

Business in Milton



Soft skills to rule future jobs

Over the next decade, the job market is going to change dramatically. Old jobs will disappear because of the rise of automation and new ones will arise from new technologies. This change has already begun in Canada, with experts pointing to the “quiet crisis” currently affecting our young people that makes it increasingly difficult for them to find meaningful work.

According to RBC Economics, these changes have led to a growing importance of what were once known as “soft skills.”

Soft skills are the things we don't learn in school but are invaluable in the real world, including communication, collaboration, leadership and problem solving. According to RBC, employers should value these skills as a way of predicting how a potential hire will react to the new realities of the transformed workplace. They should be considered foundational skills instead of a nice bonus.

This thinking is part of the company's recently announced 10-year focus on youth employment, in which they've challenged Canadian businesses to make

fundamental changes to their hiring practices.

But just as organizations have a lot of work to do, we should also be preparing our young people for the future of work. So how can our youth build their foundational skills early and prepare themselves for the coming changes?

The major way is to get out into a work environment. Volunteering at charitable organizations, for example, doesn't just look good on a resume. These experiences also bring people from different backgrounds to work together in situations that are constantly changing. That makes them the perfect place to develop these foundational skills.

The WE Schools program is also a great educational resource to learn foundational skills, offering students the chance to pick up the abilities they need to excel in the workplace.

Based on the realities of the future job market, these skills don't just make up the foundation for a good hire. They can also make up the foundation for a lifelong career. (NC)



Magician Scott Dietrich reacts during his performance at last year's City Parent Spring Family Show. The event returns to Milton Sports Centre on Saturday, April 14.

Photo by Jayson Mills/Metroland file photo

Free event has everything for families

Magic, music and critters are among the attractions at the City Parent Family Show on Saturday, April 14 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Milton Sports Centre.

Presented in partnership with The Milton Canadian Champion, this free, fun-filled annual event features live entertainment, giveaways and dozens of exhibitors with products and services to share with families. The first 500 visitors receive a free loot bag. The City Parent Family Show is a chance to explore summer camps, attractions, educational opportunities and the popular market place retail space.

Celebrate spring at the show that includes the return of magician Scott Di-

etrich with his interactive magic show that is guaranteed to bring wonder and laughter. A live reptile show that features amphibians, arachnids, lizards, turtles, tortoises, crocodilians and snakes will be presented by the Reptile Store. Safari Niagara's travelling exhibit “Zooniversity” will add another element of wild to the show along a performance by Mystic Drumz that will showcase eclectic percussion instruments sourced from around the globe. Adding to the fun will be face-painting by Pockets the Clown.

Free show admission is courtesy of Springridge Farm. For details call 905-842-6591 ext. 740708.

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