O'SNAP

Guelph's most trustworthy source of engineering news!

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 6TH 2026 F26 ISSUE #O

This publication does not represent the views or opinions of the Guelph Engineering Society, its advertisers, the School of Engineering or the University of Guelph. It does however represent the finest of student reporting - or something like that.

PURPLE LEGO BRICKS STOLEN FROM LOCAL STORES



A trail of purple footprints and a lingering stench point all fingers to UofG engineers (read more on page 2)

What to Expect in Your First Year — Page 4

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Games, gossip, and more!

Local Toy Stores Left Sticky After Purple Bandit Heist

By Frank Goodfellow

Toy stores across the city of Guelph were victim to an unpredictable heist this past week. Several store owners arrived to find their Lego supplies completely raided and torn apart. We spoke to the manager of Mastermind Toys on Stone road, Izzy Cumming, about how she found out about the heist:

“The whole place reeked of alcohol and everything they touched was sticky. Looks like they also tried to assemble a bunch of lego sets but couldn’t figure out.”

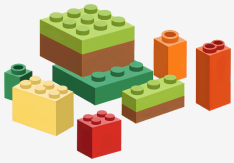
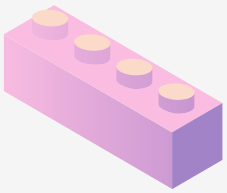
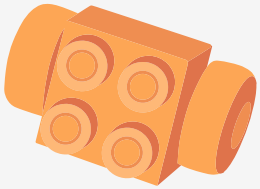
Izzy also said she found a note blaming the whole scene on the OAC. Regardless of who committed the crime, it is without a doubt one of the most uninteligent crimes the city has ever seen.



Right: The note left by the Brick Thieves

FOLLOW O’SNAP ON INSTAGRAM

Engineering O’Week Calendar

Sunday, September 6	Monday, September 7	Tuesday, September 8
12:30: The March (THRN Atrium) **2:00: Lawn games** (Johnston Green) 	 **1:00: Savenger Hunt** (THRN Atrium) 	**11:00: Club Fair** (THRN Atrium) **11:00: Covie Painting** (Johnston Green) **7:30: Open mic + karaoke** (Brass Taps Pub)

*Additional Covie Painting Sunday, September 13 at 11:00 on Johnston Green

**Go to O-Week events or we will break into your dorm and kidnap you!

THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Eva Cuddihy

Nola Hinton

Helia Minaian

Franklin Goodfellow

Mac Hilborn
(In loving memory)

Your Pal Bunsen

Bunsen Questioners

And our dedicated supporters!

A Letter from the Prez

Hello!!!
I'm OJ, and I'd love to welcome all of you to Guelph Engineering! You are among the diligent few who chose to enter Engineering, so be ready, as first year (and really all of it) will be one of the most eventful and rewarding experiences of your life!

The Engineering community here at Guelph is special; it is filled with exceptionally kind individuals who really take that step so that everyone feels like they belong. If you make the effort to get involved and embrace the community around you, I think you'll quickly understand what makes engineering at Guelph so special.

One of the biggest pieces of advice I can give you is to put yourself out there. Join a club, attend an event (especially EngSoc's), meet the people sitting beside you in class, talk to upper-year students (if you're the first in your family to be an engineer, I would argue it's more than essential), and try something you might not normally see yourself doing. Whether you get involved with EngSoc, a design team, an engineering club, or something completely outside of engineering, there are countless opportunities here to learn, grow, and meet some incredible people. Especially during O-Week and your first year, take advantage of how easy it is to meet new people. Say yes to things. Ask questions. Try something new. Make mistakes. Make memories. University goes by much faster than you expect, so make the most of the time you have here.

Most importantly, remember that you're now part of a community that is here to support you. There will be exciting moments, difficult moments, and probably a few late nights in Thornbrough, but you won't be going through them alone.



