

Youth unemployment conference advises on how to get a job

"April statistics show 139,000 people under 25 years old are unemployed in Ontario," MPP Terry Jones, told a small audience during the panel discussion at the Youth and Employment Conference held last Wednesday at Acton District High School.

The conference was organized by the Halton Region Youth Services Network.

Terry Jones moderated the panel discussion and attempted to identify areas of concern of both young people and employers related to the employment issue.

The eight panelists included three area employees, two recent high school graduates, as well as two students still attending high school and a representative of the Canada Manpower Centre.

Terry Jones introduced some of the problems associated with youth unemployment, underemployment and summer employment are only three of the areas of concern.

"Young people under 25 years of age comprise 13.8 per cent of the Canadian national statistic of unemployed," said Mr. Jones "and this does not include the 160,000 high school students who will be seeking summer employment in Ontario alone."

Mr. Jones mentioned some recent studies done on youth unemployment at the Youth

Secretariat, including some 7,000 employers and 5,000 students. He said studies found that employers have basically two hangups about hiring young people. One is lack of experience, necessitating the employer have another employee train them. The other—the expectations of the students concerning salaries and other benefits are too high.

Mr. Jones also mentioned government programs to help youth in finding jobs. One of these is O.Y.E.P. (Ontario Youth Employment Plan) which pays a stipend to employers for hiring students. Another is a direct grant to employers.

"The job market will be tough for the next five years at least," concluded Mr. Jones, "and the government will continue to develop new programs to deal with the problem of youth unemployment."

Each panelist was asked to state his views on the youth unemployment issue from his particular standpoint as an employer or a prospective employee.

Les Dudy of Beardmore Ltd., the large tannery in Acton, said he dislikes students applying for jobs in groups or hand in hand with girl friends or boy friends.

"A job is not like going to school," he said. "There is a trial period in which you have to prove yourself to your employer."

Karen King, of Halton Hills

Parks and Recreation Department said education is important when looking for a job, but not so much as an ability to grasp the job responsibilities quickly.

"McDonald's fast food chain is a great employer of youth, having approximately 125 students working in the summer," said Findlay Arnold, a representative of McDonald's Restaurants Ltd. "Almost anyone can get a job if he really wants to work", he said.

Anita Wildman, representing Canada Student Manpower Office in Acton and Georgetown explained services offered to students. She said student job counselors are in the Acton office at 273 Queen St., Tuesdays and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and in the Georgetown office at 7 James St. on Fridays.

Steve Crossman, a grade 12 student at Georgetown District High School, said determination and good appearance are the two most important assets when job-hunting. As yet, he has had no luck in finding summer employment but he's not discouraged.

Former student at G.D.H.S., Jeannine d'Entremont, related her experiences in finding jobs, admitting that she's been lucky so far but not without first having a few disappointments.

