

# New avenue to employment for deaf young people



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Laura Burrows (right) will tackle the challenge of placing deaf youths in jobs as Milton YMCA Youth Employment Service's (YES) new outreach worker for the deaf. Ms Burrows joins YES counsellor Suzanne Schefold (left) at YES' Main Street office.

By ANGELA BLACKBURN  
The Champion

In a tough economy youths looking for jobs get discouraged. Deaf youths are likely even more frustrated, but Laura Burrows is ready to change that as the Milton YMCA Youth Employment Service's (YES) new outreach worker for the deaf.

"I love challenges. All my life I've wanted challenges and certainly this time I have one," said Ms Burrows.

The lively 26-year-old Toronto native spent 14 years at Milton's E.C. Drury School for the Deaf. "I know a lot of deaf people around here," she says.

Ms Burrows earned her Bachelor of Arts in communications from a Washington, D.C. university before working as a Canadian Hearing Society social services counsellor, a life skills coach to deaf youths in Toronto, and with the YWCA.

"I'm going to snoop around and see if deaf people need any help," states Ms Burrows.

Both the existing YES program and new outreach pilot project for the

deaf cater to those aged 14 to 30. YES offers individual counselling, pre-employment training, job search techniques and employment opportunities to clients. For those who may have family, housing or other barriers to employment, YES counsellor

Suzanne Schefold says referrals and access to other community agencies are available.

Ms Burrows, herself deaf since birth, says she'll go slowly in her attempt to make inroads placing deaf

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