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## Durham Students Shine on the International Stage at the 2025 World Robot Olympiad Americas Open Championship

Panama City, Panama – October 2025 — Students from Explorer Robotics Club in Whitby and Zebra Robotics Ajax proudly represented Team Canada at the World Robot Olympiad (WRO) Americas Open Championship 2025, earning outstanding achievements in the Future Engineers – Self-Driving Car category. The talented team members hail from Anderson CVI, Sinclair Secondary School, Brooklin High School, and Pickering High School, showcasing the innovation and excellence of young engineers from the Durham Region on the international stage.

Two teams from Explorer Robotics Club brought home the Silver (Team JAT) and Bronze (Team BEES) medals, while the team (Pink Bola Pearls) from Zebra Robotics Ajax achieved an impressive 4th

place finish — a remarkable demonstration of innovation, teamwork, and technical excellence on the international stage.

The WRO Future Engineers category is a prestigious global robotics competition for students aged 14–22. Teams are challenged to design, build, and program fully autonomous vehicles that address real-world engineering challenges. The competition promotes innovation in autonomy, sensors, control systems, decision-making, and system integration, reflecting the complexities faced in today's automotive and robotics industries.

Beyond technical mastery, WRO emphasizes design thinking, documentation, iterative improvement, and teamwork, cultivating the critical skills students need for higher education and

future STEM careers.

Explorer Robotics Club, based in the Durham Region, fosters a supportive and innovative environment for youth passionate about robotics and problem-solving. Its mission is to empower young innovators to explore robotics, coding, artificial intelligence, and 3D printing, while developing leadership, teamwork, and creativity. Since 2019, the club has proudly represented Canada on the international stage through prestigious competitions such as the FIRST LEGO League (FLL) and the World Robot Olympiad (WRO).

Located within Cambridge International Academy in Whitby, the club serves as a dynamic hub where students enhance their STEM knowledge, creativity, and global competitiveness through hands-on, project-

based robotics experiences.

Zebra Robotics Ajax Zebra Robotics mission is to inspire the next generation of students to be confident, respectful and knowledgeable team players who will strive to solve many of the world's challenges using technology and STEM concepts. The academy offers hands-on curriculum for students in Gr. 1-12 in robotic and coding, and prepare them for competitions such as STRIPE, First Lego League (FLL), World Robot Olympiad and VEX, fostering the spirit for curiosity, creativity and perseverance among youth.

Through their WRO journey, participating students from both clubs gained hands-on expertise in mechanical design, electronics, and software integration, while strengthening critical thinking, communication, and

resilience — essential skills for success in both engineering education and the modern technology industry.

“We are incredibly proud of our students’ hard work, creativity, and perseverance,” said the leadership teams of Explorer Robotics Club and

Zebra Robotics Ajax in a joint statement. “Their success showcases how young Canadians can compete — and excel — on the world stage in science, technology, and innovation.”



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## Durham Region celebrates official opening of the Seaton Paramedic Response Station

Whitby, Ontario – The Region of Durham and Region of Durham Paramedic Services (RDPS) celebrated the official opening of the new Seaton Paramedic Response Station and Training Facility in Pickering. This new station will provide improved service and access to emergency services for residents of the north Ajax and Pickering communities in Durham Region.

This station will also house RDPS' Quality and Development team which oversees:

- Training and education: delivering ongoing education, certification and professional development for paramedics.
- Quality assurance: monitoring and evaluating paramedic performance and patient care outcomes.
- Innovation and best practices: integrating evidence-based practices and emerging technologies into paramedic operations to improve patient care and system efficiency.
- Support and mentorship: providing guidance and support to new recruits and experienced staff, fostering a culture of continuous improvement and professional growth.

This new facility is one of three strategically recommended stations outlined in the Master Plan developed by Operational Research in Health Limited (ORH) to address growing demand and improve response times across the region. The Region engaged ORH to conduct a review of RDPS to help address growing demand and improve response times across the region and make recommendations for a comprehensive master plan for the 10-year period from 2021 to 2031.

This new location was identified through advanced location optimization modelling (OGRE) as a critical site to improve coverage in north Ajax/Pickering; an area experiencing rapid development and increasing emergency call volumes. Through the delivery of service from this station, response performance

is projected to improve, helping to maintain or exceed 2016 service levels notwithstanding a projected 63 per cent increase in high priority calls by 2031.

RDPS provides emergency medical services for residents of the region's eight municipalities. As one of the largest paramedic services in Ontario, RDPS is the sole certified land ambulance operator for Durham Region, operating ambulances from 12 strategically located stations across the region, ensuring rapid response to emergency calls. RDPS consist of more than 500 primary and advanced care paramedics, with some members specially trained to operate in high-risk situations utilizing specialized response units. RDPS responds to over 134,000 calls a year for assistance throughout Durham Region and surrounding areas. "Region of Durham Paramedic Services are on the frontlines every day, providing life-saving care when and where it's needed most. The new Seaton Paramedic Response Station is an investment in the safety and well-being of Durham residents—today and into the future. With advanced training facilities and a focus on innovation, this site will enable paramedics to deliver faster, more effective care as our communities continue to grow."

— Joanne Dies, Regional Councillor and Vice-Chair of Health and Social Services Committee on behalf of John Henry, Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer for The Regional Municipality of Durham

"Seaton Paramedic Response Station will help us respond more efficiently to emergencies and support our growing communities. We're proud to invest in our paramedics and deliver the highest standard of care for Durham Region."

— Troy Cheseboro, Chief, Region of Durham Paramedic Services