Welcome to Guelph Engineering. I can't wait to see what you make of it.

Cheers and Gears,
Ojaswin 'OJ' Aujla (he/him)
President
Guelph Engineering Society



What to Expect in Your First Year

By: Helia "Holy Unc" Minaian

DISCLAIMER: I took these classes 2/3 years ago, so beware some details of this may not apply because classes change every year.

CHEM*1040/1050 : General Chemistry 1 & 2

These chemistry classes are the ultimate time-management test of university. A lot of content overlap from high school, but the sheer volume of assessments is a lot to keep on top of; especially with 4 other classes. Make a spreadsheet with all your due dates, stay on top of it, and you'll be fine. Don't let anyone scare you about the class itself.

About the labs, make sure that your lab reports follow the correct number of sig figs. Big if not HUGE in this course. The lab manual has a guide to follow so try your best, and you'll be fine. Be COMPLETELY certain of which weeks you have in person vs online labs, because if you miss your time, you get a zero. Finally, do Mastering Chemistry - its good practice and the small percent from each week add up towards your final grade.

ENGG*1100 : Engineering Design 1

Most fun class you'll take in first sem. Building, problem solving, group work, coding, the works. Be a good groupmate, don't submit work that isn't yours, and show up to your meetings. This is where people meet some of their best friends in engineering, and I can say I'm still friends with most of my design 1 groupmates. These guys make amazing study buddies as well, since they have more or less the same schedule as you and it's easier to coordinate meet-up times.

Obviously easier said than done, but try not to leave things until the last second. If your group ends up scrambling for reports, make sure to submit every few minutes after 11:45pm, since having something submitted is always better than nothing.

MATH*1210 : Calculus 2

A lot of content to stay on top of, and honestly one of the most important classes in terms of application in future courses. Don't put this one on the back burner, go to office hours, do as much practice as possible, and have a general idea of how to go about solving problems. Integration is huge in this course, so the faster you get it down, the better you can keep up.

Don't worry if you find yourself struggling in this class, it's pretty much a universal experience. Just try your best, and if you fail a midterm or two, don't lose hope. This class teaches you how to study and problem solve, and if you get into the groove of it it's not all that bad.

ENGG*1210 : Mechanics 1

Your first actual engineering course. Very important in your academics because it teaches you a way of thinking and approaching problems rather than content itself. Don't worry if you find this class challenging, because at some point or another it will click. Do a LOT of practice, go to lectures, and don't let imposter syndrome get to you. Believe in yourself, and again, don't let a bad grade determine your fate.

Engineering is hard to get used to, but they grade this course with that in mind. Draw your free body diagram, show your equilibrium equations, and get (at least) 2/5 marks on each question. You've got this.

If You Need Help... (YOU WILL)

With School.....

Academic Advisors

The COE has in-house academic guidance counsellors! Shoot them an email to book an appointment at engcouns@uoguelph.ca if you have any questions about:

- Course selection
- Academic consideration
- Academic misconduct
- Student/faculty rights and responsibilities

Engineering Peer Helpers

Peer helpers is a program that connects you with Upper Year students for academic support. They have:

- Study groups
- Workshops
- One-on-one support

It can be nice to get help from someone who has been in the exact same position as you. They have many events throughout the year, and you can email them at engpeers@uoguelph.ca



With Your Wellbeing....

Mental Health

If there's one thing you'll hear a lot this week, it's that engineering can be really tough. While some level of stress is par for the course at university, it is important to remember that your wellbeing is the MOST IMPORTANT THING. Reaching out for help can be hard, especially when it comes to mental health.

Rather than put 500 phone numbers on this page, here is a link for the U of G student wellness site. They have hundreds of resources on any topic you can imagine, and it is super helpful.

