

Student job-seekers hear tips

Neatness, courtesy, independence, resourcefulness and above all, persistence are the keys to breaking down unemployment barriers that are currently preventing some 139,000 Ontario workers under 25 years of age from finding jobs.

This was the chief revelation offered by a panel discussion of the youth unemployment problem staged by the Halton Youth Services Network Wednesday at Acton high school.

The conference attracted less than 100 young people and only a handful of local employers. Even fewer turned out for a similar conference Tuesday in Oakville, but network co-ordinator Peter Gillespie declined to speculate whether the lack of interest demonstrated apparent confidence among young people that jobs are available, or that those preparing to leave school next month are simply not concerned about finding employment.

These whose concern was proven by their attendance at the conferences picked up a number of handy tips on finding employment and heard several veteran job-hunters describe long and often frustrating periods spent "pounding the pavement."

Peel region MPP Terry Jones, parliamentary assistant to the secretary for social development, moderated the panel discussion. He stressed the seriousness of the job shortage problem by pointing out that last year's international summit meeting on global concerns concluded that youth unemployment is the single major problem facing the industrial nations.

Mr. Jones reported that 139,000 Ontario citizens under 25 years of age are presently unemployed and some 650,000 high school students are expected to join their ranks next month. Ontario young people make up 13.8 per cent of Canada's unemployed, compared to 6.3 per cent who are older than 25, he said.

Because of the post-war "Baby Boom" and the current economic crisis, Mr. Jones said, the job market is expected to continue short-changing young people for the next five years. The province has attempted to alleviate the problem through programs which, in one example, contributes a \$100 weekly stipend to employers who hire students and thus provide them with the practical experience they need to further their careers.

GLT performs summer play

Georgetown Little Theatre will be performing "Love is Like a Stream" at the Arts Council Summerfest June 3.

The performance will be at Park School, but the times have not yet been scheduled. "Love is Like a Stream" was devised by GLT member Ron Hill. Appearing in the production will be Tiffany Hamilton, Kelly Crawford, Joe Delgadice, Ashley Windsor, Joyce Holland, Derek Joyes, Pat Joyes, Ron Hill, Debbie Buresh and Neville Worsnop.

Inquiries about the tickets for the Summerfest performances should be directed to Nancy Waters at 877-5755.

much from their jobs right from the start.

Halton Hills Coun. Les Duby, personnel manager for Acton's Beardmore Tannery, added that students looking for jobs should apply individually, not in groups. Company officials have been appalled to see applicants arrive with friends in town, he said, and then leave via a shortcut across the garden.

Coun. Duby explained that Beardmore keeps an open mind about applicants regardless of any recommendations about the individual that may have been received. At present however, the tannery has some 300 applications on hand, he said.

Karen King of the Halton Hills recreation department told the students that employers are looking for intelligent applicants, but are aware that intelligence is not necessarily a product of higher education.

The recreation department, in particular, she said, looks for an "ability to grasp responsibilities quickly" and a feel for "human relations."

Through its on-going leadership training program, Miss King said, youngsters 13-years-old and up are being more effectively screened for future jobs with the recreation department, which is always deluged with applications.

Finlay Arnold of McDonald's Restaurants Ltd. offered to "give anybody a try" and provide on the job training.

Most employees are 15-to-17-years-old when they start, he said, and have never held a job before.

Canada Manpower worker Anita Wildman outlined the job and applicant processing carried out at the federally-run outlets, including the Acton office, which operates Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Halton Hills Credit Union building on Queen Street.

There is also an office on James Street Georgetown.

Such offices are manned by students who fully understand the predicament facing job-hunters, she said. If applicants cannot be accommodated by Canada Manpower, they are referred to another agency that can, she added.

Representing the youth viewpoint were two graduates who have found jobs and two students who are still searching.

Grade 12 student Steve Crossman of Georgetown high school reported that of two recent applications to industrial employers, one was rejected and the other accepted by letter, but then immediately rejected with the company's apologies. He advised job-hunters to be concerned about their appearance and, above all, to be persistent and determined.

Grade 11 student Jim Saxton of Acton high school warned that job hunting is "really hard" and frequently frustrating, but admitted that he has

thus far made few applications, although he is keeping his eyes open.

Recent graduates Sue Mellor of Acton and Jeanine d'Entremont of Georgetown fared well, but only after several weeks of tireless searching and invariable rejections by prospective employers. Both recommended taking the initiative and being persistent, but both admitted that had been "lucky" in getting their jobs.

