

Matthew Fleet addresses M.S. grads

Acton's Matthew Fleet addressed the graduating class at the McKenzie-Smith graduation ceremonies last Monday at the Legion. Fleet had served as a co-op student at the middle school last year, and his speech was timely in many ways. The address, minus an introductory paragraph, is printed below.

I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to work at McKenzie-Smith as a coop student. I really had a great time. One of the main reasons I went into this program was to explore my feelings and abilities towards teaching. After working with you I am really excited about going after a teaching career.

When Mr. Zanatta asked me to speak I wondered what I should say. I decided that high school might be a good topic. You may well be nervous or apprehensive about going but, please put your

mind at ease; you really do have something to look forward to.

Something that you will notice about high school is the amount of freedom and independence you find yourself with. You become much more responsible for yourself. You start to have more choice about the courses. What it comes down to is that you start to take over the driver's seat. You're not just along for the ride anymore and it won't be long before some of you begin to steer towards a career.

There's one thing more I'd like to talk about. Somewhere, I heard or read a saying: "Play the hand you're dealt," it may not sound like much but that saying has been inspirational for me. What does it mean? Let's look at it literally:

"Play the hand you're dealt."

Say the game's poker and you draw five cards. You've been dealt the ten, jack, queen and king of spades; all you need is the ace. You may think "Oh, if only I had that ace" or "Without that ace I can't do a thing." That sort of thinking is what you don't need. You need to take that hand and do the best you can with it.

I think that this saying applies

just as well to everyday life. "Play the hand you're dealt." Don't wish you were someone else. Be yourself, accept and be proud of who you are. Everybody has their own abilities. You need to take what you have and do what you can with that. You have all kinds of potential...use it.

Before I go I'd like to leave you a quote from Rick Hansen. He has said, "Never give up on your dreams." I think that might be something worth remembering when you're in high school. All my best wishes go with you. Thank you and good night.



HOT WHEELS! Kent Robinson shows off his '63 T-bird at Saturday's Cruise Night at Beaver Gas on Queen Street. The popular event takes place every Saturday evening through the summer, starting at 7 pm.

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Student summer job assistance

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

From resume writing to interview skills, there are numerous programs offered this summer to help Acton students find jobs. And there are lots of jobs out there — everything from construction work to sales to temporary odd jobs.

The Canada Employment Centre for students operates a job search program each Wednesday at the Acton Social Service and Information Centre. Supervisor Bruno Jauernig says they list jobs available for students and teach students how to get and keep a job.

"We teach the students how to market themselves. Students must have a well-written resume and we can teach them how to prepare one that will get an employer's attention. The primary job search skill students need to learn is how to convey to a potential employer that they are dependable, reliable and can take the initiative to be a good employee. Once they have the job they must be able to keep it and we can help students learn what employers want and expect".

Jauernig says they currently have about 50 available jobs for students on the job board in the job binder located at ASSIC's office.

The centre will screen applications if the employer has specific needs but in most cases it's up to the student to contact the employer for an interview.

The YMCA's community youth services also is offering job search help for students whose family's receive social assistance. "Y" spokesperson Kathy Steel says the program tries to break the welfare cycle by helping fulltime students gain work experience.

"The summer experience program, offered in Acton and Georgetown, includes pre-employment workshops, individual counselling and job referral. Each Friday we have a counsellor at the ASSIC office on Willow Street to assess and help clients."

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Another reason why, "It's worth the flight from Acton."

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