Take a quick look just to see how many resources are available:

UofG also offers free counselling services to all students. As someone who is broke and sad, I can highly recommend! It is nice to have someone available to talk to, and sometimes good to do it before you're feeling sad or stressed. Book an appointment by calling **519-824-4120 ext. 53244**

Here are the 2 most important phone numbers for you to know:

Suicide Hotline: **988**

Good2Talk: **1-866-925-5454**

- Free anonymous mental health services specifically for post-secondary students
- Text UofG to 686868 in case of a crisis

Engineering Club Elevator Pitches

At O'SNAP, we understand how busy O'Week is for you first years. Between all of the free food and people's names you won't remember, your time is at a premium. That's why we asked all of the clubs to be as brief as possible when making their pitch to you.

AgTech (Agriculture Technology and Design Club)

Do you like agriculture and/or technology? Maybe even agriculture technology? Join the Agriculture Technology and Design Club. We've got tractors, industry tours, opportunities for self-guided projects and much more. Be a part of the future of agriculture with AgTech.






ESW (Engineers for a Sustainable World)

You chose engineering to build cool things and solve problems. Might as well help the planet while you're at it. Come join Engineers For a Sustainable World and follow us on Instagram @esw_uog for more info!










Gryphon Racing

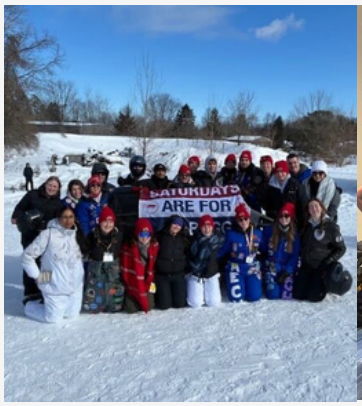





Gryphon Racing is the University of Guelph's Formula SAE team, where students turn course knowledge into a real race car. As a student-led team, we design, build, and test an internal combustion (IC) Formula style race car while gaining hands on experience in engineering, manufacturing, business, and teamwork. This year, we came within one event of competing at Formula SAE Michigan; passing every technical inspection except the brake test. Whether you're looking to build your skills, meet great people, or help get our car across the finish line next season, Gryphon Racing is the place to do it.

GNCTR (Great Northern Concrete Toboggan Race)

The longest running engineering competition in North America is calling your name! Help manufacture and build a toboggan fit with steering, braking, steel frame and of course, concrete skis! Each year culminates in a 4-day competition of festivities that finishes with a full day of head-to-head racing. Each team/school has its own bogg-tastic theme with team spirit being a major part of the competition. Come for the concrete, stay for the spirit!








WiSE (Women in Science and Engineering)

Women in STEM, this is your sign! WiSE is your go-to community for networking, inspiring speakers, hands-on STEM events, and meeting people who actually understand the struggle of a 2% assignment somehow taking six hours. Come for the opportunities, stay for the friendships (and the free snacks). 🧬💜⚙️








Rocketry

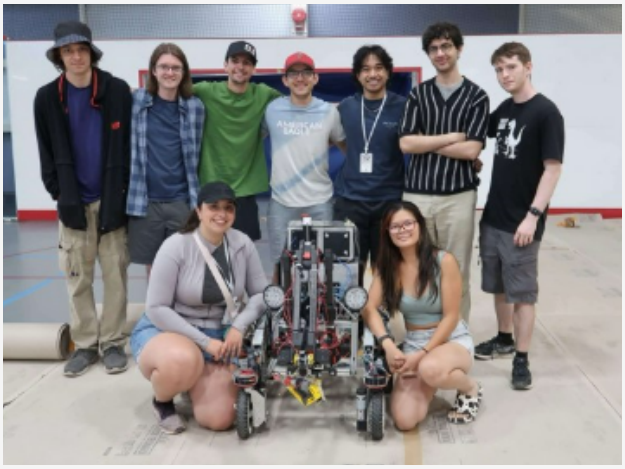





UofG Rocketry is a student team focused on rocketry and space projects. The team competes at Launch Canada, where we work together to build and fly a high-powered rocket every year in northern Ontario. In 2026, we built a 250cm-tall rocket, targeting an altitude of over 2,000 metres! Beyond this, we're also working on a CubeSat project to survey the atmosphere, starting with launching a high-altitude balloon reaching over 20 kilometres. Additionally, we plan to make our own custom rocket engine from scratch, making our own propellant, control systems and airframe. If any of this interests you, feel free to join us in bringing Guelph to the final frontier!

