against Canada's best.

Cormac Eby brought home gold at the recent Canada Skills competition in Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Eby, a North Island College cabinet/joinery graduate, was among approximately eight of the country's best cabinetmakers at the competition. Competitors worked over two days to build an assigned project, a table, with a last-minute change thrown in.

Eby managed to rise to the top of the pack with his work. Although he hadn't expected it.

"You just don't know because you've never even seen any of the people you're competing against," said Eby, who won the provincials in April to make it to the nationals.

"I expected that I might have a slight chance for third and maybe even second."

He hadn't expected first due to some trouble concentrating on day one which lost him some points.

But now that the 23-year-old has topped his cabinetmaking



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Vernon's own Cormac Eby, a North Island College graduate, waves the B.C. flag after winning gold at the Canada Skills competition in Charlottetown, P.E.I.

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competitors, he's looking to put his skills to work and is looking for a job in Vernon.

Although, he admits, it's tough finding work out there these days.

"Usually summer is the busiest time. It's not a great time though with the economy slowed down," said Eby, who is therefore going to expand his skills in September at Selkirk College in Nelson.

The Seaton Secondary graduate's timing also means he won't be going to the international competitions — only the win-

ner from every second year goes. But he may enter more competitions while completing his second trade certificate.

After his schooling, Eby plans to return home again to Vernon.

"Eventually I want to set up my own busi-

ness," said Eby, who has always been interested in woodworking, having grown up watching his father build a few furniture pieces.

From the beginnings of carving little figures, Eby hopes to one day be building custom, fine furniture in a family business.

"I know my dad's idea, in the back of his head, is maybe once he retires, he can come work for me," said Eby, whose brother has also talked about the prospect of starting a business.