

MANY STUDENTS CREATING THEIR OWN BUSINESSES

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and hospitality — in Halton Hills, and across the region — a lack of willing recruits is actually creating a labour shortage this summer.

The reasons are entirely different from last year at this time when youth were hesitant about working in those in-demand jobs due to COVID. There are a number of contributing factors, said Lumsden, but one trend has become increasingly evident.

With the uncertainty and stress of the past two years, many people re-evaluated what it is they want out of a job; many retired, others changed careers, said Lumsden.

Young people are apparently following that trend.

"I like that I can control when and how much I work."

- Allyda King

Having the luxury of being more selective in their job choices, young people are searching for jobs, even summer jobs, with more flexibility in terms of hours and location, as well as higher wages.

"They are looking for jobs that pay more than minimum wage. It's interesting in terms of the shift and that young people are considering their work/life balance."

Employers in industries that traditionally would pay lower wages, are being forced to decide whether they will increase pay, or in other circumstances, if their business is suited to a hybrid model, she said.

Some restaurant employers, for example, have acquiesced in order to attract a qualified talent pool, said Lumsden.

The YMCA itself had to cancel several camps — affecting 500 campers — because it was unable to recruit enough staff to meet the necessary counsellor-to-camper ratio, she said.

Although positions had been filled in the spring, gradually those youth found other jobs, either with more pay or flexibility, said Lumsden.

"I've worked with em-

ployment programs for about 25 years; this current labour market, I've never seen it like this before. It's not just summer employment, it's full-time jobs, it's front line, mid-management, executive positions and it's in every industry. We're (employers) all struggling for that talent. We're trying to figure out what the solution is for that."

Georgetown District High School student Allyda King has been able to avoid two years of job market unpredictability by launching her own online business.

"I applied for multiple jobs before the pandemic. It was hard to find a full-time summer job," said Allyda.

With an interest in business, she applied to Halton region's Summer Company program, and started AK



Nya Singh photo
Recent high school graduate Nya Singh has chose to open her own tutoring business.

Nya Singh, 18, wasn't influenced by the thought of higher wages or better hours when she began her virtual tutoring business; launching Learn with Nya (learnwithnya@gmail.com) provided her with an outlet to motivate, inspire and uplift her community, she said.

The Milton high school grad said she doesn't believe a typical job would have allowed her such opportunities to make a difference in people's lives and grow as an individual, as well as give back to her community.

designs, offering customized framed wooden lake maps and home decor items (www.allyda.ca).

"The business was a great way for me to try something new during the summer. I like that I can control when and how much I work."

STORY BEHIND THE STORY: With two years of uncertainty in the job market due to the pandemic and COVID, we spoke with an employment expert to find out what this third summer living with the virus means to young job seekers this summer.

WATER PARK, CONFERENCE CENTRE PROPOSED

THE DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE BUILT ON A 47-ACRE PIECE OF LAND

HERB GARBUTT

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A plan has been submitted for a family entertainment and convention centre, including a water park and a hotel, for the north-

east corner of Steeles Avenue and Eighth Line.

The plan calls for a water park with slides and wave pools, theatres, miniature golf and an arcade. There would also be a hotel, up to eight storeys tall, with conference and exhibition facilities, at least two restaurants and a spa and wellness centre.

It could potentially include manufacturing, warehousing, distribution and offices on the site as

well.

Gilbach Inc. has submitted an application for an amendment to the Town of Halton Hills' official plan, which council must still approve.

The development would be built on a 47-acre piece of land, kitty-corner to Toronto Premium Outlets, with two access points off Eighth Line. It would wrap around an existing cemetery at the corner of 8th Line and Steeles Avenue as well as

the existing houses on Eighth Line.

The waterpark, hotel and convention centre would be built along Eighth Line, while the spa would be located in the north-east corner of the property. A flying theatre, where seats move to enhance the visual experience, would also be built next to the spa.

No residents came forward to speak about the development at a public meeting held by the town.



Town of Halton Hills illustration

A proposal has been submitted to build a water park, hotel and conference centre at the corner of Eighth Line and Steeles Avenue.

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