Robotics

Were you part of VEX, FIRST Robotics, or just think robots are cool? Join the Robotics Team!
Each year, we design, build, and test our Mars rover to compete in the Canadian International Rover Competition. Whether you're into mechanical design, electronics, software, or just want to try building cool stuff, there's a place for you on the team. Want to learn more or say hi? You can find us on our:
Discord: https://discord.gg/xtVPeQKD
Instagram: guelphrobotics



Gryphon Aerospace







GEPD (Guelph Engineering Professional Development)

Why join GEPD? Because your resume is looking a little… unemployed.
Come collect real experience, meet cool people, and finally give recruiters something to read besides your high school volunteer hours and that one group project you carried in first year. We'll help you pad your LinkedIn, become the "Honoured and humbled to announce…" influencer you were always destined to be, and pick up some useful skills along the way. Worst case: you're still jobless (but you made some cool friends). Best case: you're jobless with experience, connections, and a suspiciously impressive LinkedIn.

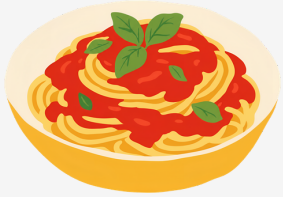
Engineering Dictionary

By: Eva Cuddihy and Franklin Goodfellow (wise and experienced 4th Years)

In your first semester at Guelph, you may find yourself confused by a slurry of unknown vocabulary. To help, here is a dictionary to which you can refer when navigating the unique vernacular of the Guelph engineering community.



- Thorn: Albert A Thornbrough Engineering Building
- Bird course: easy class
- Plug and chug: long formula where you substitute all values
- Formula gymnastics: using a bunch of formulas in succession
- Covies: indigo nerd onesies
- Patches: A covie accessory for every midterm you've failed
- Leather Jacket: Clothing for people who hate cows and love attention
- Engg anal: engineering analysis, you sick freak
- Design 1 (2, 3, 4): A project where you meet the least competent people in your program.
- 10 assignments worth 1% each: The most tedious problem sets you will ever endure.
- GNCTR: gastro-nasal congestion tract respulsion (general illness contracted from spending too much time in Thorn)
- Purple hand job: raising your hand to answer a question in class
- Mattucci: An Italian dish served at mom's kitchen on pasta nights
- James Ball: A racket sport played in the winter
- War mem @ 8:30: a mathematically impossible place to be
- "I'm in software engineering": I am not in the COE and am the biggest larp to ever exist.
- "I hang out in the computer lab for fun": I am the loudest, stinkiest, most annoying individual you've ever met. I come here to disrupt and do no work whatsoever.
- "Let's have the report done by 5pm the day before it's due": It's getting submitted at 11:59:58 pm day of
- "Do you have a pencil I could borrow": you're never seeing that pencil again
- "It's just common sense": I don't understand this and it will be the only content covered on the exam
- "It's so over": I procrastinated studying and now realize the dire situation I'm in
- "We're so back": I solved one practice question half correctly while looking at the solutions
- "I'll wake up early and do it in the morning": I'm lying to everyone I have ever loved, including myself
- "I think the midterm went well": 24%
- "This exam will be open book": you're fucked (common misconception)
- "I can't wait until this exam is over": make sure we have hard liquor at home
- "They'll probably scale it": there is a 0% chance it is being scaled
- "I remember that course": "That course took years off of my life expectancy"





Meet your VPX

By: Abby Jackson

Hi everyone! My name is Abby, and I'm your Vice President of External Affairs for the Guelph Engineering Society. A big part of my role is connecting Guelph engineering students with opportunities beyond our campus, including conferences, competitions, leadership experiences, and events with engineering students from across Ontario and Canada.

