

**In Business**

# Klein hopes to 'paint the town'

By BRUCE STAPLEY  
Correspondent

Fred Klein is looking to paint the town when he gets home from university this spring.

The 21-year-old University of Ottawa student has taken over the Stouffville area College Pro Painters franchise. Klein, who was valedictorian of the 1991-92 Stouffville District Secondary School (SDSS) OAC graduating class, will set up for business when final examinations conclude May 1.

The life-long Stouffville resident hopes to generate roughly \$40,000 worth of painting contracts for the season.

Klein is planning to hire five painters, including former SDSS classmates Mike Pongracz and Paul Spencer. Both have College Pro Painters experience.

While Klein is in charge of marketing, lining up supplies, payroll and all other administrative duties, he still intends to spend up to 75 per cent of his time swinging a paint brush.

"I'll become a certified painter and estimator by the time I'm finished," said Klein, who spent last summer working for a fibre optics company in Ottawa.

His previous summer jobs included working at a Stouffville area garden centre and at a gas bar.

He said living at home this summer will enable him to hold onto more of the profits.

"Living on my own last summer, I had to pay for all my food and rent. I'll be able to pay less towards that when I'm living at home so that will be a good break."

Klein said being in business for himself this summer should serve as a good incentive.

"It's for myself. That's a good motivator."

Klein acquired the franchise just before Christmas and began doing estimates while home for reading week recently.

He'll return to Stouffville every second weekend until the end of the school year to try to achieve his goal of lining up from 30 to 35 per cent of his business before the



Fred Klein has taken over the Stouffville franchise of College Pro Painters. A University of Ottawa student, Klein was class valedictorian for Stouffville District Secondary School's class of 1992.

Photo: LORI EMMERSON

work begins in May.

He hopes to be well received by local residents.

"I've lived here all my life and I know a lot of people," said Klein, who said he turned down an offer from the College Pro people to manage the Ajax area.

"That will help. Plus, I feel it's sort of like returning something to the community."

Klein is banking on his entrepreneurial experience to provide him with a better

chance of landing a job when he's finished with university. "I can put it on my resume and it will probably be a lot more valuable than my university degree," laughed Klein, who will complete a three-year sociology degree this spring.

Klein said he is looking to take next winter off to travel before returning to university for a second degree.

He has his eyes fixed on the South Pacific as his ideal destination.

"I'm not tied down so this is the time to do it. I'd like to go to Fiji. My dream is to get my scuba diving licence."

People looking for estimates can phone College Pro Painters Stouffville line at 513-1442.

Here are the answers to the March 11 crossword



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