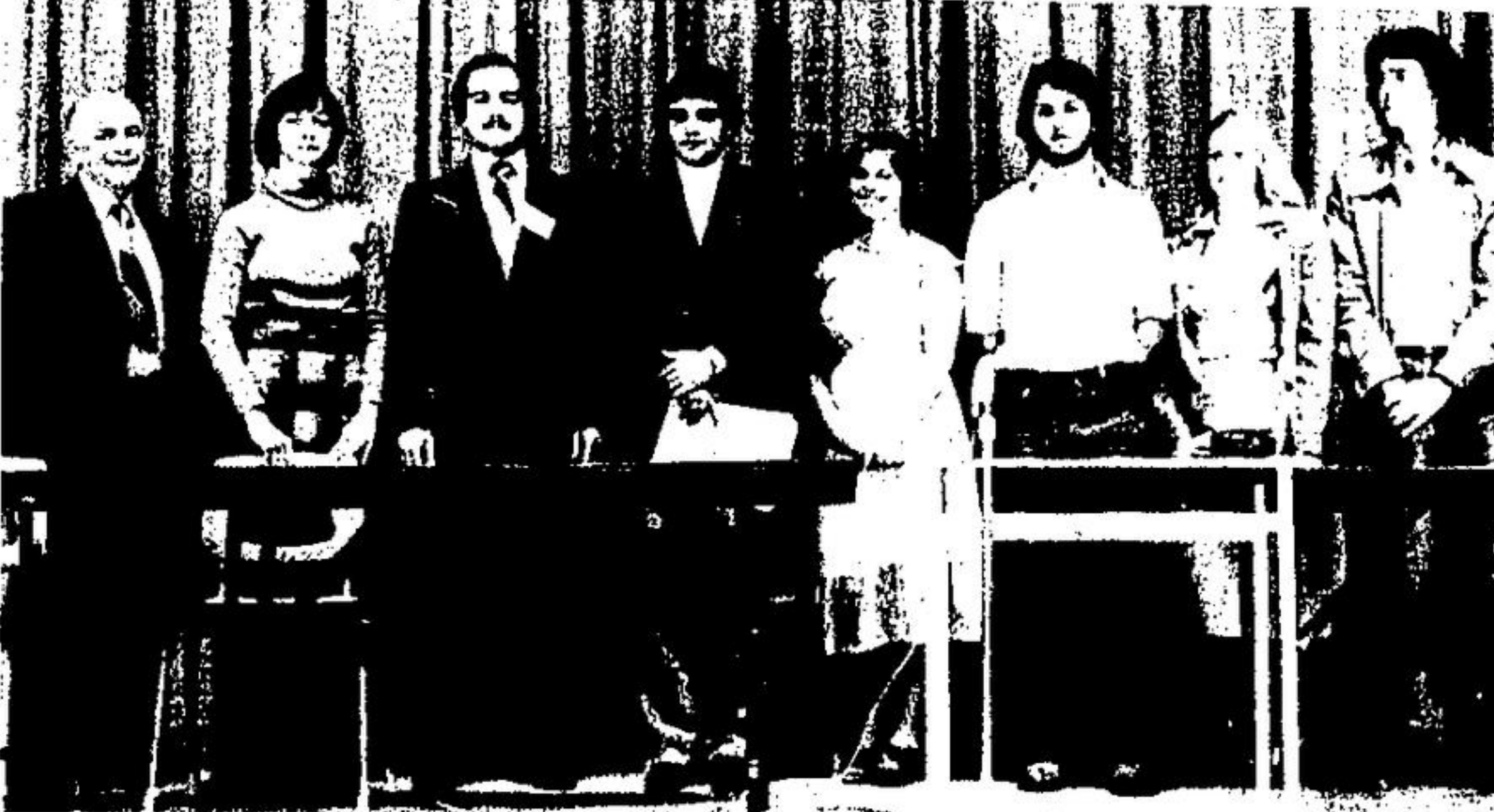
After three weeks of "pounding the pavement" Sue Mellor, recent grade 13 graduate from Acton High School was at the right place at the right time and succeeded in landing a job which will continue into the summer.

Jim Saxon, grade 11 student at Acton, said he is currently looking for a summer job but has had no luck so far.

At the conclusion of the panel discussion, seminars and workshops were led by representatives of various youth related agencies such as the Youth Employment Centre, the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, the Ventures Capital Program and the Ontario Youth Secretariat among others.

Seminar topics were Techniques and Tips on Job Hunting, Apprenticeships, Continuing Education—Is it really worth it? How to Start Your Own Business, Employer Expectations and Alternatives.

Acton high school Outers left on an eight day canoe trip last Friday, May 19. Some challenging waters and rough portages are being experienced by the energetic group. They will be returning this weekend.



PANEL FOR the Youth and Employment Conference held at Acton High, last Wednesday, included 1. to r. Les Dudy of Beardmore's in Acton, Karen King recreation coordinator for Acton, Fin Arnold of McDonald's, Mississauga

MPP Terry Jones of the Ontario Youth Secretariat, Anita Wildman of Student Manpower, Steve Crossman, a Georgetown District High student, Sue Mellor of Acton High and Jim Saxon of Acton High.

