

Youths 'launched' into independence

YORK REGION — It's not uncommon for young people, between the ages of 15 and 20, to leave their parents' home in an attempt to make it on their own. Some are successful. Some aren't. Some are working; some are in school; some are unemployed. It's a major move. Some can cope; some can cope with help. This is where an organization called Youthdale LAUNCH comes in. It operates a life skills program aimed at assisting adolescents to live independently.

The York Region director is Uri Igra. The program co-ordinator is Karen Hashimoto and one of four life-skills consultants is Sally-Ann Main.

Youthdale LAUNCH is funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. The contact number is 731-3150. "We want to help these young people to become productive citizens," Sally-Ann told The Tribune. She said no matter how well-meaning their motives, many are totally unprepared for independent living and simply can't cope. "We try and minimize

the risk of failure," Sally-Ann explained. "we don't want them stuck in the welfare cycle."

A main purpose of Youthdale LAUNCH is to help young people reach solutions to their problems, such as budgeting, housing and employment. Where necessary, LAUNCH will facilitate a link-up with other pertinent services in the area, (e.g.), Youth Employment Services. The organization assists young people in establishing and fulfilling goals by helping them determine their own strengths and weaknesses.

There is no charge for this service.

In many instances, Sally-Ann said, it helps a young person if he or she can discuss his/her problems with others in similar circumstances. Peer support groups as well as individual counselling is also provided.

The program, introduced in York Region in May, is designed to benefit young people already living on their own in the community.

The LAUNCH program is located at 85 Eagle Street in Newmarket. However, the staff is mobile throughout York Region.

Junior farmer working hard

By CATHY CARTER
STOUFFVILLE — Peter Bagshaw of Madoc is one of six Junior Agriculturalists (Aggies) working on farms in York and Durham Regions.

"There were no jobs at home," said 16-year-old Peter, "I wanted to learn how a big farm works."

The Hulshof farm, located at Kennedy Road and Bloomington Sideroad, is the host farm where Peter is working. The Hulshofs have had Junior Aggies on their farm since 1978.

Peter's family lives on a farm of 250 acres. He describes chores on a large farm as "hard work."

"I've never worked this hard before," he said.

Learning is a major part of the Junior Aggie program. Peter has learned how to operate the tractors and silos, how to milk the cows and how to work hard.

"The food is good and this is a well-kept farm," he said.

Peter doesn't have much time to spare after a day's work, but realizes this is the life of a farmer.

Junior Aggies are paid \$20 per day for a minimum of eight weeks

and a maximum of nine weeks on the farm.

The program is sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture and

Food, Ontario 1986 Youth Employment and by the Canada Farm Labor Pool.

Lynn McLaughlin is the

Durham-York Youth Employment Co-ordinator. For more information on the program, she can be contacted at 985-3831.



Learning how a big farm works

Junior agriculturalist Peter Bagshaw of Madoc takes a break from his work on the farm with

youth employment co-ordinator Lynn McLaughlin and Stouffville farmer John Hulshof. Peter is learning the rigors of operating a

large farm. He came to Stouffville because of a lack of summer jobs in his hometown.

— Cathy Carter

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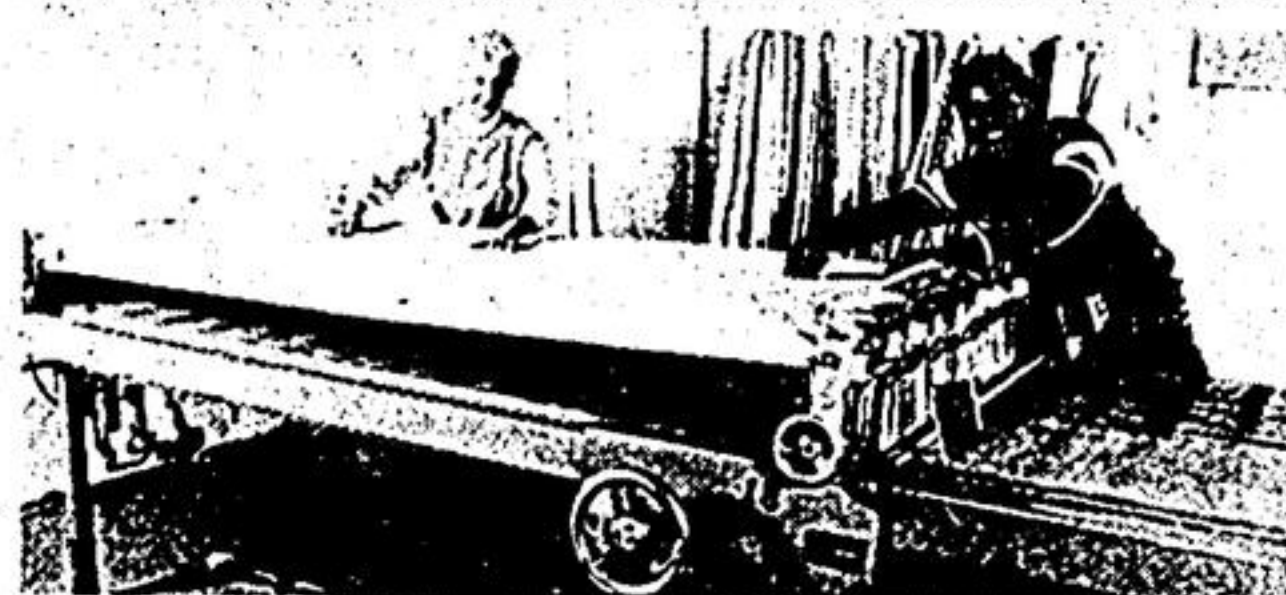
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