

Editorial

Workplace worries

Results from a study conducted by Ontario's community colleges paint a rather limited future for students who don't actively pursue post-secondary education.

In just four years, according to Seneca College President Rick Miner, 70 per cent of all newly-created jobs will require college or university education. By 2010, that figure could hit 90 per cent.

The report by the Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario estimates the province will need 250,000 more college and university students in order to keep up with the minimum educational requirements of tomorrow's workplace.

What's worse is that a higher percentage of high school students applying for college and university will not be guaranteed a spot in an institution of higher learning.

Without the infusion of an estimated \$450 million, Ontario's colleges won't be able to expand programs and facilities to meet a larger post secondary student population, according to the association's report.

It appears the concept of a high school diploma being a ticket to decent employment opportunities is nearing extinction.

According to Miner, 25 per cent of today's high school graduates move directly into the workforce, while an equal number drop out without graduating. Unless that trend changes dramatically, some of the best new jobs will pass them by.

The province's recently-announced plan to encourage the apprenticeship training of 7,000 additional young people to address a shortage of skilled tradespeople is a good first step.

But if Ontario—and Canada—expects to keep pace with the demand for a more highly-educated population, the government will have to put up the money, or watch these high-quality jobs go elsewhere.



Letters to the editor...

Recreation facility nice—but expensive

Dear editor,

I am visiting Georgetown. I find it to be a very nice community, with extensive facilities and friend-

ly people.

I particularly like the downtown area, which contrasts nicely with the more modern mall area. You appear to have lots of parks and facilities for young and old. I was very impressed with your new Gellert Community Centre.

The young lady on the reception desk was very nice and a credit to your community. I asked her about the cost of doing gym three times a week. One of their pamphlets states that it is \$67 for one day for 10 weeks, so for three times a week for 10 weeks it would be \$201.

I usually go all year around to my gym, about 50 weeks in the year. So in a year it would cost me 5 x \$201 or about \$1,005 dollars for weekly exercise. If my wife went it would cost \$2,010 yearly. At home it costs me about \$310 for a year's gym three times a week.

It is my understanding that to become moderately fit you would need to exercise three times a week. However, I don't see how a

young couple with music lessons, skating lessons, swimming lessons etc. could afford to exercise three times a week in your lovely community centre. Finally what about old people on fixed incomes, would this not be much too expensive for them? Or is the seniors' rate very much lower, of course even if it were half price it still appears that it would cost \$1,000 per couple to exercise three times a week.

I wonder, do I have my facts correct? I would love to see someone write an article on how affordable the cost of proper exercise is at these rates for young families and senior citizens.

Roy F. Bartlett,
Newfoundland

A hauntingly good time

Dear editor,

We just got home from a great morning of trick or treating in downtown Georgetown.

The rain held off just long enough for all of the children to visit the stores and receive their candy. We have lived in Georgetown for a number of years but this is the first year I have been able to take my son trick or treating during the day downtown. We had so much fun looking at all the children dressed up (and parents too!).

The day really brought out the feel of a small town (and how much longer will we be able to say that!). People were so happy to be out with their kids and talking with strangers and friends—it was just a great time.

We want to thank all of the stores that participated and made the day possible. Thank you!

Anne (Raggedy Ann) and
Bradley (Buzz Light Year) Rowe,
Georgetown

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be signed and include an address and daytime telephone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters should not exceed 200 words and may be edited.

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Remembrance section appreciated

Dear editor,

Congratulations on your special insert regarding Remembrance Day. The articles and pictures by Ted Brown were great.

Thanks also for including the names from 'The Glen'. Our area is fortunate to have Ted to raise the awareness of this important day.

Don Sargent, Caledon

The Independent & Free Press

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