

## Important change in international travel requirements

If you are travelling to the United States or via the United States by air travel, you must have a valid passport. The new American law is in effect starting Tuesday, January 23, 2007.

If you are travelling to the United States via land or sea, you will still be able to use proof of citizenship such as a birth certificate and valid government issued photo identification as a driver's license or health card.

Passport applications are free and available at our office. Local Government of Canada Passport offices are:

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Toronto Departures: Fares are available only on a round trip basis. Prices are per person in economy class for departures and returns as indicated. Space is limited. Prices may change or be withdrawn without prior notice. Flights operated by Air Transat. Transat Holidays and Air Transat are members of Transat A.T. Inc. for full terms and conditions refer to our current brochure. Ont. Reg. #50009486.



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## Ministry spokesman says: Growing need for skilled trades

By Frances Niblock

In 2010, baby boomers will begin retiring, opening up a wide range of skilled job opportunities for the Acton area workforce.

"For the 10 years that follow that, there's going to be a tremendous need for skilled trades and apprentices and those jobs have to be filled, so we're bringing this information to the community," said Acton employment specialist Laura Demeester on Friday, following the fourth seminar during Apprenticeship and Trades week at the Acton Employment Resource Centre.

Apprenticeship is learning by doing, and earning while learning with most of the training done in the workplace.

With a growing pool of 20 and 30-year-olds interested in learning a well-paid skilled trade, Demeester said the seminars helped "connect the dots," for potential job seekers.

Wrap-up speaker, Edward Tooke, a training consultant with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities challenged the 20 people at Friday's session to name the most popular of the 153 trades that offer apprenticeship programs in Ontario.

The answer is auto service technician – there are 35,000, more than half of all apprentices, now training in Ontario – and electricians and plumbers are the second and third favourite apprenticeship programs.

Four things needed to become an apprentice include a social insurance number,



**SKILLED JOBS WAITING:** The ins and outs of Ontario apprenticeship programs were detailed by Edward Tooke, a training consultant with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, during a seminar on Friday at Acton's Employment Resource Centre. – Frances Niblock photo

high school diploma, \$40 registration fee and a job.

"You need to be employed in the trade in which you want to get into an apprenticeship," Tooke said, adding 90 per cent of the apprenticeship takes place in the workplace and 10 per cent in the classroom, so "getting in with a good employer is key."

Following multi-year programs – usually between three and five years – apprentices write examinations for certificates in their trades.

"Three to five years – my goodness, you could go to university and get a degree in less time...but the trades that pay the most, take the longest," Tooke said, adding apprentices receive

federal money – formerly Unemployment Insurance – while they go to school, usually at a local community college.

Tooke said new trades are developed daily – the newest trade offering an apprenticeship program in Ontario is hardware/lumber/building retailer, a trade set up with some of the large lumber retailers so their staff can be trained,

Tooke said, adding that telemarketers may be next.

There was just one posting for an apprentice – an arborist in the Oakville/Mississauga area – on the job board at the Acton Employment Resource Centre on Friday.

It pays up to \$22 an hour.

Centre staff invite all job inquiries at 519-853-5014.

## Back Facts



From the January 18, 2006 pages of The New Tanner.

**One year ago,** Town Council gave local farmers a tax break and will allow them to defer payment of their property taxes until September 30, 2006, instead of on their regular due date. This will allow farmers to keep their tax money until after their fall crops have been harvested.

In other news:

•On a night set aside for groups to come to the budget committee to ask for money for pet projects, the Acton Soccer Club turned the tables on Monday night and brought money to the Town, pledging \$100,000 for new lighted soccer fields in Acton East.

•Acton's Sandy Chapman, 25 on Monday, faced his former Toronto Rock teammates when the Rochester Knighthawks downed visiting Toronto 14-9 in National Lacrosse League action.

From the January 17, 2002 pages of The New Tanner.

**Five years ago:** Acton physician Dr. George McWilliam is unsure if Halton's \$150,000 plans to attract new doctors –including a physician recruitment co-ordinator – will do any good, but doesn't believe it will do any harm.

In other news

•Dr. McWilliam and visiting physician Dr. Nather Alshakarji are now seeing the patients under the care of Dr. Ken Landry, who stopped seeing patients at the Acton Medical Centre after stepping in to help following the sudden death of Dr. Brian Moore.

•Four months after former Acton resident James Virgin was found battered and beaten at the side of the Ninth Line in Erin Township, police have little to say about this death, which was ruled a homicide.

## And for another thing...

Continued from page 7

cost him the next election. While that may well have been true his successor, Jimmy Carter, proved to be inadequate and unable to follow through on the tough decisions. Perhaps Ford might have made similar mistakes but, given the mettle of the man, I doubt it. My only meeting with Mr. Ford came at a convention in May of 1976.

Just me and 6,000 or so of his friends and enemies had lunch together. His opening line demonstrated his delightful self-deprecating humour. "There's a Ford in your future," he said. The fact that was also the slogan for the well known automobile company earned him a loud and prolonged

ovation.

That, and the stern look and body language of his Secret Service bodyguard, are the two vivid memories I have of that day. I had hoped he would be elected to another term but that was not to be. History has already adjudged that his decision to pardon Nixon was the right one for the country.

That's the kind of President I think he would have been. A man who would take the difficult road if it was for the best for his country even if that decision came at a great personal cost. What more can be asked of a public figure?

May he rest in the peace of the just.