



The Entrepreneurship Centre's business development program graduates pose for a group photo prior to their graduation ceremony. Most of the students will be starting their own business within the next six months.

Entrepreneurship Centre launches new careers for 17 graduates

By JAY McNEIL

Special to The Independent/Free Press

The Georgetown Entrepreneurship Business Centre has 17 new graduates starting their own businesses.

The centre, which has been conducting a 20-week business development program, held a graduation ceremony on Wednesday, March 30.

The course, which began on November 8 of last year, had taught students the skills necessary to implement a successful business plan.

The group of 17 students involved in the course are all adults, ages ranging from 20 to 58, and have come from an unemployed or displaced working status. The students' goal to be achieved from the course was to successfully start their own businesses and eventually make profit.

"Eighty-five percent of our grads will be starting their own business within the next six months," said Deborah Dennison, a project coordi-

nator. "Over 100 people applied for the course, but we could only accept the top 20 applicants."

Among the staff at the Entrepreneurship Centre including Dennison, are Dawn Braddock, Cindy Kruger, and Al Renner who is the program coordinator.

Betty Johnson came from being unemployed, and was a former executive secretary bookkeeper for a construction company. Through the program, Betty is starting her own business entitled Mae House of Image and Design, which offers color image consulting, dress making, bridal wear, and tailoring. Betty hopes her business will help people look the best they can and perhaps help their self esteem.

Depron Ltd. specializes in pouring sidewalks and colored concrete. The founder of this new business, James Bydevaate, has been in construction for 10 years, and was a former supervisor. James said that Georgetown attracted his attention as an opportune place to start a small business.

Chris Dewdney of Ballinafad is starting her own line of sweatshirts aimed at supplementing the fashion needs of larger women, giving a comfortable, leisurely look.

Chris will be offering this unique sweatwear part time from her own home. Her former occupation was a government arts coordinator.

Other graduates and their businesses include George Appleton, Appleton Communications; Joan Blight, The Executive Assistant; Terry Collins, Val-Air; Debby Dunn, Sisterly Love and Brother Too; Rolf Erne, Straight Ahead Alignment Centre; Wendy Fitzpatrick, Surelock Homes Locksmith and Security; Brian Gagnon, Brian K. Gagnon.

Also, Jeff Hamilton, Trinity Services; Marty Hibbs, Powerhouse Promotions; Steve Meek, EnermaX; Beverley Nickle, Imagine That!; Janice Seigel, Seigel Business Services; Nick Stasiuk, Starburst Ltd.; and Carol Trenchard, Brampton Nutritional Clinic.

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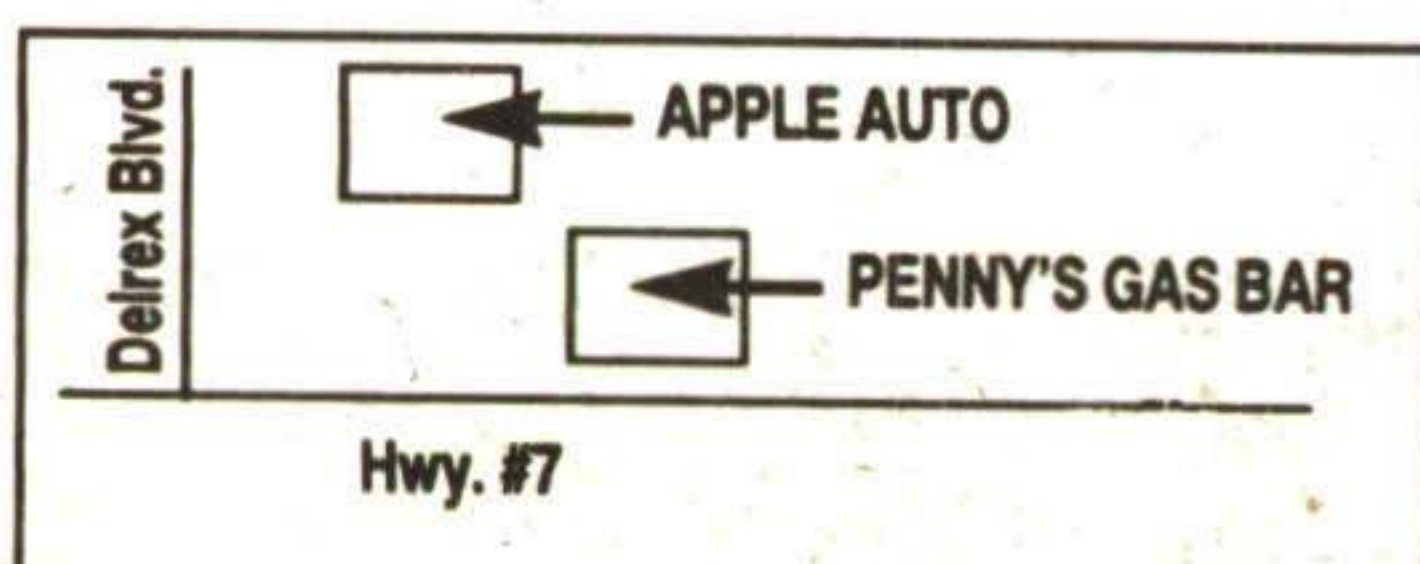
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