

COVID FEARS STILL IMPACTING EMPLOYMENT LANDSCAPE

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to fill them due to COVID-19 fears, according to Lily Lumsden, senior regional manager, YMCA Employment & Immigration Services.

"We are finding that there is a bit of hesitation from the youth as job seekers in terms of just feeling comfortable and confident about going to work, so there is a little bit of a disconnect. Also the parents of the youth are hesitant about having them work in some of those industries so we're finding it a bit of a challenge to recruit the youth to get them into the in-demand jobs."

Lumsden suspects that by the end of the summer as things open up and as more people are fully vaccinated, "people will start to feel more comfortable and I think that youth will start to feel better about going to work."

Then there are those young people who strike on their own with help from the Summer Company program operated by Halton Region.

"The students have so far demonstrated a really remarkable level of resiliency."

- Cory Latimer, Sheridan College's associate director of cooperative and career education

When Stephanie Mazza's year-long exchange trip to Japan was cut short last spring as the pandemic took hold, she found jobs scarce; it was difficult enough to get an interview, let alone a position, said the 19-year-old second-year University of British Columbia student.

"I had always been interested in entrepreneurship but the lack of jobs during the pandemic was the tipping point to start my entrepreneurial journey a little early. Upon seeing the dire need for childcare, I developed the idea to make it virtual and then realized that I could make a thriving business out of it so I decided to go for it and start it myself," said the Halton resident.

She launched a virtual childcare business offering ukulele lessons, math tu-

toring and craft sessions.

Being her own boss allows Mazza time to develop her own creativity instead of being confined to the ideas of others.

"I also find that being my own boss gives me the flexibility to work in my own way."

STORY BEHIND THE STORY: *Every summer students flood the job market but last year jobs were hard to come by as businesses locked down. We talked to experts to find out if the youth employment landscape looks any brighter this season.*



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NEW COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC SET TO OPEN

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With an expected increase in COVID-19 vaccine supply, Halton Public Health is opening its ninth community clinic later this month.

The new clinic at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Secondary School, located at 1145 Bronte St. S. in Milton, will begin operating on July 26 and will offer first and second doses to residents aged 12 and up.

Public health officials say they will also be in-

creasing capacity at several existing clinics to offer more opportunities for residents to book their first dose appointment or re-book their second dose at an earlier interval.

"We are pleased to offer more convenient options for our residents to get their first and second COVID-19 doses," said regional chair Gary Carr.

"We are making great progress on our vaccine rollout, with 80 per cent of residents 12 years of age and older having received at least one dose and 51 per cent fully vaccinated.

"As we receive more supply from the province, we will continue to open up more appointments to get everyone in our community fully vaccinated as quickly as possible."

In addition to Halton's community vaccination clinics and the provincial pop-up locations, COVID-19 vaccines are also being offered at more than 100 pharmacy locations in the region and select doctor's offices.

For further details or to book an appointment, visit halton.ca/COVIDvaccines.



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