

# EDITORIAL

with Frances Learment

## Best and worst jobs

For someone who loves their job (usually) it was surprising to read that because of stress, the digital takeover and declining job opportunities, newspaper reporters rank very low on lists of best jobs – while the job is not among the top ten worst jobs, the CareerCast.com ranking was “dismal.”

While there are tough days – unrelenting deadlines, uncooperative sources and sometimes no news – what other job allows you to literally learn something new everyday, to ask any and all questions (perfect for anyone who is the least bit nosey) and to be regularly impressed with the mainly caring and compassionate people of this community?

While taking photos at fresh accident scenes, covering senseless deaths and tragedies take their toll, the vast majority of stories re-enforce the basic goodness and decency of local people, many who do good with no desire or hope of any thanks or recognition. Who wouldn't want to get to know those people and tell their stories?

FYI – a petroleum engineer tops the best job list (with salaries over \$60K) on Canadian Business's newly issued list. The top ten lists also includes: nursing supervisors, electrical and telecommunications contractors, data analysts, chemist and chemical engineers, health policy specialists, construction managers, lawyers, transport industry managers and economists.

Canadian Business puts knitters and weavers at the top of the worst jobs list – because of low pay (\$12 an hour) and the trend to move manufacturing overseas. Careercast.com pegs lumberjack as the worst job. The worst job lists also include: general office clerks, dairy farmers, enlisted soldier, producers, actors, fish processors, harvest labourers, jewellery and watch repairers, nursery and greenhouse workers, plastic plant assemblers and machine operators.

If you don't enjoy what you do, then that job could be on the worst list, and luckily, if you love your job, it doesn't matter how it is ranked.

### Looking Back

#### Ten Years Ago

- In a move to restore decorum, the Town announced that removable cherubs, angels, booze bottles and baseball hats are no longer appropriate as loving tributes on graves.
- Dreams of winning the Canadian Triple Crown of horse racing were dashed when Acton-born T J's Lucky Moon, an upset winner at the Queen's Plate, finished a disappointing third at the Prince of Wales Stakes in Fort Erie.

#### Five Years Ago

- The mammoth, one-million dollar reconstruction of Main Street South is underway. When complete, the one-kilometre stretch of road will replace what one local politician deemed a “cow path.”
- Halton tax dollars could pay for drug addict's crack kits if Halton's budget committee agrees to fund the POSSE (Peer Outreach Support Services and Education) project.



**HOT DOGS:** Kali (front) and Dozer enjoyed the dog days of summer while their owners played in Prospect Park on Tuesday. – Marie Shadbolt photo

## Library Notes

Acton Branch Halton Hills Public Library



By Mary Land

Are you looking for work? Are you wondering where to get job help since the Acton Employment Resource Centre closed in June? Head over to Acton Branch Library.

Since the beginning of July, The Centre for Skills Development and Training has partnered with Halton Hills Public Library to offer employment counselling twice a week. On Tuesday and Thursday, you will find a qualified and dedicated counsellor from The Centre ready to help you search for a job, access resources, craft resumes and cover letters, and set up interviews – just for starters. The service is free. Mornings are by appointment from 9:30 a.m., while afternoons are open for drop-ins from 2-4 p.m., in quiet study room one. Contact the Milton office of The Centre to make a morning appointment at 905-693-8458, extension 101.

Once you are in the Acton

Branch Library, have a look at the databases on the library's website ([www.hhpl.on.ca](http://www.hhpl.on.ca)) in the “Careers and Business” category. Two of the most helpful listings are the Service Ontario website and the Career Cruising database.

Once your computer is at <http://www.ontario.ca/> simply choose your language and type in “Looking for a Job.” You will find the following topics covered on the Service Ontario website: job search skills, listings, skilled trades, jobs for people with disabilities, jobs for students, jobs for foreign-trained workers, and working temporarily in Canada from abroad. Each link leads to a wealth of information.

The Career Cruising database is also available in English and French and, most importantly, also contains all-Canadian information. As well as the menu items at the top, the home page has a weekly in-depth look at certain trades. For instance, during the week of July 15-22

there was an interview with an allergist, a photo file on an upholsterer so you can literally see someone at work, and a segment focusing on radio, film and TV production.

The “Assessments” section of Career Cruising is especially helpful for high school students. There you'll see career matchmaker (pairing your interests with a suitable job), my skills (to assess your strengths), and a learning styles inventory (find out how you learn and your best way to study).

The Halton Community Services Database is updated by staff at Halton Hills Public Library in cooperation with others in Halton Region. Here you will not only find listings for The Centre for Skills Development and Training, but also for local agencies such as Links2Care and other services that help with academic upgrading, English as a Second Language (ESL) training, youth programs, and transitional housing. All of these aspects can be part of a job search.

Start your hunt for a satisfying job by seeing staff from The Centre on a Tuesday or Thursday at the Acton Branch Library.



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