Graduation ceremony for Explorers

Heading on for bigger and better things three girls left the Trinity United Explorers group last Tuesday evening, May 16 at the graduation

ceremony held in their honor. The ceremony and buffet that followed took place at Trinity United church with the other Explorers, leaders Ann Gerard, Kathryn Benton and the Rev. Beaton witnessing the event. Jackie Colton, Barbara Mellon and Kathy Coats will be joining the Trinity United C.G.I.T.

Explorers is designed for girls nine to eleven years old and focuses on the church involvement in different countries as well as their own community.

Canoe trip for Outers

Acton high school Outers left on an eight day canoe trip last Friday, May 19. Some challenging waters and rough portages are being experienced by the energetic group. They will be returning this weekend.

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Youth Page Editorial

Protecting lives is patrollers' job

Being chosen for safety patrol duty is always quite an honor among the grade school set. The bright orange belt that sets these students apart from others, the privilege of leaving class five minutes early or arriving five minutes late are a few of the advantages that go with the position.

The other side of the job can only be understood by those who have so faithfully stood by their posts through all kinds of conditions.

These young people care about others enough to be late going home for lunch and to rush back to their posts so they are there to help the first group of children returning after lunch. They stay by their crossing, missing out on some after school activities so that the last straggler might cross in safety.

Every year the Hamilton Automobile club and participating communities sponsor the National Patrol

Local safety patrollers to be guests in Ottawa

Four students from the Acton area have been chosen to attend the National School Patrol Jamboree in Ottawa to be held this weekend. The students will leave Thursday morning along with 182 others from the Wentworth, Halton, Haldimand/Norfolk, Brantford, Paris and the O.P.P. territory for the three day visit.

The students, selected for their outstanding school patrol duties during the past year, will meet with 2,000 other patrollers from across Canada to tour buildings of National interest in Ottawa on Friday, May 26, including a visit to the Governor

Store moves

Page Glass and Mirror is moving into the shop which most recently housed Robbie's Hobbies, on Willow St. N. They were located behind Dawe real estate.

High school news

by Janet Howe

Last Friday at Acton High the track and field day was held. The beautiful warm weather brought out many participants and proved to be a successful day. Congratulations to all the winners and participants as well as the organizers who did such a fine job.

Tonight, May 24, is the last chance to sign up for the summer basketball league. This is open to males and females twelve years and up. It runs from June 26 to August 3. Registration will be held from seven to nine and the cost is four dollars.

Thursday, June 1, our school cafeteria will be the scene for the annual athletic banquet. Tickets for the dinner and dance are selling for four dollars.

Disco at Mug

The Mug will be open this Saturday evening. Music this week will be following the idea of a disco night.

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Guides beat rain on hike

by Jean Vaughan

On May 20, 14 eager Guides from the second Acton company arrived at my home at 10 a.m. well prepared for our hike. We practised a few more knots and they left for their destination. As I had a sore knee, I drove there, missing out on all the fun of hiking.

We had permission to use private property and it was a fantastic spot. The weather was tailor made for us and we were all thoroughly pleased.

The girls interested in completing the Outdoor Fire section of their challenge badge very carefully made small fire pits circled by rocks, made log cabin style fires, cooked their meals and replaced the dirt and grass. You could hardly know we had been there.

Each girl brought her own first aid kit and quickly found out why they are necessary.

Laura Craig burned her finger and several others cut themselves.

After lunch, some of the girls relaxed by sitting on a log across the stream and dangled their feet in the water. Susan O'Connor lost her balance and fell in. Luckily, Michelle Luxton brought a full length plastic cape that Susan wore until her clothes dried.

Just after several of the girls left to set a trail for the others to follow, my husband, Doug, arrived with our young son, Morgan, who immediately left with the bunch who were following the trail and up and down the hills.

Patricia Henry completed her challenge Emblem and will be receiving it in a few weeks.

On evaluating the hike, all the girls said they should have bought two drinks and others felt tongs would have been handy for taking things off the fire.

Marg Hamilton and I felt the girls lived up to the Guiding motto of Be Prepared. We thank Mr. and Mrs. Kirkwood for their generosity in letting us use their property.

They arrived back at my place at 4:30 for cold drinks and at 5 p.m. it started to rain. Lucky us—this time.

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