

Students say: no jobs in Acton

Many local high school students have already started looking for summer jobs but most of them are finding it rough going.

Dave Jones, a counsellor at Acton high school, says that from the experiences of the students he's talked to "things will be pretty tight" for any of the school's 650 pupils who want work.

Mr. Jones said his department posts any information they receive about summer jobs but so far this year he has only heard from the provincial government's Experience '77 and Junior Agriculturalist programs.



Mary Vinski

for whom the student has worked in the past.

Many students who can't find work are willing to take any job offer but have been unable to secure anything.

Howard Shaw, a grade 12 student, says he has been looking for any kind of



Howard Shaw

"We have a file on the four or five companies that have shown an interest in hiring students in the past," he said, "and we've sent them letters this year. But so far we haven't heard from any of them."

Half have jobs
An informal poll conducted last week at the high school shows that of the students who want work only half have found it and many of these jobs came through family members or from employers



Brenda Galbraith

summer work for the last six months. He filled out a card at Manpower but doesn't believe "it will do much good."

He thinks there will be farm work available in the summer but says "the idea today is to make money and you're not going to make it that way."

Mary Vinski is in grade 11 and has been job hunting for the last two months.

"There are no jobs in Acton at all," she said. "Everybody tells you you have to have experience but how can I get that if I can't get a job?"

She's not discouraged though and intends to keep on looking "for as long as it takes."

Rotten

Grade 10 student Brenda Galbraith has just started looking in town and says her "luck has been rotten."

"I've looked in grocery stores and things like that and it's going to be really hard to find a job. Nobody is hiring," she said.

Some students said that a lack of transportation keeps them from trying to find work outside of town. But Rob

Paterson, a grade 12 student, has found somebody else with a car and they both got jobs at a factory in Toronto. Even he



Rob Peterson

had to spend the last two months submitting applications before he came up with the job.

Several students are already working part-time in town and are hoping for full-time work with the same employer in the summer. Some others have managed to find work with the help of family members.

Jennifer Krupke is a grade 12 student who got a job as an usherette at Mohawk Raceway through her mother, who works there full time.

"If you don't know somebody then you haven't got a chance," she said. "Before I got this job I looked all over Acton and had no luck at all."

Baby sitter

Grade 10 student Jackie Newman will be doing part-time babysitting for her sister in Belleville this summer. She'd only been looking for work for two weeks when her sister made the offer.

"It seems to be pretty hard to get a job but I was lucky and got mine offered to me," she said.

Brad Buchanan, grade 12, has been working for a far-



Jackie Newman

mer in Milton for the last two summers and works for him on and off during the school year.

"I've put in an application with C.N. but if that doesn't come through I can work on the farm again this year," he said.

Don't be choosy in your job is advice from Manpower

"If you can get a job, any job, take it!" is the advice Jim Ross, a counsellor at the Brampton Manpower office, has for local high school students.

Ross said that in the past he has seen students turn down some jobs because they didn't like the pay or didn't want to work the hours demanded but with the tight employment situation this year they can't afford to be choosy.

"They are going to have to take the jobs that are there," he said.

A survey of some local employers carried out last week bears out Ross's contention.

Really rough

Les Duby, personnel manager at Beardmore tannery, says things will be "really rough for summer jobs." The tannery usually hires about 30 students in the summer but Mr. Duby says that right now there is a lot of pressure from family people who need work.

"In the past it has been our policy to hire as many students as we could but with the present economic situation I don't know," he said.

Mr. Duby is still taking applications for summer work but says he doesn't want to mislead students about their chances of getting a job at the tannery.

Laid off

The plant manager at the Building Products factory, Brian Lockhart, said the company normally hires about five students in the summer but this year they won't be taking any on.

"We are shutting down one operation here and laying off a number of men. So for this summer we are under an obligation to try and hire back as many of them as we can," he said.

Conditions are much the same at Disston Ltd. Harry Murdoch, who hires for the plant, says things there are too quiet.

"We have hired students in the past but we won't be able to this year," he said.

