

Not too late to find summer job

Students can still find work for summer

BY CAROLINE GRECH
Staff Writer

It's mid-summer already and for students who haven't found a job yet, all is not lost. There are still opportunities to get a summer job this late in the game, often one that will be extended as part-time work throughout the school year.

For York Region students, there is no shortage of opportunities with resources such as the government human resource centre for students, one based in Newmarket and the other in Richmond Hill.

The centre in Newmarket is still getting postings for jobs, Ben Laserson, lead summer employment officer said. Admitting it is always

good to start early, Mr. Laserson said students should come into the centre until it closes July 28 because jobs become available daily.

For students looking for jobs for the school year, the search should start again now and in August as many people start to quit toward the end of the summer, Mr. Laserson said.

Everything from help with resume writing and cover letter writing to help with interviews is offered free.

One of the most important things to keep in mind when writing a resume is to tailor your resume for the job.

Newmarket university student Andrea D'Souza turned to the resource centre website.

The McMaster student learned her lesson the hard way last summer, finding it

difficult to land a job.

"Last year it was hard for me to find a job, so I started applying in the winter," Ms D'Souza said.

The York Region District School Board also offers a career exploration program, offering everything from resume writing tips to tips on how to tap into jobs that may not be advertised.

Offering some invaluable advice about how to get a job, Valerie Mason, employment coach with the region's discovery program, a career

exploration program for young adults between 15 and 30, agreed starting early is a good idea.

"A lot places have deadlines around January or February. Once you get into July, you're looking at what's left over," Ms Mason said.

"There are always opportunities for students, it just depends on what they're willing to do," Ms Mason explained.

The Richmond Hill resource centre can be reached at 905-731-8221.

JOB HUNT HINTS

It may seem like common sense, but sometimes it is the most obvious details that will help you get a summer job.

- Prepare a concise and well-designed resume that accurately reflects your skills and abilities. Target your resume for each job you apply for.
- Network Tell everyone you know you're looking for a summer job.
- Prepare for the interview. Research the company so you know what they do; practise your interview skills with a friend or experienced professional.
- Prepare a focused and well-written cover letter.
- Always send a thank you letter after each interview. Always get the name of the person interviewing, so you can send a note.
- Dress appropriately for an interview. No gum chewing and no hanging out with buddies when talking with potential employers.
- Carefully proofread your resume, cover letter and thank you letter.
- Smile. A smile is contagious; be energetic and enthusiastic.

Source — York Region District School Board Discover Program

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