

'Mature student' takes the plunge

KATE GILDERDALE
Correspondent

Someone once said "youth is wasted on the young." The same sentiment could be applied to education, which can often seem important only in retrospect. Fortunately, high schools to-

day are no longer restricted to teenagers, and Stouffville District Secondary School welcomes mature students seeking to upgrade their skills and earn extra credits to broaden their career choices. Marilyn Carpenter is one such student.

"It's been something I've wanted to do for a long time," admits the Musselman's Lake resident. "Because there were problems at home when I was a kid, I never finished Grade 11 and I've regretted it ever since." When a friend went back to

school a few years ago and thoroughly enjoyed it, Marilyn began to give the idea serious consideration.

She applied to her old high school for a list of the credits she'd obtained there. "Depend-

ing on how long you've been out of school and what you've done since then, you get a certain number of credits," she explains. When she discovered she only needed four more, she decided to take the plunge.

Carpenter has signed up for accounting, senior math, senior English and data processing and hopes to complete her Grade 12 education within a year. Staff member Doug McCammon suggested that she brush up on her Grade 10 math by sending away for a correspondence course, which she plans to tackle this summer.

"My girlfriend's son is going to help me with it; it's certainly changed a bit since I did it," she smiles. She'll be going back as a full-time student and acknowledges that it will probably feel strange at first, "but I'm really looking forward to it." Her son is going into Grade 9 in September, and laughs Marilyn, "he's a little apprehensive about me being there."

She's particularly interested in learning about computers and wants to improve her typing speed. "It's always bothered me on applications when they ask if you have a Grade 12 diploma; it will make such a difference if I can get those credits."



MARILYN CARPENTER
Back to school

Staff members at the school are extremely supportive, she says, and they appreciate having mature students in their classrooms. "One teacher told me that with adult students, all their fooling around is out of the way. They want to settle down and really learn something."

Now that her children are older, she feels it's an ideal time to start upgrading her education. Like any other student, the cost of her education is covered by local taxes. "All I have to pay for are any materials I need." Although she's not sure of her long-term goals yet, Marilyn is convinced the year will be a worthwhile challenge.

McCammon hopes her example will encourage other mature students to consider upgrading their education, and welcomes any enquiries. For further information, call him at 640-1433.



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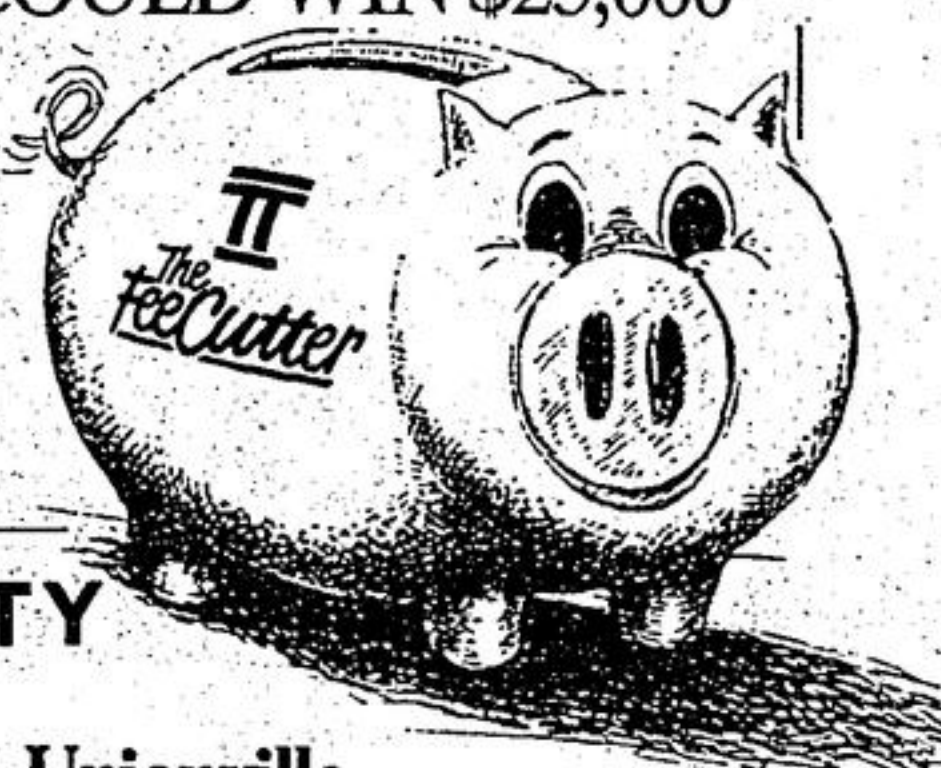
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