Smaller employers seem to have been less hard hit by this year's economic slump and many, like the Olympia Drive-in Restaurant, will be needing the same number of students as they hired last year.

Works, recreation

Job prospects are brighter for students who apply to work in local public works or recreation projects. There could be more than 35 jobs available in these areas this year.

Bob Austin, the town engineer for Halton Hills, hopes to have 15 students working for him this summer.

He had the same number last year but right now those jobs depend on whether or not the region's finance committee gives its approval to his new budget. If the budget passes Mr. Austin will need people on road crews and to do caretaking work in local parks and cemeteries.

Recreation co-ordinator Anne Pickering said the Recreation department will have work for at least 20 students in town this year.

A minimum of ten people will be needed to supervise playground programs for local children and another ten will be needed at the Lions swimming pool, she said.

Although Miss Pickering already has more than enough applications she is willing to consider others that come in before she has finished interviewing applicants. The interviews will take place on Thursday. Fri-

day and Saturday of this week.

Applications

Miss Pickering also said she has submitted "several applications" to the federal government's Young Canada Works program but she does not yet know if any of her proposals will receive funding.

The program is intended to provide summer work in the area of community service for students 18 and older. It is similar to the now defunct Opportunities for Youth except that community agencies rather than young people themselves originate and supervise the projects it finances.

There will also be two provincial summer work programs in the area but it is unlikely that either will provide jobs for more than a handful of Acton students.

Experience '77, co-ordinated by the Ontario Youth Secretariat, offers 31 positions at the Agricultural Museum in Milton for both

secondary and post-secondary school students. The program is also providing work for three or four students in the development of recreation opportunities at Ontario Housing projects in Guelph.

Own ideas

Students over 18 who are interested in self-employment and come up with their own ideas for a summer business can also apply for interest free loans under the plan.

Last year's Junior Agriculturalist program is being repeated this year. But Bob Jones, a counsellor at Acton high school, says the number of students who will be hired depends on the interest of local farmers. Last year only one or two students got farm work through the program.

Applicants must be 16 or 17 years old and have no experience with farm work. They must also be willing to work 12 to 15 hour days for \$11 a day plus room and board. Jones said he already has six applications from students.

Keep in touch — Manpower

Acton high school students can now preregister for summer work through Student Manpower at the counselling office in the high school. Although Student Manpower offices will not be open in Brampton or Georgetown until May Brampton Manpower counsellor Wendy Andrews says some summer jobs are now available and her office has already begun to forward some student applications to employers.

But she stresses that it is still too early in the year for many employers to know just how many students they will be needing in the summer.

She was at the high school on Monday to give the student registration cards to guidance counsellor Dave Jones and to outline her agency's plans to help local students find summer work.

Open in May
The Student Manpower office in Georgetown will open in mid-May in the same office as the regular Manpower service, she said. It will be open throughout the summer and a counsellor will

be on duty for a half day each Friday. Andrews explained that the counsellor will spend the rest of the day making contacts with local employers to find out where the jobs are.

Although Acton will not have a Student Manpower counsellor she suggested that students who can't get to Georgetown go into the Queen St. Manpower office here on Fridays. The counsellors there will have job listings from Brampton and Georgetown, she said.

She encouraged students to make use of the Student Manpower office when it opens and had some suggestions that might help them find a job.

Keep in touch

She advised students to come into the office anytime to ask questions and to keep in regular contact with the office once they have registered.

"Students should keep checking in. If they do, the student placement officer will know them and know they really are looking for work," she said.

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Odd-job file on hand in Y

High school students who can't get a summer job or who want to make a little extra money during their holiday might keep in mind that the Community Services Centre in the Y will be operating its job referral service again this year.

The service takes job orders from local residents and farmers and passes them on to teenagers who have registered for work.

Mrs. Terry Grubbe, who operates the centre, says that last year students did mostly odd-job type work. The biggest demand was for lawn mowing and hay baling. She still has the names of those who registered last year and is willing to take new names anytime, she says.

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