

Farm jobs for young this summer

Looking for a summer job? The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food is looking for young people who enjoy variety and outdoor work. The assignment is Agricrew.

Agricrew is a three-year-old program designed to provide Ontario farmers with short-term work crews to get odd jobs done during the busy season.

"There are many jobs that a farmer can't get around to doing because of the more pressing chores," says Norma Brown, of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food extension branch. "These jobs may include painting fences or barns, cleaning stalls and general maintenance work."

Agricrews of four young people are posted

in 20 areas throughout southern and central Ontario. A total of 238 young people are being employed this year under this program.

The farmer is required to book the crew in advance through the local agricultural office. An individual farmer is allowed to hire the crew for only five days during the summer, at a cost of \$90 per day.

Young people participating in the Agricrew must be 15 to 21 as of May 1 and must have some agricultural skills. This is not a training program. Members of the Agricrew are paid the minimum wage of \$2.45 per hour (under 18) and \$3.30 per hour (over 18). Crew members are paid \$3.50 per hour.

Information about

Agricrew is available from school guidance departments in the Experience '81 Guide Book published by the Ontario Youth Secretariat, and from local agricultural offices.

Urban teenagers don't have to rule out their dreams of working on a farm for the summer. The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food offers a program that will place 180 urban young people on farms this summer.

The Junior Agriculturalist program, part of the provincial government's Experience '81 program, is designed to give 16- and 17-year-olds with no previous farm experience an opportunity to work on commercial farms.

Students participating in the program work on a

commercial farm for nine weeks, beginning June 22, for a wage of \$12 per day.

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food contributes \$6 per day. The host farmer pays the other \$6 per day and provides room and board.

The Junior Agriculturalist program offers students with an interest in agriculture a chance to experience farm life firsthand," says Norma Brown, program co-ordinator.

"The students are allowed to select the type of farm they would prefer, so they have an opportunity to pursue a particular area of interest."

The nine-year-old program attracts a great deal of interest each year. Last year more than 1000 students applied for the openings.

To qualify, young people must be 16 or 17 as of May 1 and have no previous agricultural experience.

Applicants must also express a genuine interest in pursuing an agriculturally oriented career.

Application forms and additional information are available from school guidance departments in the Experience '81 Guide Book published by the Ontario Youth Secretariat. Deadline for applications is April 25.

"Although this program is designed to give young people an opportunity to work on a farm, it also offers benefits for the host farmers," says Miss Brown.

"Many farmers find it rewarding to introduce an urban young person to agriculture and rural life, and there's the added bonus of having extra help for the summer."

Ontario farmers interested in hosting a junior agriculturalist may contact their local agriculture office for more information.



Elbow grease

Mild weather last week inspired Steve Corradetti a Grade 12 student at Milton District High School to shine his 1970 Charger in the driveway of his Milton home. Spring is an indication to many to get the elbow grease flowing.



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Between the Willows

The call-in show

By Don Byers

There are enough opinions zapping back and forth across this country to remake the whole world.

Most of these are expressed through the plethora of call-in shows that provide platforms of varying height, for the serious, the ludicrous, and, once in a while, the incomprehensible drunk.

Some such shows literally go on all night. Insomniacs from many parts of Canada contribute their drowsy thoughts, sounding sometimes as if they were talking in their sleep. So much for snore-bores.

Despite the many shortcomings, there is often a strange fascination for the call-in show. The very moment you think you have heard the most outrageous opinion on the topic under discussion, the very next call makes it sound almost sane. Sometimes, searing anger is unleashed. Frustration is often expressed. Occasionally, the moving words of sadness from one, overcome with the problems of living, quaver on the lonely, night air, begging to be heard by someone, anyone.

It must be difficult to be the host of a call-in show. The greatest hazard, I would think, is to avoid playing God or becoming the Great All-Knowing. This has happened. When it does, the quality of the program, and the ratings, go down the tubes. And so they should.

Apart from providing a forum for the discussion of current events, the call-in show often provides useful information on a variety of subjects—from the care and feeding of house plants to how to clip your poodle. Social issues of the most sensitive nature are freely bantered back and forth by total strangers. There seems to be no end to the number of topics people are anxious to talk about, any time, day or night.

One morning, while conducting my broadcast journalism course, I asked the class this question:

"What purpose, if any, does the talk-show fulfill?"

The majority of my students felt the broadcasts were useful—providing an outlet for open, public discourse upon current issues that otherwise would not get the same exposure. Some felt that the shows were entertaining. A few felt that they provided a release for neurotics and assorted nuts. But, whatever anyone thinks, thousands of Canadians breathlessly hang on to their telephones, hoping that, this time, they'll get through to the host.

Talk-shows are here to stay.

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Happy April Fools' Day. I'm writing this in advance—and run the risk of having to eat the following words.

If you have been a regular reader of "Between the Willows" over the last few years, you will have noticed I have carefully avoided my annual taunting of Mother Nature. I haven't written a word about the rotten winter just past.

I kept quiet about the week in frigid February when our driveway was glare ice—and the gauge on our fuel oil tank registered zero.

Not once did I crab about lugging groceries up from the road.

On the other hand, I mentioned not the glacier, which usually wipes out the parking area behind the house, and inches down the driveway, did not form this year. No brickbats. No bouquets.

But today, as miserable March comes to an end, the sun is shining brightly, the cold edge is off the wind, there is no trace of snow.

Maybe, just maybe we've made it again.

College sending students to work

Sheridan College faculty are preparing to leave the classroom and go into industry for one month.

The Experience Release Program runs from May 15 to June 15 and one-third of all faculty may participate each year.

