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## STUDENT JOB SCENE BRIGHTER THIS SUMMER

KATHY YANCHUS  
kyanchus@metroland.com

Compared to last year this summer's job market is a little more encouraging for students — both in Halton Hills and across the region — searching for part-time or seasonal work.

"Employment Halton is seeing more postings in industries such as retail, customer service, food services, seasonal work and landscaping. These industries are key employers for young adults who are looking for seasonal work or part-time jobs that will allow them to work once they return to school," said Jodi Guilmette, director of employment and social services at Halton Region.

Statistics Canada reports an unemployment rate among Halton youth aged 15-24 of 20.1 per cent for Q2, compared to 29.7 per cent during the same time period last year, said Guilmette.

Searching for a job can be stressful at the best of times and this has not been the best of times, so students are no doubt feeling an "exacerbated version of job searching," according to Sheridan College's associate director of cooperative and career education, Cory Latimer.

Part of the challenge is that employers are still hesitant to be

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quick to post jobs or hire new people, a natural response to the uncertainty that exists, he said.

But there are "really encouraging trends" in both Sheridan's data and in the national data, he added.

"The students have so far demonstrated a really remarkable level of resiliency.... Things are getting better than they were last summer but still have a ways to go. So the patience and persistence of the students in a job search is probably more important than ever before," said Latimer.

The YMCA of Hamilton, Burlington and Brantford's youth employment program reports a significant number of job listings in the retail and service industries, but not enough young applicants

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Stephanie Mazza photo

Stephanie Mazza has created her own employment opportunity, launching a virtual childcare business offering ukelele lessons, math tutoring and craft sessions.



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