Abby licking the stick



As a first-year student, there are so many ways to get involved early, meet people from other schools, build your leadership and professional skills, and learn more about where engineering can take you. Throughout the year, opportunities are available through organizations like ESSCO, CFES, and other engineering partners, ranging from conferences focused on leadership, sustainability and diversity to competitions and social events.

You absolutely do not need to already be involved in EngSoc or have previous leadership experience to take part. These opportunities are a great way to explore the engineering community, discover what interests you, and start building connections that can last throughout university.

The First Year Integration Conference (FYIC) introduces first-year engineering students to the broader engineering community and the leadership opportunities available throughout their university experience. Through interactive workshops, activities, and sessions, delegates connect and collaborate with fellow engineering students from across Ontario while developing skills and knowledge to become more involved in their communities.



Expert Advice

By: A certified Guelph engineering student professional

The first few weeks of school, you will have an immeasurable amount of info shoved down your throat, and everyone will be trying to force feed you their 2 cents. Don't listen to any of them. This is all you need.

- Talk to profs go to office hours. They want to help you, but only if you help yourself
- Friends will come and go and that's okay. The pals you meet in O-Week might be the most evil people in the world so don't hold on too tightly
- Do a club or something I beg of you please get involved. I know everyone says this but it's true
- Don't take up a group study table if you're just one person. Everyone will hate you. Especially me.
- Don't be an asshole roommate
- Go to class bro. C'mon
- Don't bus from campus to No Frills; you're a bum taking someone else's spot that's trying to get home
- It will all work out okay. Promise.
- Use Find my Classes Guelph before the first day to figure out where your buildings and classrooms are
- Don't talk to strangers and look both ways before you cross the street
- Bring reusable cup to Starbucks/any on campus coffee shop to upgrade your size for the price of a small. You're gonna have a caffeine addiction, might as well save money and help the environment. Same goes for the punch card app.
- Find somewhere to study that isn't the library. It is packed and there are plenty of other buildings to study in. MacKinnon has tons of classrooms you can use.
- Use a calendar. I live and die by Google Calendar, and I promise it will make your life so much easier
- If an assignment is less than 5%, don't lose yourself over it. Still do it, but at the end of the day remember those ones aren't that deep.
- Leave campus sometimes. Guelph is a great city with lots to explore.
- The Arboretum is a nice walk, take advantage (especially in the fall)
- Don't get breakfast from the dining hall on the morning of chem 1040 or 1050 exams. Everyone and their mother takes that midterm, the line for food will be so long. Grab a muffin the night before and good luck on your exam.
- Use protection, but don't keep condoms in your wallet.
- Liquor before beer, you're in the clear. Beer before liquor, never been sicker.
- Make good choices.
- Take care of yourself and your friends
- Don't become too acquainted with Smirnoff vodka





Out of Context Quotes

Prof say something in class? Lab partner phrase something a little odd? Submit your quotes to O'SNAP.

"AutoCAD has a certain je ne sais quoi" -Helia

"I'm so locked out it's not even funny" -Steven

"Don't make me rhyme Suzi with poopy" -Eva

"I chopped and swapped my ankle" -Grace

"Can you think past your toes? -Josip

"I don't know the size of a child" - Hana, on first years

"EngSoc is how I will exert my will onto others" -Your new Prez

"It's insane how little you know" -Frank

"What is Suzi's role, because it should be senior citizen" -Abby

A Letter to all the Freshmen

Hi everyone!

We are your O'SNAP Co-Editors in Chief for this academic year! Many returning readers will know Frank as last year's beer loving Editor and Eva as the milk-fueled meme-making machine. To the relief of many, Eva has stepped up to help Frank run the paper this year. We've got some big things coming up this semester; margin of error in your lab report kind of big.



