

THE WHEEL DEAL

AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE TECHNICIAN

Rohit Mamman has been tinkering with engines since he was a kid - growing up watching his dad and uncle work on their cars sparked his interest to see what he could do with his own engines - so, he would fix his ATV and pocket bike, adjusting the motors so they'd go faster.

Rohit's instructor at Vancouver Community College, Greg Henderson, wishes more parents would let their kids tinker with cars, bikes and lawn mowers - he worries the current generation is missing out on that hands-on mechanical experience that was a rite of passage for previous generations.

Rohit is a recent grad of the Vancouver School Board's Youth TRAIN in Trades Auto Service Technician program. By the time he finished Grade 12, he was already working part-time at Kal-Tire and, after graduation, they scooped him up fulltime.

Given his love of engines, Rohit's auto teachers at his home school of John Oliver Secondary strongly recommended that he attend the auto service program, located at Britannia Secondary, and, after applying and being interviewed in Grade 11, and with his family's support behind him, he started in September of his Grade 12 year.

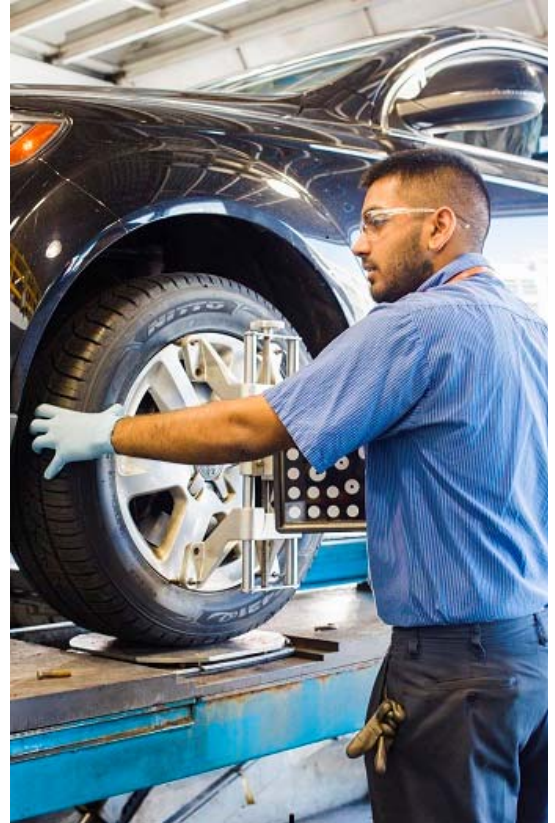
"Cars and engines were a hobby for me growing up, but I heard the money was good in auto service. I think an office job would have been boring for me - I really Like to be active," Rohit says. "In the program, you had to be willing to put in the work and I had to develop goodtime management during my Youth TRAIN in Trades year."

The auto service Youth TRAIN in Trades program gives foundational skills, and credit for first year post-secondary training, and then students need to find an apprenticeship where they continue to learn as they work, collecting the necessary hours to move on to their next level of training. These days, auto service technicians usually specialize in each area, explains Greg; they might specialize in glass, electrical systems, transmission, suspension or engines

Rohit says he's been happy at Kal-Tire because he's learning a lot about all different areas of servicing vehicles.

WRITTEN: MARIA RANTANEN

PHOTO: NORIKO TIDBALL



But, at work, he has had to learn to be fast and efficient to never cut corners and to work independently: "No one is holding your hand."