It provides an opportunity for faculty to get back into the business world from where they came, or to pursue independent projects related to the courses which they teach.

"The objective is to enhance the teaching process and to remain current in the classroom," said Senior Vice-President Don Shields, who announced the new program February 1980 after consultation with the Academic Council, the Faculty Development Fund Committee and the Board of Governors.

Last year 11 faculty members took advantage of the Experience Release Program which is strictly voluntary. Some of the employers included a graphics company, a computer firm, newspaper, steel com-

pany and a hospital.

To enter the program faculty members must make their own contacts with employers. Once they are accepted, a letter of thanks is sent from administration to the employers outlining the objectives of the program.

The employers are also alerted that participating faculty members are on full salary from the college.

Those returning to business or industry may accept payment if it is offered, but the main aim of the program is experience, not additional salary.

An outline indicating objectives must be approved by senior administrators in each division. Following the placement period the college communicates with the employers to determine their attitudes to the program.

So far the program has had positive response from deans, faculty and employers who have sent letters to the college praising the participants and the program.

Area boss appointed

Paul Walsh was appointed by Halton Board of Education as a new area superintendent effective May 4.

Walsh, 44, was one of 12 candidates interviewed by senior board staff and trustees. Most of his teaching and supervision experience is in south Halton.

AROUND THE HOUSE



with Bill McDonald

Cereals and healthy snacks placed in a low cabinet will encourage young children to help themselves.

When painting with a roller, place the roller tray in a large, sturdy plastic bag before pouring in the paint. Bag will flatten with weight of the paint and prevent the tray from getting messy.

When a recipe calls for whole walnut meats, soak nuts in their shells overnight in a solution of salt and water. When shells are cracked, there's a good chance the meats will remain whole.

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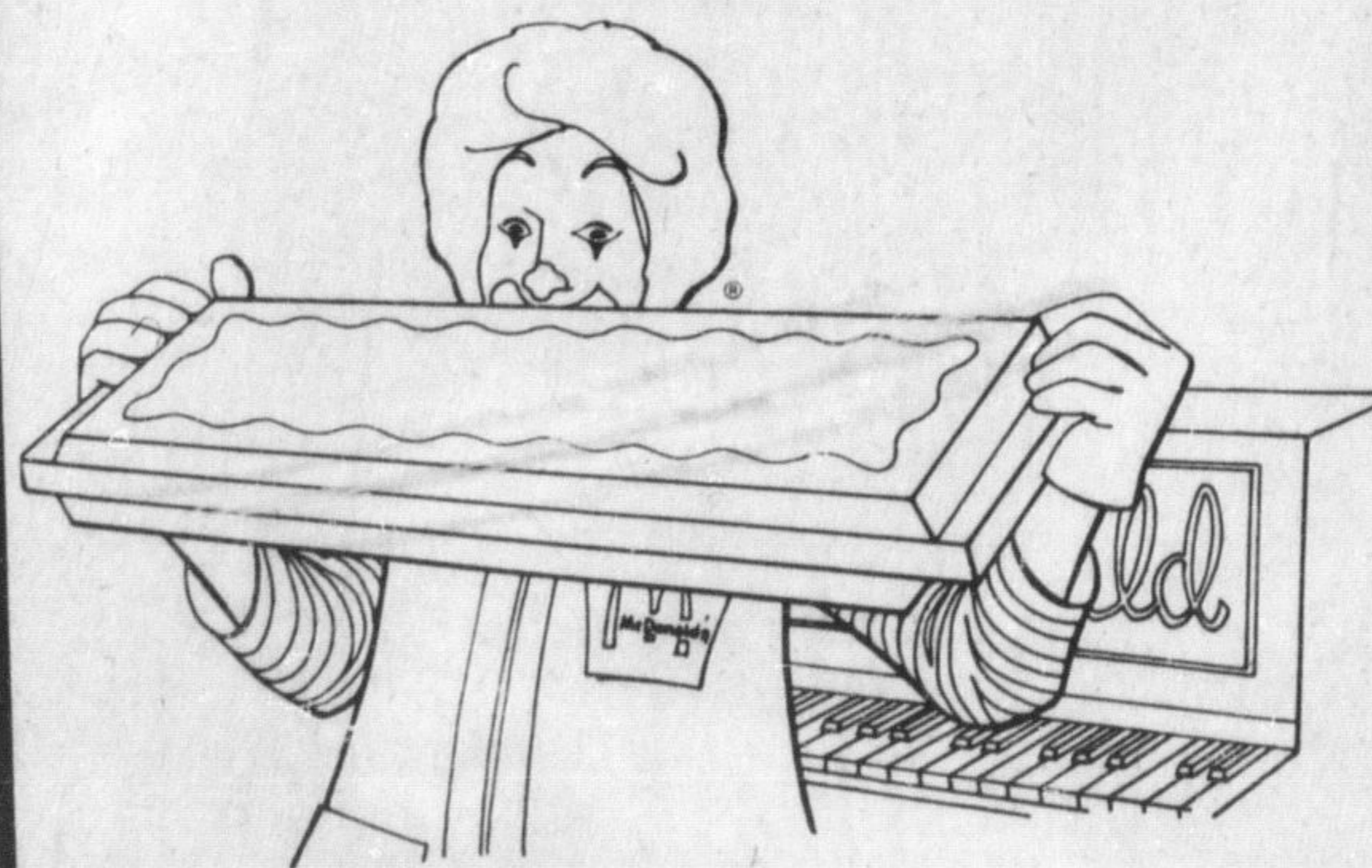
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