For the naive frosh reading this, O'SNAP is your engineering student newspaper (Guelph's #1 source of *trustworthy* engineering news). O'SNAP is published every other week on Tuesdays, (if it's out on time) and can be found on newspaper stands around THRN. The newspaper covers all genres but specializes in things that make you giggle and kick your feet in the air.

Interested in contributing to O'SNAP? We welcome help of all kinds including but not limited to: written submissions, article ideas, editing support, interviewing, distribution and more! Message us on instagram or send us an email (ecuddihy or fgoodfel @uoguelph.ca) to get involved! We hope everyone has a great year and checks their local O'SNAP stand regularly. Cheers, Eva & Frank.

Bi-Weekly Meme Recap

By Eva Cuddihy

DISCLAIMER: Please use bi-weekly recap in moderation. Excessive use may lead to mid semester joy or potential signs of happiness.



















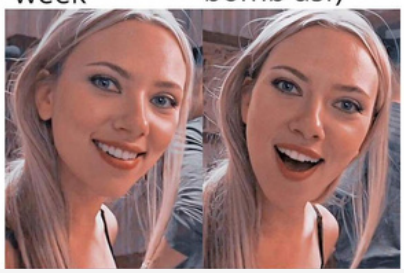














Biological



After a summer of lounging away, you're *really* going to have to focus up to make it through the semester ahead. Time to put the logic in biological. Lord knows nobody else has.

Systems and Computing



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Biomedical



You binged The Pitt over the break, you are more motivated than ever to attack your classes head-on. See you in lecture this afterno- oh, you're not going? Shocker.

Environmental



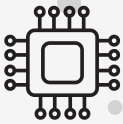
Remain focused and diligent as you enter your undergrad. No fooling around because realistically, you gotta lock in for the next 4-5 years. The Earth is kinda fucked and it’s not like the Waters will be any help.

Mechanical



The days of bad luck and academic misfortune are behind you. This is truly your year, for real this time. You will get all 100% this semester. I promise.

Computer



Even though there were multiple heat waves this summer, you still aren't tan since you were inside on your computer all day. Go touch some grass this year. I've been told it's good for ya.

Mechatronics



Remember that you are not better than everyone, stay humble. Anybody can make one of those stupid fucking Lego robots go in a circle. Make a robot that drinks beer to get half the respect you think you deserve.

Civil



Welcome to Guelph. Prepare to be as irrelevant as Water Resources for the next little bit. You may have to work extra hard to earn the respect of your peers, since making a building stay still isn’t all that impressive.

Water Resources



You're going to make a big splash this semester, I can feel it. Just a heads up, your discipline is the butt of every engineering joke. Good luck and have fun!



dear Bunsen...

Have a question you're too scared to ask your professors, classmates, housemates, or parents? Ask your friend Bunsen - rich in experience (and wit). No question is too unusual or outlandish. Just don't come running back crying if the answer isn't what you expected. The truth can be a hard pill to swallow.

Last year at purpling I woke up the next day with a purple tongue. How do I avoid that happening again??

Dear Purp,

Not to worry. Purple hair dye is non-toxic when consumed in moderation.

-Bunsen

Dear Bunsen,

How do I meet new people during O'Week? There's just so many people it's too intimidating.

Frosh

Dear frosh,

Try spinning a speaker on your head during O'Week parties. A mob of people should form pretty quickly.

Regards, Bunsen

Dear Bunsen,

I wound up with a quadruple room in south res. How do I get a room switch.

