

York Region

Families

A monthly publication of The Economist & Sun/Tribune

April 29, 2000 edition

Kristen Reynolds is one of thousands of students across York Region who will be hunting for a summer job.

Photo by ROB ALARY

Job Hunt 101

BY NANCY DEVINE
SPECIAL TO THE ECONOMIST/TRIBUNE

Kristen Reynolds was really just looking for a bit of extra cash when she applied for a part-time job. What she found was personal satisfaction, a lesson on commitment and a whole lot of fun. The 16-year-old student at Dr. G.W. Williams High School in Aurora needed some money for an upcoming school trip, so she decided to apply for

a job at a local fast-food restaurant. "I didn't really think a lot about getting a job," Kristen explained. "I just thought it might be nice to have a little extra money."

But since this would be her first job, Kristen was a little nervous about her lack of formal work experience.

"I never really had any other jobs, other than babysitting."

She consulted her school day planner and found advice on how to pull a resume together. Kristen made note of anything in her life that could be considered work experience, including volunteer jobs. She phoned the restaurant, faxed her resume, and waited.

"The interviews were fun," said Kristen, explaining they were conducted in a friendly, easy-going way that allowed her to meet other hopefuls while waiting for her interview time. This social time gave her a chance to relax.

"I decided not to take too long to answer the questions," she said. "I didn't want to over-think the question. I wanted to be as honest as possible so they would have an honest impression of the way I am. They want to see your personality, not if you can figure the easiest way out of the question."

It worked. She got the job. Tami Steele, supervisor of northern York Region's Human Resources centre for students, said most people who visit the centre are in the same boat as Kristen. They're not only looking for job postings; they also need practical help in landing a job.

"From now until the first week of May, there will be a lot of university students," Steele said, adding that high school students are also starting to visit the office earlier than ever.

The competition is stiff for summer jobs, she said, but there are more job postings this year over last.

"Last year, there were just over 2,000 postings and we are quite a bit over that this year already, and they are in a number of fields."

Traditionally, university students look for jobs that will earn them practical work experience in

See STUDENTS, page 25.



EXCELLENCE IS POSSIBLE!

success starts here!

Oxford students develop skills for success in school and life.

GR. 1 THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL

Little Readers®

Children who learn how to read early are more confident learners.

small classes • caring teachers • enriched programs

3-6 YEARS OLD

LEARNING CENTRES

4261 Hwy 7 East
Near Kennedy

(905) 513-8186

READING • WRITING • SPELLING • MATH • STUDY SKILLS • FRENCH • HOMEWORK SUPPORT