Miss Mellor claimed her success in finding employment with a small Acton production company was due largely to "being in the right place at the right time."

Despite the basically unethical overtones often associated with nepotism, Mr. Jones urged the students to approach any relatives and friends who may be able to help them find a job.

"It's a tough market," he said. "Anything is fair ball."

Following the panel discussion, those in attendance gathered in small groups for a variety of workshops. Topics included techniques in job hunting, as outlined by Gail Young and Nadine Gorman of the Oakville youth employment centre, apprenticeships for which Michael Jackson of the ministry of colleges and universities and Pat Pearce of Georgetown high school listed some of the occupations that accept skilled workers for on the job training, continued

education, as discussed by Acton high school vice-principal Lynn McLaren and Sue Burns of the school's student services and John Walkinson of the ministry's information services branch, starting a business, with remarks by Halton Hills Coun. Marilyn Serjenson and Lori Mark and Cam Spooner of ventures capital program.

Also explored were employer expectations as described by Ted Schmidt of the youth secretariat, Fin Arnold and Coun. Duby, and job alternatives such as the Canada World Youth, Canadian University Students Overseas and Katavak programs, presented by Dr. Paul Tamblin of Acton high school, Terry Grubbe of the Acton Community Services Centre, Pat Chilton of Canada World Youth and Cheryl Austin of the Oakville youth employment centre.

OPEN LETTER TO THE SUNDAY STAR

Sunday Star
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Sir

The Sunday Star's May 14 issue which contained a story about Georgetown, a small town, failed miserably in attempting to inform readers about the nature of small towns.

Its portrayal of Georgetown where a rift exists between newer and older residents reflects a general bias that was contained throughout the story. Many of the comments were unnecessary, at the very least unfortunate.

It is ironic that Georgetown's story was published on Mother's Day since it is a day traditionally when mother's role is honored and there is generally rejoicing within the family unit. There was no rejoicing among the Shepherd family this mother's day. Indeed, Mrs. Henry Shepherd was deeply shocked to read statements that can only be recognized as racial slurs on her relatives, her family, and most particularly on her husband.

To describe someone today as 'black as the ace of spades' is to display a bigotry that has never existed in this community. There has never been any suggestion of racial difference in Georgetown and no concerns have ever been raised about the intermarriage of members of the Shepherd family with whites despite comments that a large ad occurred many years ago.

Not is the comment about Mr. John Shepherd resembling a gorilla necessary. Never has there been a reference to any other disabled person in The Star as being mongoloid, hunchbacked, or limbless in such a tasteless manner.

Forgo Star editors appear to lack imagination if they had only accepted street gossip to illustrate this community. Mrs. Shepherd believes she also believes the comments directed toward her husband are an attack on the integrity of a man highly respected within the community.

Mr. Shepherd was a gentleman, a man who not only earned the MBE for service to country during two world wars, but a man who was also recognized by the Royal Canadian Legion for both community and Legion work. His standing in Georgetown was high, reflected in part by his being named chief of the volunteer fire brigade, a position he resigned to resign during the second world war.

It would appear that among the freedoms that Mr. Shepherd fought to protect the freedom of the press is also the freedom to leave himself open to abuse.

The Star's attempt at showing Georgetown as a small community reflects a lack of research. Its attack on the Shepherd family also raises questions of racist attitudes which affects not only Georgetown but blacks and other communities generally.

It might be fair to note, and to get the record straight, that not all members of the family married white. Two married blacks and a third married an American Indian.

In raising the matter of the intermarriage of the Shepherd family, it is hoped that the Sunday Star article won't lead toward discrimination to family members. But unfortunately grandchildren of Mr. Shepherd are now being taunted by schoolmates about their background.

It is for the above stated reasons that the Shepherd family seeks an apology and retraction from the Sunday Star for its manner in which it chose to publish comments about the family.

Maud S. Shepherd, (daughter in law of John Shepherd)
Helen Shepherd Cloutier (granddaughter & family)
Doris Shepherd, Raymond (granddaughter & family)
Violet Shepherd, King (granddaughter & family)
Mable Shepherd, (granddaughter & family)
Lillian Shepherd, Kirby (granddaughter & family)
Jacqueline Shepherd, Magwood (granddaughter & family)
Helen Cook, Cumpsty (granddaughter & family)
Brandy E. Cumpsty, Wilson (great granddaughter & family)

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