-Moe Papa

Dear Moe,

Eat as many beans as you can. Buy a flat of 24 cans from costco if you can and eat them all in one day. Then shit your pants. You'll have a room to yourself in no time at all.
From Bunsen

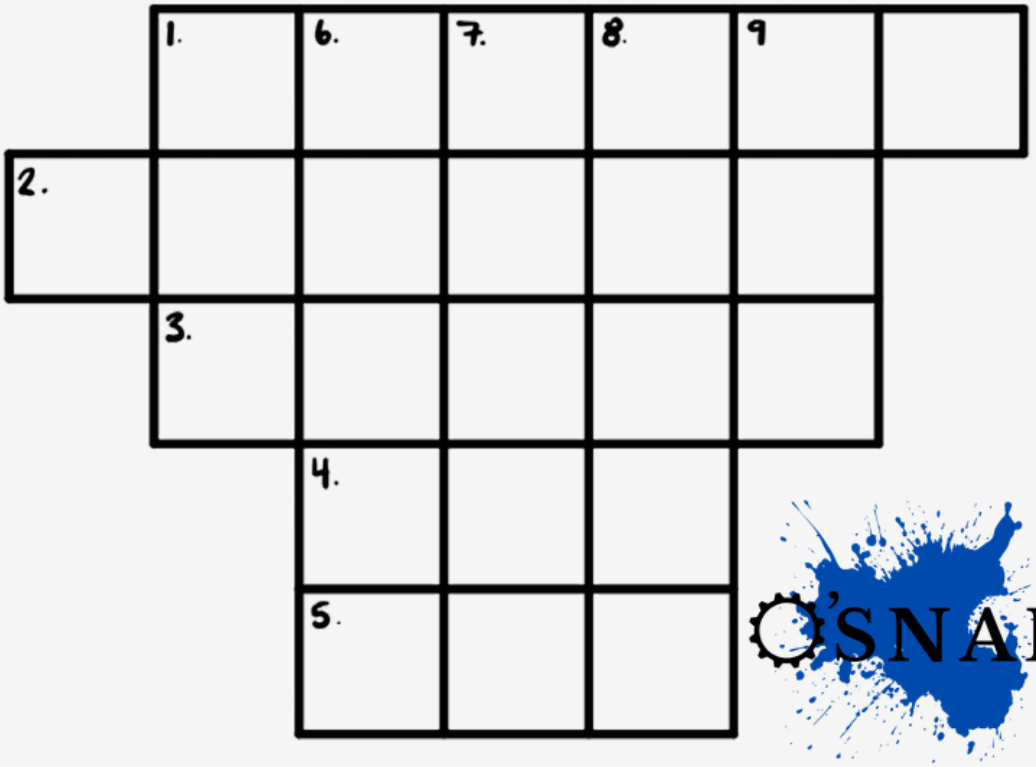
I finished my first co-op work term and have to write a whole report on what I learned. Where do I start???

Dear reader,

I'm pretty sure everyone gets a 100 on their report if someone pulls the fire alarm in the co-op office.
Cheers, Bunsen

Scan me

CROSSWORD By Nola Hinton



Ideas and Submissions for O'SNAP

Follow O'SNAP online @osnapguelph

Across

1. She "_____" on my nut till I yield.
2. Element with atomic number 56 (you should have this memorized 🤓).
3. Doors and seesaws both have "_____" points.
4. Subscript for F when you're solving $F_{___} = F_1 + F_2 - F_3$
5. We're gonna graduate before "___"6 comes out.

Down

1. He drill and "___" my hole till I spiral.
6. Used to block leaking fluids and looks like a skinny donut.
7. Permanent mechanical fasteners.
8. Synonym for limit or target or allowance.
9. The letters (sortof) for the following unit prefixes: micro, mega, tera.

SPOT THE EVA

By Franklin Goodfellow

Here at O'SNAP, we care a lot about reader engagement. As a little reward for reading this whole paper front to back, we will give you a crisp high five on one condition. You must follow O'SNAP on Instagram, recomend O'SNAP to a friend, and tell us how many times the name "Eva" appears in this issue. That one counts by the way. So do all of these: Eva Eva Eva