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*Bring in the clowns*

A Country Fair just isn't the same with clowns. And the Whitchurch-Highlands Public School fair Saturday was no exception. Here, clown Lori Döner, 13, a Grade 8 student, paints a clown face on an eager Katie Johnson, 6, who is in Kindergarten.  
— Jim Thomas



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NEW SHOWROOM OPENS SATURDAY 17th 1988.



**Co-op students learn first hand**

By KATE GILDERDALE  
One of the most vital decisions high school students have to face in their senior years is selecting the right career, a decision made more difficult without the benefits of practical experience.

Stouffville Dist. Secondary School offers a Co-op Program for Students from Grade 11 that allows them to work in their chosen field, where they gain first-hand knowledge and receive valuable on-the-job training.

Dawn Ellis, a Grade 12 student, has been working at O'Neill Funeral Home. She feels the program has been extremely beneficial.

"You have to have a credit for the career planning course," she explains. "Then you can choose the work in which you are interested."

The school arranges for students to be placed in a local business. "We have to go for an interview to apply for the job. If accepted, you work there every other afternoon from 12:30 to 3 p.m.," Dawn states. With the students employed on a volunteer basis, the program works well for both employer and student.

Dawn's interest in the business dates back to Grade 8, when Faye Minton from O'Neill's attended a Career Day program.

"I've been interested in it ever since," she observes.

During her placement, Dawn has spent her time learning every aspect of the organization. She would eventually like to have her own funeral home, but her initial ambition is to gain experience behind the scenes.

She applied to enroll in a two-year course at Humber College to gain her Funeral Services License, but with 340 applicants for only 120 places, her application was turned down.

Although very disappointed, "I was really looking forward to getting into Humber; I didn't think about what I'd do if I didn't," she's determined to enter the business one way or another.

"I might be able to apprentice somewhere," she states. "If not, I'll apply to Humber next year."

Dawn doesn't feel she will regret her career choice.

"The only time I found it depressing was at the funeral of the little boy from Island Lake who was crushed by a tractor," she says. "That was really sad."

She has high praise for the Co-op Program. "It lets you find out if your choice is really right for you, and it gives you experience that can be very helpful if you do decide to go ahead."


When she isn't busy studying or working at O'Neill's, Dawn has two part-time jobs, at Video Mania and the Stouffville Sales Barn. She and her family moved to Ballantrae from London five years ago and she enjoys living in the area. "I don't miss London at all," she declares.

Although Dawn has suffered a setback in her ambitions, she's a young lady who knows where she wants to go, and with the help of the Co-op Program and her own determination, she's sure to be successful.

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# The Tribune's

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